

**Minutes of the Thirteenth
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting
January 12th, 2026**

Attendance:

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| Donald Allen – Councillor | Jacq Patterson – President |
| Bridget Anderson – Councillor | Taya Skydan – Councillor |
| Nicholas Baker – Councillor | Casey Zulita – Councillor |
| Lyan Fajardo – 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 |
| | Marian Young – Secretary |

Absent with notice:

Ruby Lindsay – Councillor

Left Chambers:

Councillor Allen left 6:17pm, returned 6:28pm

President Patterson left 6:30pm, returned 6:35pm

Council recessed:

6:38pm – 6:49pm

7:58pm – 8:10pm

- 13.0 Call to Order**
Called to order at 5:31pm
- 13.1 Approval of Agenda**
Addition of item: Response from Senior Leadership re. Exceptional Tuition Increase
25-26-112-C
Anderson, Wolters
MOTION: Motion to accept the agenda as amended.
CARRIED
- 13.2 Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Gosse**
- 13.3 Approval of Meeting Minutes**
13.3.1 Minutes of the 11th & 12th 2025-2026 Association Council Meeting
25-26-113-C
Huard, Gosse
MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the eleventh and twelfth 2025-2026 Association Council Meetings.
CARRIED

13.3.2 Minutes of the 21st – 26th 2025 – 2026 Executive Council Meeting
25-26-114-C
Gosse, Baker
MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the twenty-first through twenty-sixth 2025-2026 Association Executive Council Meetings.
CARRIED

13.4 Old Business

13.3.1 Response from Senior Leadership re. Exceptional Tuition Increase

25-26-115-C
Allen, Johannson
MOTION: With the understanding that the Students' Association Council's approval is not required, be it resolved that the 2025 – 2026 Student' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic's Council gives its support to the proposed Quality Based Exceptional Tuition Increase of 33% to the RDP Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Practical Nurse Diploma programs, effective Fall term, 2026.
DEFEATED Unanimously

25-26-116-C
Huard, Anderson
MOTION: To direct Executive Council to submit a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education and the Red Deer Polytechnic executive leadership team, regarding the exceptional tuition increase proposal; letter to include the Council Motion 25-26-115-C, and be sent no later than January 16th, 2026.
CARRIED

13.4.2 Alumo Product Decision

25-26-117-C
Allen, Anderson
MOTION: Motion to ask the Membership, through a referendum during the 2026 General Election, if they are in favor of the Students' Association levying an additional fee of \$40 to cover the cost of Alumo's mental health program, Conversation.
CARRIED

13.5 New Business

13.5.1 November Financials

25-26-118-C
Wolters, Baker
MOTION: Motion to accept the November Financials as presented.
CARRIED

13.5.2 Policy Change Proposals

- Executive Council Work Hours Policy
- Lobby Efforts Policy

25-26-119-C

Gosse, Huard

MOTION: Motion to amend the Executive Council Work Hours Policy, effective immediately.

CARRIED

25-26-120-C

Skydan, Gosse

MOTION: Motion to amend the Lobby Efforts Policy, effective immediately.

CARRIED

13.6 Discussion

- 13.6.1 Draft Graduate Handbook – Please come prepared with feedback on the document
President Patterson presented the draft Graduate Studies Handbook, which includes tips on applying for grad school and related scholarships. Council offered feedback. Once finalized, the handbook will be available on the SA website.

13.7 Executive Council, Council Committee and Other Reports

13.7.1 Executive Council Reports

- President – J. Patterson
- Vice President Academic – E. Wolters
- Vice President External – S. Johannson
- Executive Director – E. Sweiger
 - o T4 season has arrived and ED Sweiger along with Associate Executive Director Evangelista are preparing for that.
 - o There are more Apprenticeship students on campus currently than in previous intakes, so the Far Side Bar and Grill and the Lift are very busy.
 - o Have started looking at Association policies for the Winter Governance Review Committee meetings.

25-26-121-C

Huard, Anderson

MOTION: Motion to accept the Executive Council reports as presented.

CARRIED

13.8 Committee Minutes

- 13.8.2 Governance Review Committee Minutes
13.8.3 Sustainable Development Goals Committee Minutes
13.8.4 Advocacy Committee Minutes

25-26-122-C

Gosse, Skydan

MOTION: Motion to accept the Committee Minutes as presented.

