

Approved minutes for Meeting 71 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on May 18, 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Peter Scott (Chair), F. Haider Alvi, Murray Anderson, Jolene Armstrong, Jane Arscott, Raju Aryal, Luisa Barton, Terry Beckman, Priscilla Campeau, Marc Cels, Karie-Lynn Chambers, Alex Clark, Nichole Collins, Mark Crawford, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Karen Fletcher, Anita Girvan, Bob Heller, Alyson House, Richard Huntrods, Wendy Hutchison, Vive Kumar, Annette Lane, Douglas MacLeod, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Chris McTavish, Deborah Meyers, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Ken Munyikwa, Terra Murray, Agnieszka Palalas, Andrew Perrin, Matthew Prineas, Sarah Reid, Ann Reynolds, Jennifer Schaeffer, Jessica Butts Scott, Due-E-Najaf Syed, Myra Tait, Adrienne Weare, Barret Weber, Kristine Williamson, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Rhiannon Bury, Stella George, Lorelei Hanson, Elizabeth Loree, Anne-Marie Scott

Governance Staff: Eileen Hendy (Governance Coordinator), Allison Strydhorst (Recording Secretary)

The Chair welcomed new members Dur-E-Najaf (Naju) Syed, AUSU representative, Sarah Reid, AUGSA representative and Ann Reynolds, CUPE representative.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and delivered the AU land acknowledgement.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 71-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda including the minutes of Meeting 70 held April 21, 2022, as amended.

Clark/Watson

Amendments to the April 21, 2022 minutes:

- 4.1.1 – replace the word ingenuity with indigeneity, and the word faulty with faculty
- Remove attachment 1 (CA3) APPSC 48 Approved Minutes, March 22, 2022 from the consent agenda

Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.1** 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 will be 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 noting the chat function survey has completed and the Office of the Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel (CGOGC) is reviewing the feedback and developing guidelines to be brought forward to the next meeting.

The Chair spoke to the various initiatives being undertaken at AU, noting Roy Weasel Fat will be receiving an honorary degree at the upcoming Convocation. The Vice-President, University Relations reminded members they must register to attend Convocation by May 31, 2022.

Discussion held on preparation of the land use plan, new IT partnership model and the need for conversations on the structure for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion function. Deans encouraged to communicate the new IT partnership model within their faculty and can invite IT representatives to attend meetings to speak in detail on the new model.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Strategic Issues Roundtable

The Chair noted the items identified to come forward to a future GFC meeting, including Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM), Land Use Plan, Institutional Workload Plan, Scarborough Charter and Research updates.

4.1.1 Critical updates to course content

Member Fletcher led the discussion, highlighting quotes from course content that could be upsetting to learners and asked how can course content, considered problematic be updated without having to wait for a course to be revised.

Discussion held on the current process for revising course content and bringing issues to the attention of the Dean. It was noted when minor revisions are completed it does not always result in a change in the course revision number. Workload and capacity concerns in Course Production can result in delays in revising course content, creating sandboxes in Desire 2 Learn (D2L) would allow editors to complete the work faster.

Also discussed quality assurance gaps related to the delays in course revisions and inability to make changes in a timely manner to problematic content within textbooks. Points noted included:

- course reviews should be occurring routinely and should not rely on complaints being brought forward
- some course content could be deemed problematic, but because of the historical events being covered/discussed, cannot be avoided
- a warning could be applied to forewarn learners of content that could result in harm to allow learners to decide if they want to take the course
- using open educational and open access resources in lieu of paper published resources
- review policies to ensure course revisions are occurring regularly and in a timely manner
- use subject matter experts to assist in ensuring course content remains current

The Provost and Vice President Academic noted the CGOGC and Deputy Provost, Academic Operations are currently reviewing policies and procedures around course development, and he would connect with them on this topic in parallel with the Integrated Learning Environment (ILE).

4.2 Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting the initial launch of the ILE will focus on the learning environment for learners, followed by other student services. Demonstrations of the Brightspace learning environment have been presented to the community, with feedback received shaping future demonstrations.

Discussions held on the transition from Moodle to D2L and potential temporary loss of functionality of certain course elements, the migration of courses, and collecting metrics to determine if the ILE is meeting learners' expectations. The ILE will be built to be intuitive which research shows would be successful in an online environment.

4.3 PowerED Update and Re-Introduction

The Director, PowerED presented this item providing an overview on what has been completed within PowerED, the impacts PowerED has had, and a review of strategies used in developing and delivering corporate training and faculty collaboration. The presentation also included an overview of a micro-credential offered and highlighted offerings created for the Federal Government, the Banff Centre, and the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Discussion held on revenues generated by PowerED, course development and revisions, and how to best partner with PowerED. Several collaborations with faculties are in discussion, including future opportunities that could create laddering into existing AU programs.

4.4 Nukskahtowin Update

The Chair, Nukskahtowin presented this item noting the following:

- Recruitment to the Indigenous Strategist and Tutor positions underway
- Planning a residential school memorial garden to take place in Athabasca
- Planning for the official opening a garden and gallery of Indigenous art gallery in Athabasca
- Partnering and planning with Heritage Management/ICCROM for an international conference, bringing together Elders, to be held in St. Albert, with the Elder and Cultural teachings recorded and made available online following the conference
- Updating the Nukskahtowin website to reflect the work being done on Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the Nukskahtowin Strategic Plan
- Planning the training for the Council of Allies and the Council of Elders

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Attachment 1 (CA3) APPSC 48 Approved Minutes March 22, 2022

Discussed agenda item 3.4, the expansion of the invigilation network. The Provost and Vice-President Academic advised the invigilation network is being expanded. A report on the invigilation network will be brought forward for discussion to a future GFC meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

6.1 The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.