



# Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Meeting 69 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on March 16, 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

**Present:** Peter Scott (Chair), F. Haider Alvi, Murray Anderson, Jolene Armstrong, Jane Arscott, Raju Aryal, Luisa Barton, Rhiannon Bury, Leah Campbell, Marc Cels, Karie-Lynn Chambers, Alex Clark, Nichole Collins, Mark Crawford, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Karen Fletcher, Stella George, Anita Girvan, Lorelei Hanson, Kareena Hart, Bob Heller, Alyson House, Richard Huntrods, Stacey Hutchings, Margaret Kierylo, Vive Kumar, Angela Kuzyk, Annette Lane, Glynnis Lieb, Elizabeth Loree, Douglas MacLeod, Manijeh Mannani, Chris McTavish, Deborah Meyers, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Ken Munyikwa, Terra Murray, Agnieszka Palalas, Andrew Perrin, Matthew Prineas, Jennifer Schaeffer, Anne-Marie Scott, Jessica Butts Scott, Myra Tait, Barret Weber, Kristine Williamson, Shauna Zenteno

**Regrets:** Jolene Armstrong, Terry Beckman, Alain May, Adrienne Weare

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

## Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 69-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda including the minutes of Meeting 68 held January 18, 2022, as presented.

#### Clark/Perrin

Amendment:

Remove CA1 Minutes of General Faculties Council Meeting 68, held January 18, 2022.

This was accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder.

The motion (restated) now reads as follows:

*That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as amended.*

**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 Report of the Chair

The Chair presented this item, acknowledging the terrible aggression of recent weeks in the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Discussions held on:

- Supporting metrics for the social media engagement
- Enrolment trends
- Brand refresh elements and consultation process
- Analysis and design of faculty web pages
- Space needs for research, labs, and invigilation
- Government of Alberta budget impact on AU's 2022-2023 Integrated Resource Plan

University Relations to provide an update on the brand refresh at the next GFC meeting.

## 4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.1 Motion 69-02 That the General Faculties Council receives the final report of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Re-Imagining Assessment in Support of the Learning Framework as presented and resolves that the Ad Hoc Committee shall cease to exist, effective January 18, 2022, as the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is now complete.**

**Clark/Fabbro**

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Deputy Provost, Academic Operations presented this item noting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for Re-Imagining Assessment in Support of the Learning Framework was complete but the work on re-Imagining assessments is ongoing. The Ad Hoc Committee was commended for the work it completed.

**Carried**

- 4.2 Motion 69-03 That the General Faculties Council appoints the Chair, Nukskahtowin as a member of General Faculties Council in accordance with section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act, effective March 16, 2022, to serve a three (3) year term of office, expiring March 15, 2025.**

**Clark/Fletcher**

The Chair presented this item noting Nukskahtowin is an important part of AU's strategy.

**Carried**

### 4.3 Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Deputy Provost, Academic Operations presented this item noting the importance of our learning environment as the online learning space is becoming more competitive. The Deputy Provost, Academic Operations noted further conversations will be held with Faculty Councils on the timing of when new courses would be going live as some courses are due for revisions and the features/tools, such as a calendar, being considered for the ILE.



#### 4.4 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences presented this item noting a virtual follow up visit with MSCHE would be held in June 2022 and discussions are underway with faculties to populate an internal committee to meet with MSCHE.

#### 4.5 AU Research Status and Strategy 2022

The Associate Vice President Research presented this item noting this item is a parallel piece of work which supports the Research Strategic Plan. Discussion held on applications that can be hosted in Amazon Web Services (AWS) as support tools for research, available solutions to host research clusters and the importance of research forums.

*Items 4.7 and 5.1 were presented prior to item 4.6*

#### 4.6 2022-23 Athabasca University Integrated Resource Plan (Draft)

The Chair and Vice President Finance and Performance Service and Chief Financial Officer presented this item. Discussion held on including an Academic Resource Plan in future Integrated Resource Plans, the role of PowerED, and the need to look at existing funding to find efficiencies to support new initiatives.

It was agreed a presentation on PowerED would be provided at the next GFC meeting.

#### 4.7 Motion 69-04 **That the General Faculties Council approves the Clinical Placement Misconduct Policy, effective March 16, 2022 as presented.**

##### **Zenteno/Fabbro**

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item noting the importance of the policy to safeguard the public. Discussion held on the invisibility of racism towards Indigenous People and the importance of having the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action as guiding principles included in the policy and procedure. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences noted it is developing a module that could be incorporated into all courses.

It was suggested the policy be revised to include harm for anti-Indigenous racism under the clinical placement offences definition and recognition of the principles and the calls for action 21 to 24 in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder.

The motion (restated) now reads as follows:

*That the General Faculties Council approves the Clinical Placement Misconduct Policy, effective March 16, 2022 as presented and amended.*

**Carried**



## 4.8 Strategic Issues Roundtable

### 4.8.1 Discuss IT optimization impact on ILE

Discussion held on the allocations of IT positions. The Vice President Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer provided an overview of IT's 5 year Strategic Plan, noting the keys areas of the IT optimization plan included restructuring of IT, and moving to the cloud environment to provide the infrastructure needed for tools (ILE) for learners. She noted the various IT initiatives ongoing at the institution.

Also discussed:

- Importance of the Strategic Issues Roundtable to hold discussions on key emerging academic issues, ensuring adequate time allocated for this item, and the placement of this item on the agenda
- Including bursaries for Indigenous learners in the Integrated Resource Plan
- Need for more academics
- Recognizing role of tutors/academic experts in strategies
- Use of the chat function during meetings
- Continuing discussions on decolonization

The GFC Executive Committee approves the GFC agenda, and the placement of the Strategic Issues Roundtable agenda item will be discussed at the next GFC Executive Committee meeting.

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 **Motion 69-05** That the General Faculties Council approve the minutes of General Faculties Council meeting 68, held January 18, 2022.

**Clark/Arcott**

The Scarborough Charter is an item to come forward to a future GFC meeting. The Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel noted items to come forward are tracked and this item will be discussed at the next GFC Executive Committee meeting.

**Carried**

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- 6.1 The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.