

**Minutes of the 12th
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting
December 8th, 2025**

Attendance:

Donald Allen – Councillor	Jacq Patterson – President
Bridget Anderson – Councillor	Taya Skydan – Councillor
Nicholas Baker – Councillor	Eli Wolters – Vice President Academic
Allie Gosse – Councillor	Anne Marie Watson – Chairperson
Sage Huard – Councillor	Elizabeth Sweiger – Executive Director
Samuel Johannson – Vice President External	Marie Evangelista – Assistant Executive Director
Ruby Lindsay – Councillor	Marian Young – Secretary

Absent with notice:

Lyan Fajardo – Councillor

Left Chambers:

Councillor Allen left at 6:38pm, returned at 6:44pm.

Exceptional Tuition Increase Consultation

Jim Brinkhurst, Vice President Finance and Administration, Lindsay Engel, Vice President Academic and Student Experience, and Karen Walkley, Director Resource Planning and Client Services gave a brief presentation regarding an Exceptional Tuition Increase for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Practical Nurse Diploma of 33% that they plan to submit to the Minister of Advanced Education by December 19, 2025. They are submitting this proposal based on the rising costs of delivering the program, inflationary pressures that RDP is experiencing, lack of Government Funding, maintaining quality programming, and benchmarking with peer Post Secondary Institutions in Alberta.

Currently, the BSCN program operates at a \$2.7 million deficit, and the LPN Program operates at a \$1 million deficit. The 33% increase would not impact this deficit, as any revenue generated from an Exceptional Tuition Increase must be reinvested back into the programs.

Students in both programs were consulted via a survey and a focus group. The survey has had 98 respondents so far, and will close on December 12th, 2025. The overall student response is that they would like to see a reinvestment of funds into additional and updated labs and simulation labs, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality Programming, increased availability of Drop-in labs for Students, and other Student Supports such as tutoring, library services, and Mental Health Supports.

The 33% increase in tuition would amount to an approximate dollar amount increase of \$2,100.00 per year for the BSCN program and \$1,800.00 per year for the PN Diploma program. This increase would come into effect September 2026 intakes and would only impact new students. Students currently in the program would stay at the current tuition rate until they have completed their program.

The Ministry of Advanced Education has committed to giving the Institution an answer to the proposal in February 2026.

From the Alberta Tuition Framework:

“Institutions can apply to the Minister for an increase to program tuition that does not count against the institution level cap (two per cent), and which can be more than 10 per cent, provided the increased tuition would result in improvements in program quality. Institutions must consult the council of the affected student organization before submitting a proposal, and students in the affected program are also expected to be consulted... It is important to note that a requirement of this tool is to improve the quality of the program, not simply to maintain the existing level of quality or address program revenue challenges. If the proposal is approved, students in the impacted program must be grandfathered, meaning the new higher tuition rate will not apply to currently enrolled students. It will only apply to new cohorts for non-apprenticeship programs. Once an approved quality-based exceptional tuition increase has been implemented, the increased rate becomes the new tuition rate (for non-grandfathered domestic students), subject to the two per cent cap for 2024/25 and beyond, and 10 per cent limit in subsequent years.”

12.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:19pm

12.1 Approval of Agenda

Remove items 12.5 Approval of Meeting Minutes, 12.6 Old Business, 12.8 Executive Council, Council Committee and Other Reports. These items will return at the January 12th, Council Meeting.

Add Exceptional Tuition Increase Consultation Discussion, and renumber accordingly.

25-26-105-C

Allen, Wolters

MOTION: Motion to accept the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

12.2 Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Lindsay

12.3 Council Position Interview

25-26-106-C

Huard, Gosse

MOTION: Motion to go into In-Camera at 6:34pm.

CARRIED

25-26-107-C

Anderson, Lindsay

MOTION: Motion to come out of In-Camera at 6:37pm.

CARRIED

25-26-108-C

Gosse, Johannson

MOTION: Motion to elect Casey Zulita to the 2025 – 2026 Association Council.

CARRIED

12.4 Discussion

12.4.1 Exceptional Tuition Increase Discussion

Council discussed the ETI Increase proposal as presented by RDP Leadership and developed a list of follow-up questions which will be submitted to RDP in the coming days.

12.5 New Business

12.5.1 Academic Council Honoraria
25-26-109-C
Wolters, Gosse
MOTION: Motion to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,517.00 for the Fall 2025
Academic Council Honoraria
CARRIED

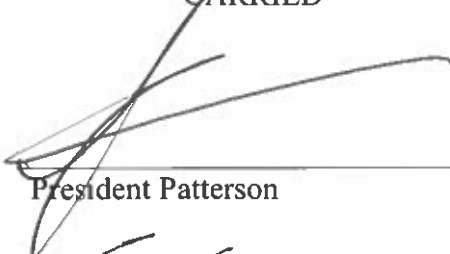
12.5.2 Council Honoraria
25-26-110-C
Baker, Wolters
MOTION: Motion to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,748.50 for the Fall 2025
Council Honoraria
CARRIED

12.6 Information

- 12.6.1 Proposed Policy Change: Executive Work Hours (this item will return for discussion at the next Council Meeting)
- 12.6.2 Proposed Policy Change: Lobby Efforts (this item will return for discussion at the next Council Meeting)
- 12.6.3 List of Students' Association Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries

12.7 Adjournment

25-26-111-C
Gosse, Skyden
MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm
CARRIED



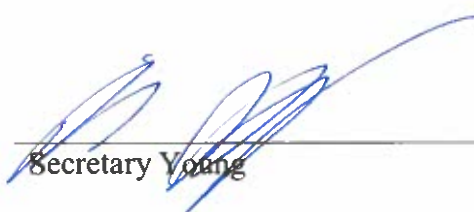
President Patterson



Chairperson Watson



Executive Director Sweiger



Secretary Young