WHEREAS the AASUA and its members need a knowledge base upon which to develop well-informed positions and proposals concerning budgetary and management changes that may affect collective bargaining, compensation issues, academic freedom, and working conditions, and which may have long-term implications for the financial stability of the university, the range, priorities, and evaluation of teaching and research, the role and activities of service and support administration, and, in general, for the university’s mission in society, and;

WHEREAS the AASUA Council resolved on November 20, 2014 to create an ad hoc sub-committee of Council [hereafter Research Committee] “with a representative from each constituency group to conduct research into the proposed U of A budget model, to collect information relevant to similar models that have been implemented elsewhere, to share information between members and various university bodies that represent them, and to develop recommendations for AASUA in regard to any change in the university’s current budget practices”;

BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL that, in regard to the constitution of the Research Committee:

- In addition to members of Council who wish to participate, the Research Committee will comprise members of the AASUA who respond to a general call (by email to all members and notice on the AASUA website).
- The call-out to AASUA membership will describe the mandate of the Research Committee as stated in the November 20, 2014 motion to create the committee, and will specify that the committee’s work will entail research and the preparation of a report for Council, and that Association members with research expertise in the following areas are particularly sought: political economy, finance, budget models for large institutions, accounting, public administration, post-secondary education funding, equity (measurement, implementation), labour/industrial relations, democratic institutional governance, governance at the University of Alberta. Members of the Committee should commit to actively participating in its work from January-June 2015.
- If, having made reasonable effort to recruit members from all constituencies, some gaps remain, the committee will commence its work, and the Association will continue to encourage the unrepresented constituencies to provide committee members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY COUNCIL that the Research Committee’s tasks are hereby set out in greater detail as follows:

1. Gather as much detailed information as possible about the particular models being developed by Central administrators and their consultants for the University of Alberta.

2. Collect and review the available literature that examines the implementation of similar models in other contexts. The committee will synthesize and summarize the findings of these studies, identifying key questions or issues for AASUA members, and will make its
findings and links to the literature available to AASUA members via the Associations’ website.

(3) Direct the research work of the Research Assistant to be hired in accordance with the Council resolution adopted on November 20, 2014, which stated: “Council moves that the Executive Director hire a Research Assistant by January 15, 2015, to collect information and liaise with CAUT to investigate and report on proposed changes to the university’s budget practices, and to work with the ad hoc committee. The budget to hire the Research Assistant is up to a maximum of $20K.”

(4) Consult with the Executive Director and other advisors regarding the implications of the budgetary changes for collective bargaining and for all matters that fall under, or influence, the collective agreement and conditions of work of all members of the Association.

(5) Report to Council monthly on its progress and advise Council as to the need for further research in the service of AASUA membership.

(6) Prepare at least one written report for Council by the April 2015 Council meeting, summarizing its preliminary findings and recommendations for further action on the part of Council. These recommendations may speak to general principles to guide strategic action as well as to specific responses or actions. The recommendations may address governance issues relating to university decision-making about budgets, management and finances.

(7) The Research Committee will seek to ensure that all constituencies’ stakes in budget and management reform are considered as it formulates its research objectives and recommendations.

(8) The Committee may set other tasks for itself as its resources permit, such as the posting of interim updates to the AASUA webpage.

Moved by: Laurie Adkin (AFC)
Seconded by: Randa Kachkar (APO)