



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Meeting 67 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on October 14, 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Deborah Meyers (Chair), F. Haider Alvi, Murray Anderson, Jolene Armstrong, Jane Arscott, Raju Aryal, Terry Beckman, Rhiannon Bury, Marc Cels, Karie-Lynn Chambers, Alex Clark, Nicole Collins, Almigdad Eldoma, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Lorelei Hanson, Kareena Hart, David Head, Bob Heller, Alyson House, Richard Huntrods, Deborah Hurst, Stacey Hutchings, Margaret Kierylo, Vive Kumar, Angela Kuzyk, Glynnis Lieb, Douglas MacLeod, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Kristin Mulligan, Ken Munyikwa, Terra Murray, Aga Palalas, Andrew Perrin, Matthew Prineas, Jennifer Schaeffer, Myra Tait, Adrienne Weare, Barret Weber, Kristine Williamson, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Luisa Barton, Mark Crawford, Anita Girvan, Annette Lane, Elizabeth Loree, Chris McTavish, Anne-Marie Scott

Others: Robert Andrews, Corinna Lewis, Gilbert Perras

Governance Staff: Sara Kunto, Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel, Eileen Hendy (Governance Coordinator), Allison Strydhorst (Recording Secretary)

The Chair welcomed the following new members:

- Alex Clark, Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines
- Kristin Mulligan, Interim Director, PowerED
- Angela Kuzyk, Registrar (Interim)

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 67-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 66 held August 25, 2021, as amended.

Clark/May

Amendments to August 25, 2021 GFC meeting minutes:

- 4.1 Strategic Issues Roundtable - change colonization to decolonization
- 4.4 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) - change colonization to decolonization
- 4.7 Approve Temporary Compassionate Grading Policy - add “and compassionate grading continue to be examined beyond the pandemic.”

Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Action** Subject to the Code of Conduct for Members of the University Community and the Conflict of Interest provision (clauses 11.1 and 11.2) of the General Faculties Council Rules, members



were asked to declare any conflict they may have with respect to particular agenda items contained within the meeting agenda.

No conflicts declared.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Faculty of Business Faculty Council Report

The Dean, Faculty of Business, presented this report, noting the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation has completed, and international accreditation is being recommended.

3.2 Faculty of Graduate Studies Faculty Council Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, presented this report, noting working with PowerED and the library, a PD course around digital literacy was launched at the end of last quarter.

3.3 Faculty of Health Disciplines Faculty Council Report

The Faculty of Health Disciplines Faculty Council Report presented this report, noting an increase in graduate program enrolments of 25% since the last reporting period.

3.4 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Council Report

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) presented this report, noting additional new academic faculty members and professional staff to join the faculty.

3.5 Faculty of Science and Technology Faculty Council Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, presented this report, noting the Mobius platform is live and 1340 exams for Math 215 have been processed with high student satisfaction.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Strategic Issues Roundtable

Nukskahtowin Plan

Discussion held about GFC receiving an update on the Nukskahtowin Plan. Additionally, it was noted that the Nukskahtowin Plan, as well as all AU foundational plans should be referenced under the "Connection to the University Framework" section of the Briefing Note for the agenda item being brought forward. It was also suggested a section for qualitative/quantitative assessment data be included on the Briefing Note.

The Office of the Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel will review the Briefing Note and include a link to AU's foundational plans on the agenda, as well as propose additional edits and improvements to the Template Briefing Note.

IT Optimization impact on ILE

This item was deferred to the November 24, 2021, GFC meeting as the Deputy Provost, Academic Operations was not in attendance at this meeting to respond to the questions.



Potential standing committee on decolonization

Discussion held on establishing a standing committee to bring groups together in a concerted effort to discuss initiatives and efforts being brought forward in support of AU's commitment to the Nukskahtowin Plan. Discussion held regarding the potential for establishing a standing committee and how GFC can support the Nukskahtowin Plan. Further consultation with Nukskahtowin – Meeting Place, as well as the Office of the Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel should take place.

Strategic pathway to connect ITS and Research

Discussed pathways being developed between research needs and IT. The Associate Vice-President, Research provided an update on the pathways being developed, data security, and noted the research development process will be brought to GFC. The Research Centre will provide communications to AU Team members about the activities of the Research Centre and approaches to ask questions and access information about research.

4.2 Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Update

The Provost and Vice-President Academic presented this item. Two questions were raised regarding when a minimum viable product will be available and will there be the ability to contact program students. The Provost and Vice-President Academic will follow up with the member.

4.3 Canada Research Chairs Program: Status and Next Steps

The Associate Vice-President Research presented this item.

4.4 Motion 67-02 That General Faculties Council approves the Master of Architecture, effective September 1, 2022, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by the Board of Governors and Alberta Advanced Education.

Zenteno/Clark

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology and the Chair, RAIC/Program Director presented this item. A PowerPoint presentation was provided. The Chair, RAIC/Program Director spoke to their commitment to collaborate across faculties and the ability of the Master of Architecture team to anticipate and address the potential of higher than anticipated enrolment growth into the program.

Carried

4.5 Motion 67-03 That General Faculties Council approves the new University Certificate in Indigenous Community Economic Development & Planning effective January 1, 2022, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by the Board of Governors and Alberta Advanced Education.

Hurst/Beckman

The Dean, Faculty of Business and Chair/Assistant Professor presented this item.



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Discussion held on the ability of this certificate to ladder into the Bachelor of Commerce and other programs at AU, and that learners in the Bachelor of Commerce program have the opportunity to access the certificate, and that courses are transferable immediately.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

6.1 The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM