

Approved minutes for Meeting 79 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on May 4, 2023 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Matthew Prineas (Chair), Murray Anderson, Jolene Armstrong, Josie Auger, Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, F. Haider Alvi, Terry Beckman, Walid Belassi, Davina Bhandar, Chantel Bradley, Priscilla Campeau, Karie-Lynn Chambers, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Nichole Collins, Lynn Corcoran, Michael Dabrowski, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, David Head, Richard Huntrods, Steven Johnson, Paul Kellogg, Angela Kuzyk, , Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Ken Munyikwa, Terra Murray, Agnieszka Palalas, Andrew Perrin, Ann Reynolds, Kristin Rodier, Jennifer Schaeffer, , Dur-E-Najaf Syed, Ching Tan, Lorraine Thirsk, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Lisa Watson, Kristine Williamson, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Alex Clark, Mark Crawford, Vive Kumar, Jacqueline Limoges, Cori Paul, Sarah Reid, Bailey Sousa

Presenters: Michael Botting (Avison Young), Scott Pickles (Avison Young), Robyn Stobbs

Governance Staff: Melissa Sadownik (Acting Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel), Eileen Hendy (Governance Coordinator), Allison Strydhorst (Recording Secretary)

The Chair welcomed the following new members to General Faculties Council:

- David Head, Interim Vice President, Finance and Performance Services & CFO
- Dr. Andrew Chiarella, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Chantel Bradley, Athabasca University Students' Union
- Dur-E-Najaf (Naju) Syed, Athabasca University Students' Union

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and delivered the AU land acknowledgement.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 79-01 That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 78 held March 13, 2023, as presented.

Murray/Zenteno

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 on behalf of the President. Elaine Fabbro, Librarian noted Athabasca University (AU) is a participating institution in Open Education Alberta and additional information will be provided to the AU community in the future.

3.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

3.3 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) presented this item noting FGS will be connecting with faculties for thesis/dissertation guidelines.

Discussion held on the various issues that are impacting graduate programs across North America, including mental health supports for graduate students, costs, structure and outcomes of programs, access, and equity.

3.4 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Interim Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item.

Discussions held on:

- the learner intake for the Athabasca University and Northern Lakes College Post-LPN pathway program partnership and communications and reporting with regulators.
- post-secondary expansion grants, long-term planning to ensure resources are allocated for the duration of the program, and ensuring regulatory requirements are met for faculty to student ratios.

3.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences presented this item.

3.6 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

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

- Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee approved the addition of two new focus areas for the Master of Science in Information Systems program as part of the targeted enrolment grant received in 2022.
- five courses are running in Mobius noting expansion of the Mobius platform could be beneficial to all faculties.
- parentship with RIPEN and that nine companies have requested AU learners due to the caliber of our students.

Discussion held on:

- Shad Valley initiative noting 120 students are registered to receive a mini university experience for the month of July, including PowerED modules. It was further noted that any faculties interested in hosting a session should connect with the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Nukskahtowin Update

The Chair, Nukskahtowin presented this item noting:

- Nukskahtowin will be offering a Four Directions teaching as part of Shad.
- Terry Lusky will be at the AU Open House as part of convocation weekend.

Discussion held on:

- continuing discussions with Indigenous leaders in the fall for the need for a sacred and/or cultural space for all nations, noting if Indigenous groups wish to use the existing spaces, they can reach out to Nukskahtowin.

4.2 Motion 79-02 **That the General Faculties Council approves the Research Data Management (RDM) Institutional Strategy, effective May 4, 2023.**

Fabbro/Thirsk

The Associate Vice President, Research and Research Data Management Librarian presented this item.

Discussions held on:

- the process to notify the Tri-Agency of the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy and how this plan differs from Canadian Research Chair Action Plans.
- support that is available for researchers at AU.
- future requirements for graduate student research.
- Research Data Management module currently being offered by PowerED™.
- inclusion of tutors/academic experts being able to conduct research.

Carried

Abstained: Acharya,
Auger, Mitchell,
Reynolds

4.3 Strategy Research Plan Redesign Update and Engagement

The Associate Vice President Research presented this item noting a subcommittee of the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) working group collaborated on drafting the Land Acknowledgement in consultation with Nukskahtowin.

Discussions held on:

- whether the SRP explores workload balancing.
- the development of the Land Acknowledgement statement noting it is a starting point in a changing environment and workforce.
- the themes and working together, future opportunities and collaborations and sharing the questions within faculties to facilitate discussions for developing their own strategic plans.
- exploring how in-kind contributions for partnership grants could be reported.

- the role of GFC to look at new programs coming forward to identify supports in place to support students and AUs research mission.

Break 10:39-10:50 a.m.

4.4 Land Development and Real Estate Plan – Draft Report

The Interim Vice President, Finance and Performance Services & CFO and consultations, Michael Botting and Scott Pickles from Avison Young presented this item. It was noted that the space allocation is based on the data and current usage and as demand grows offerings can be added to make efficient and effective use of space.

Discussions held on:

- rightsholders of the land, seeking internal and external guidance moving forward to be respectfully while acknowledging the land.
- additional research space, assessing space for future place-based opportunities and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- adjunct services detailed in the report needing the support and consultation of the Town and County of Athabasca and private entities that may also benefit from the adjunct services.
- meeting the needs of AU learners and emphasizing the needs of learners in the plan.

- 4.5 **Motion 79-03 That the General Faculties Council reappoints the Associate Vice President, Quality, Planning, and Assessment and appoints the Associate Vice President, Learner Experience as members of General Faculties Council in accordance with section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act, effective July 1, 2023, to serve a three (3) year term of office, expiring June 30, 2026.**

May/Mannani

The Chair presented this item.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

The Chair thanked the following members for their service on and contributions to General Faculties Council:

AUGSA member

- Sarah Reid

Faculty of Business:

- Terry Beckman
- Glen Farrelly

Faculty of Health Disciplines

- Murray Anderson
- Terra Murray

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Aga Palalas

Faculty of Science and Technology

- Richard Huntrods
- Vive Kumar
- Ken Munyikwa

Non-academic staff member

- Nichole Collins

CUPE Representative

- Ann Reynolds

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.