

Approved minutes for Meeting 89 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on November 12, 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, Carrie Anton, Derek Briton, Priscilla Campeau, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Lynn Corcoran, Joel English-Dubois, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Brittany Hollett, Steven Johnson, Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Candy Khan, Angela Kuzyk, Jan Lehmann, Jacqueline Limoges, Denver Ma, Alain May, Rebecca Nelems, Marc Nesca, Amy Neumann, Hugh Notman, Jennifer Pascoe, Cori Paul, Andrew Perrin, Kristen Petrovic, Matthew Prineas, Adnan Qayyum, Diana Ramirez, Ann Reynolds, Kristin Rodier, Eric Wang, Lisa Watson, Ching Tan, Ray Welshman, Krystal Zahara, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Walid Belassi, Angela Beltaos, Caroline Buzanko, Michael Dabrowski, Manijeh Mannani, Michael Mauws, Brock Olive, Frederique Pivot, Kathleen Roberts, Bailey Sousa, Vina Tirven-Gadum

Governance Staff: Tyler Tollefson (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel), Allison Strydhorst (Governance Coordinator), Monica Brzak (Recording Secretary)

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgment and welcomed new member Dr. Candy Khan, Associate Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

The Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel provided an overview of GFC submission guidelines.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 89-01** **That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 88 held October 3, 2024, as presented.**

Paul/Watson

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 importance to commemorate Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day
- growth achieved at the institution over the past calendar year
- work continuing in 2025 on the development of faculty and strategic plans

- work continuing with the president's office to enact new priorities and working collaboratively on program growth, governance, and research growth
- acknowledgement of Dr. Scott Ketcheson's ASTech Award for Regional Innovation – Athabasca River Basin, and award winners from the Athabasca University Employee recognition event

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Strategic Plan Implementation

The Chair presented this item noting the strategic plan is moving from stability to strategy, further noting faculty and unit strategic plans coming forward in 2025 will integrate Like no Other.

4.2 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic noted the Associate Vice President, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion has connected with many in the university community and further noted under her guidance AU will not only have an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) strategy, but principles and approaches integral across programs at AU.

The Associate Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion presented this item noting:

- a balanced approach that allows everyone to co-exist
- being inclusive is modeling inclusive behavior and creating psychologically safe spaces
- noted appreciation of being welcomed into spaces to speak with students, staff, and community members
- the variety of EDI frameworks that exist, and guidance on how to begin an EDI journey

Discussions held on:

- the stages of an EDI journey
- how to mitigate risks and challenges associated with developing and implementing an EDI strategy and how to meet the needs of all stakeholders
- resources that will be provided to stakeholders including courses, workshops, guest speakers and an intranet site to house resources
- AU's commitment to EDI

4.3 Research Status Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic acknowledged the importance of research initiatives and a thriving research culture at AU.

The Associate Vice President Research presented this item and discussions held on: the process and effects of sunsetting the research portal 'Romeo', and the use of the PURE portal for the collection and reporting of data across the institution to build and broker connection at AU.

Break: 2:13 – 2:25 p.m.

4.4 Integrated Resources Process Update

The Chair, and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting AU is continuing to build upon its stable foundation through Integrated Resources Planning further noting:

- reviewing elements of procurement, contracts, and global price rises
- work continuing on aligning resources with priorities
- the Integrated Resources Planning Working Group is looking to find balance between affordability and access for students, while balancing financial sustainability for AU
- Senior Leadership Team is engaged in discussions around Integrated Resource Planning
- consultations continue with student groups and the Board of Governors

4.5 Flexible and Hybrid Work Culture

The Chair presented this item noting:

- building improvements continue at AU main, including new campus signage, renovations to the Governing Council Chambers, and washroom renovations
- the Flexible and Hybrid working group continue to meet, with an update to come forward to a future GFC meeting
- holiday celebrations have been scheduled for employees to attend in person in Athabasca, Edmonton, Calgary, and virtually

Discussions held on expansion and updates to the Athabasca Architecture Maker Space noting that the new space will feature technology for architecture and other disciplines, further noting the space will allow researchers and students to use 3D sensors and equipment, with future plans to invite community members from the Athabasca region.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.