CARRIED

13.9 Information

13.9.1 Proposed Policy Change: Investments Policy (this item will return for discussion at the next Council Meeting)

13.9.2 Proposed Policy Change: Referenda Policy (this item will return for discussion at the next Council Meeting)

13.9.3 January Events Schedule

13.10 Adjournment

25-26-123-C

Anderson, Baker

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 9:00pm

CARRIED



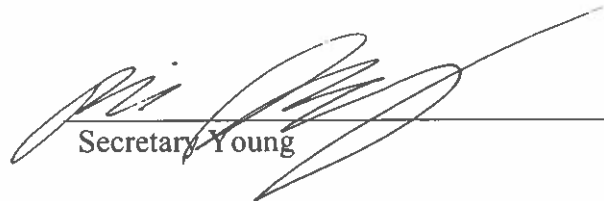
President Patterson



Executive Director Sweiger



Chairperson Watson



Secretary Young



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Patterson

December 1, 2025- January 7, 3036

Governance Review Committee (GRC)

- **Meeting #2: December 1, 2025**
- **Meeting #3: December 8, 2025**
Please refer to the official meeting minutes for details on the discussion items.
- President Patterson was unable to attend Meeting #3 due to illness.

Learning Management System (LMS) Committee

- **December 1, 2025**
There were no significant updates to report during this meeting.

Meeting with Student – December 2, 2025

I met with a student to discuss concerns related to the potential for an instructor strike. During this conversation, I clarified that the Students' Association cannot take a position in favour of either the instructors or the institution. However, should a strike occur, the SA's role would be to advocate for a timely resolution in order to minimize disruption to students. We would also strongly encourage the institution to implement measures to ensure that students' grades and academic progress are protected.

Board of Governors – December 3, 2025

- RDP Administration presented on Ancillary Services, highlighting a notable increase in student engagement and participation in campus and community activities.
- The Students' Association received recognition for its collaboration with RDP in providing a temporary childcare space in *The Loft* during the previous teacher strikes.
- SARDP financial statements were presented for information; no questions were raised by Board members.

FARDP Meeting – December 4, 2025

- Attendees included Sam Johannson (SAVP External) and President Sally Stuart.
- Discussion focused on the likelihood of a potential strike. While not impossible, the probability of strike action at the time of the meeting was assessed as low.
- It was reaffirmed that the Students' Association must remain neutral and cannot favour either FARDP or the institution in the event of a strike.

Meeting with Dean of Student Experience – December 5, 2025

- Attendees included Sam Johannson (SAVP External) and Dean Kristine Plastow.
- We reiterated that, in the event of a strike, the Students' Association will remain non-partisan while seeking to collaborate with the institution to ensure that student needs, supports, and academic considerations are addressed.

RDP Holiday Party – December 5, 2025

- SARDP executives were invited to attend the RDP Holiday Party.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Patterson

- President Patterson was the only executive in attendance.
- The RDP Dance Team performed during the event.

Other Committees & Updates

- Academic Council: No significant updates to report.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee: Activities have been paused and will resume in the new year.
- New Student Orientation – Missed due to illness

Attendance: Due to health issues, President Patterson's in-person attendance over the next couple of weeks will be sporadic. She will attend online meetings and work from home per her doctor's note.

Special Projects

Land Acknowledgement Initiative

Several readings have taken place, and planning is underway to host in-person roundtable sessions in January. Council members are encouraged to watch for emails with invitations and additional details.

Report

- Council should be aware of the Christmas (Holiday) Letter issued by Minister of Education Demetrios Nicolaides, which contained strong Christian fundamentalist language.
- Bill 13 (colloquially referred to as the "*Jordan Peterson Bill*") has been proposed. While it does not currently reference post-secondary institutions directly, it is expected to have implications for all post-secondary institutions in Alberta.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Patterson

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1: Work Integrated Learning

Updates: Following discussions with Dean Kristine Plastow, it was confirmed that the WIL committee remains in development but is not currently an institutional priority. A shared document will be created to ensure continuity and to support the next executive once the committee is formally established.

Goal 2: Graduate Handbook

Updates: The first draft of the Graduate Handbook has been completed and shared with a faculty member who has been involved in the project since its inception in 2024. Feedback and input are currently being reviewed.

