

Approved minutes for Meeting 72 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on June 23, 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Peter Scott (Chair), F. Haider Alvi, Murray Anderson, Jolene Armstrong, Jane Arscott, Rhiannon Bury, Priscilla Campeau, 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, Bob Heller, Alyson House, Richard Huntrods, Vive Kumar, Angela Kuzyk, Annette Lane, Elizabeth Loree, 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: Raju Aryal, Luisa Barton, Terry Beckman, Anne-Marie Scott

Governance Staff: Sara Kunto (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel), Allison Strydhorst (Recording Secretary), Laura Knoblock (Executive Assistant)

The Chair informed members of the results of the chat function poll and that the chat function is turned on. He also noted the GFC Meeting Etiquette has been updated and uploaded to the Governance Portal. Members were encouraged to use the “raise your hand” feature to ask questions.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. delivered the AU land acknowledgement.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 72-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda including the minutes of Meeting 71 held May 18, 2022, as presented.

Clark/Perrin

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 recent appointments of the Board of Governors Chair and four Board members
- Convocation 2022 and the high turnout of graduates who participated

The Vice President, University Relations reminded members the early bird registration deadline for the Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10) is June 30, 2022.

Discussion was held on the Open Education Resources (OER) pilot. It was noted:

- Savings are being passed on to learners
- AU Press is working with course coordinators to build out the OER initiative
- The pilot will inform the revision process in developing and delivering quality OERs

The Associate Vice President, Academic Resources agreed to provide an update on OER at a future GFC meeting.

3.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item noting the University Certificate in Indigenous Community Economic Development and Planning has been approved by the Ministry.

3.3 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item noting:

- Karli Jahn, gold recipient at the 2022 Western Regional Three Minute Thesis (3MT) in Winnipeg, MB
- Work is continuing in all programs to align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action
- Debra Dell, recipient of the Governor General Award winner at AU Convocation held June 17th

3.4 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item noting renewal across the Faculty of Health Disciplines with the recruitment of positions.

3.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) presented this item noting:

- Renewal of the faculty strategic plan will follow the renewal of the institutional strategic plan
- 2022 Planning and Research Symposium will be held September 22-23, 2022 in Edmonton

3.6 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) presented this item noting:

- Master of Architecture Program was approved by the Government of Alberta
- FST has received funding from the Alberta at Work Targeted Enrolment Expansion Grant for completion of MSc IS focus areas of Environmental Data Analytics and Bioinformatics
- FST is hosting 25 international MITACS research interns
- Biology 345 is hosting an Ecology field lab

Discussion held on research grant proposal support available through the Research Centre.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.1 Motion 72-02** That General Faculties Council approved the suspension of the Master of Business Administration Hockey Management specialization effective July 1, 2022 and that the specialization be re-opened or terminated no later than June 30, 2024, at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by the Board of Governors and Alberta Advanced Education.

Clark/Watson

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

Carried

- 4.2 Motion 72-03 That the General Faculties Council approves the proposal for a Bachelor of Environmental Studies program, effective July 1, 2023, at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by the Board of Governors and Alberta Advanced Education.**

Mannani/Clark

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Associate Professor, Environmental Studies presented this item noting the length of time and effort required in developing the Bachelor of Environment Studies program proposal.

Discussion held on:

- Previous iterations of the proposal and changes made to the current proposal
- The possibility for collaboration opportunities across AU and the potential for the program to feed into graduate programs
- The opportunity for Work Integrated Learning built into the program

Carried

- 4.3 Motion 72-04 That the General Faculties Council approves extending the Temporary Compassionate Grading Policy to December 31, 2022.**

Clark/Watson

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting this item was presented to APPSC on June 21, 2022, and that an extension is required to complete the analysis on the impact of the policy. It was suggested that the analysis consider both program and visiting learners.

Carried

4.4 Strategic Issues Roundtable

The Chair led the discussion and noted:

- GFC members are encouraged to participate in discussions on critical issues at Strategic Issues Roundtable
- Open Educational Resources (OER), Academic Support Model, Decolonization, and Frontline Learner Services Transformation be added to the list of items for Strategic Issues Roundtable, and that these items help form part of the annual workplan
- A recommendation that a committee to oversee decolonization efforts at AU be established to ensure a coordinated effort to advance the TRC Calls to Action
- The consultation process for the Land Use Plan is underway with a report coming to a future GFC meeting

Discussion held on the status of the Scarborough Charter noting work completed should be in conjunction with decolonization efforts. The Provost and Vice President Academic provided an update from the Scarborough Charter Symposium which highlighted foundational issues and the formation of the membership. Members supported the Scarborough Charter be a recurring item for discussion at GFC.

4.5 Nukskahtowin Report

The Chair, Nukskahtowin presented this item noting:

- importance for colleagues to be respectful of each other and each other's time
- memorial garden work is continuing, and the garden will be located next to the Academic Research Centre in Athabasca
- plans for the September ceremony will coincide with Truth and Reconciliation Day, the ceremony will include the opening of the Gallery of Indigenous Art

4.6 Strategic Research Plan Redesign Process and Launch

The Associate Vice President Research presented this item. Discussion held on:

- importance of understanding potential challenges and gaps in conducting research
- collaboration with faculties to recruit student researchers
- role of researchers and challenges they face
- ensuring Nukskahtowin is engaged throughout the entire Strategic Research Plan

The Associate Vice President Research encouraged members to participate in upcoming engagement activities.

4.7 Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting the ILE remains on track for November launch of the learning environment. Course migration process has restarted after delays in the spring.

4.8 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting the MSCHE evaluation team visit which occurred on June 13th was a follow-up on the self-study visit which occurred in 2021. The June 13th visit was focused on Standard V, Learning Outcomes Assessment. AU was informed that Standard V was not met due to the majority of programs not including direct assessment of student learnings and had a lack of a systematic consistent approach across faculties and programs. It was also noted that AU has prepared a comprehensive Learning Outcomes Assessment report which identified findings that had been noted in the MSCHE report. It was further noted that AU had a positive report from the MSCHE team in 2021 on 6 of the 7 standards, and that a final report would be forthcoming in December 2022. The Provost and Vice President academic informed members that the acquisition for learning outcomes assessment software is underway and spoke to the personnel resources that would be required.

4.9 Library & Scholarly Resources Annual Report 2021-2022

The Chair advised this item would be deferred to the next GFC meeting.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

The Chair thanked members whose terms conclude on June 30th, for their time, contribution, and service on General Faculties Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT

6.1 Motion 72-05 That the meeting be adjourned.

Clark/Reynolds

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.