Legend: Progress Neutral Lacked



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President Wolters

November 11th to Nov 24th

Academic Council (November 14th)

Academic Council went quite well, we managed to finish all business, and there were no major items of discussion. A couple highlights include:

- New Education Neuroscience course (EDUC2001)
- New Education Mental Health course (EDUC2003)
- Changes in GPA requirements for Early Learning and Child Care programs, specifically for Practicum GPA requirements,
- And a brief discussion on why minutes were deferred.

Academic Council Timetable Ad-Hoc Committee (Nov 19th)

Ryan Butler (Instructor), Trish Nuyten (Registrar), Heather Marcovitch (Instructor), Jason Engle (Instructor), Lindsay Engel (Vice President Academic and Student Experience), Robbie Halonen (Dean), and Susan Briggs (Secretary, Academic Records Coordinator).

To my surprise, the meeting began with Jason and Heather nominating me as chair! We had an hour filled with discussion, but there wasn't a clear consensus on the discussion topics brought up. Due to my position as chair, I will be writing a report to submit to Academic Council for the January meeting, containing one conclusive recommendation, and the discussion of the other recommendations we spoke about. The one unanimous recommendation is the addition of a link from where Zero-Textbook Cost is mentioned, linking to RDP Library's page on ZTCs!

November 20th – Went home early due to illness

November 21st – Out Sick

Academic Council Executive Meeting (Nov 24th)

Lindsay Engle (Vice President Academic and Student Experience – Ex Officio), Robbie Halonen (Chair) Ryan Butler (Second Vice Chair), Trish Nuyten (Chair of the Academic Council Secretariat - Registrar), Susan Briggs (Recording Secretary)

This meeting is for the finalization of the agenda for the next AC meeting. At this meeting, it was noted that a member had submitted a notice of a motion to the executives, on striking a committee to amend the agenda, and there was talk of amending the member's motion. I mentioned it was improper to amend the motion without the member's approval, and asked that any amendment be noted in writing, and the Chair contact the member in question to inform them of their intentions, to which the Chair and Secretary mentioned they will do so. The only other topic of discussion was the deferred minutes, of which nearly all of my recommended revisions were accepted, with minor editorial changes.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President Wolters

Other:

Crucial Conversations Course (Nov 12th)

Executive Leadership Team (Nov 18th) - See Prez Report

Annual General Meeting! (Nov 19th)

Sustainable Development Goals Committee Meeting (Nov 24)

Alberta Expert Panel (Nov 25th) - See Prez Report

Executive Wellbeing - Ongoing

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1: Increased usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) for introductory-level courses.

Updates: None at this time.

Goal 2: Increased awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicator.

Updates: None at this time.

Goal 3: Increased Awareness of Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG)

Updates: SDG Committee met on Nov 24th, and we hashed out ideas for our SDG Advocacy tables in Jan-Fed. We've chosen 4 goals to focus on, and will be highlighting what the SDG is, what the SA already does, and what students can do in their own time to contribute to the goal! Stay tuned!

Legend: **Progress** **Neutral** **Halted**



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President Wolters

December 8th to January 6th

Academic Council (Dec 5th)

I was still quite sick, and attended this virtually, some highlights are

- Minutes that were previously deferred were presented and accepted with revisions,
- Two new Indigenous education courses, INTD 11X1 Introduction to Indigenous Health, and INTD 11X2 Holistic Caring of Indigenous People, will be in Fall 2026 in the Pharmacy Technician program to align with new professional standards.
- Academic Council Committee struck for the purpose of comprehensively reviewing the AC constitution, Sam Johannson is the student representative on this committee.

OER Champions Meeting (Dec 11th)

Eli Wolters, Maria Anderson (Instructor, School of Trades), Travis Boblin (Student Information Systems Coordinator), Krista Robson (Instructor, School of Arts & Education), Kasey Fulton (Learning Designer), Sona Macnaughton (Librarian), and Andrea Johnston (Librarian)

We spoke about:

- There is a need for a course materials policy which would include ZTC. This would help mitigate late hiring of instructors. It would be helpful if we had definitions (ZTC, program cost, required, recommended, etc.) so we have a common language to help promote ZTC around campus and hopefully get faculty on board with marking their courses.
- Andrea and Sona spoke about the WIL project, hoping to get course outlines through Coursera to analyze.
- Sona and Andrea also did a National Survey of course marking practices in PSI across Canada, the information will be collated and made available on their website.
- The Textbook Survey Report will hopefully be completed soon, Andrea and Sona apologized for the delay as they were quite busy, they also let us know that:
 - o Excellent response rate
 - o 30% of students spent \$250-\$500 on textbooks
 - o Students were asked about required textbooks and whether or not they were used in class and if they noticed or utilized the ZTC indicator.
- They have also asked for additional SA food bank information, to add to the report.



EXECUTIVE REPORT
Vice President Wolters



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President Wolters

Other:

Trades Pancake Breakfast (Dec 23rd)

Student Caucus Meeting (Dec 4th)

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1: Increased usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) for introductory-level courses.

Updates: See OER Champions meeting!

Goal 2: Increased awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicator.

Updates: ZTC Paper completed, going to Exec on Friday, hopefully to be at council on Monday!

Goal 3: Increased Awareness of Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG)

Updates: Finishing up the slides for the SDG Committee and working on the poster for the table.

Legend: **Progress** **Neutral** **Failed**



EXECUTIVE REPORT Vice President External's Office

Reporting Period: November 25th, 2025 – December 3rd, 2025

ASEC Advocacy Committee Meeting

November 25th, 2025

ASEC's Advocacy Committee met online to continue discussions around additions, deletions, and edits to ASEC's policy book. Unfortunately, this meeting suffered from low attendance and engagement, limiting the progress made. The Committee agreed with the removal of the Graduate Retention Tax Credit ask from the policy book, due to the evidence suggesting that graduate retention tax credits have been unsuccessful in keeping graduates in province. The Committee opted to discuss the possibility of a different tax credit designed with the intention of helping new graduates with affordability concerns instead. Other topics of discussion included the possibility of a WIL-related tax credit, possible policy gaps or ongoing issues in the Trades, and primary healthcare.

ASEC Board Meeting

November 28th, 2025

ASEC's Board met online, much of this meeting was in-camera. The Board received and discussed updates from the hiring committee. Unfortunately, the first round of applicants produced no satisfactory candidates. The Board has discussed next steps surrounding the hiring process. The Holiday season is generally not a good time for hiring, and the search for a new Executive Director will ramp up again in the new year.

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 2: Investigate the need for an Advocacy Committee for the Association

Updates: No updates at this time.

Goal 3: Increase awareness regarding the discount programs and add 5 additional businesses providing student discounts.

Updates: I've reached out to Dr. Mushtaq Raza, Chair of Computer Programming to meet so we can discuss the project relating to connecting students with discounts.

Legend: Progress Neutral Halted



EXECUTIVE REPORT Vice President External's Office

Reporting Period: December 3rd, 2025 – January 7th, 2026

Perspectives Committee Meeting

December 10th, 2025

The Perspectives Committee met online to begin discussions for next year's Perspectives event. The Committee discussed a variety of potential topics or interest areas, including brainstorming the name of potential speakers. Topics of interest to the Committee include: Artificial intelligence, rising anti-intellectualism, athletics, and the environment. Many potential speakers were discussed, but the plan is for the Committee's Chair to provide the proposed list of topics and suggested speakers to Speakers Spotlight (the company that helps us secure speakers) and they will provide a list of suggested speakers.

Campus Store Advisory Committee

December 11th, 2025

The Committee was informed that the Campus Store is well prepared for the Winter 2026 semester, with all required materials being already on-shelf or on its way.

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 2: Investigate the need for an Advocacy Committee for the Association

Updates: Preparations for the Advocacy Committee's week of tables is well underway, with the Committee having voted on its desired topics for the week and begun signing up for shifts. The Committee has consulted approximately 400 students to date, 20% of its goal of 2,000 students consulted.

Goal 3: Increase awareness regarding the discount programs and add 5 additional businesses providing student discounts.

Updates: I met with Dr. Raza and his team on December 4th to get a better understanding of his project and how we could work together. The meeting was good, and I have some cautious optimism about how we might be able to work together. We agreed to discuss further in mid-January once we were past the first few weeks of winter semester.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President External's Office

Additionally, I am planning two or three tables for January/February to promote our selection of student discounts. I have not yet set dates, but I intend to do so very soon.

Legend: Progress Neutral Halted