

Approved minutes for Meeting 90 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on January 30, 2025 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, Carrie Anton, Walid Belassi, Angela Beltaos, Caroline Buzanko, Priscilla Campeau, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Michael Dabrowski, Joel English-Dubois, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Nickki Farrell-Myles, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Steven Johnson, Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Candy Khan, Angela Kuzyk, Jan Lehmann, Jacqueline Limoges, Manijeh Mannani, Michael Mauws, Alain May, Rebecca Nelems, Marc Nesca, Hugh Notman, Jennifer Pascoe, Cori Paul, Andrew Perrin, Kristen Petrovic, Frederique Pivot, Matthew Prineas, Adnan Qayyum, Ann Reynolds, Kathleen Roberts, Ching Tan, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Eric Wang, Lisa Watson, Krystal Zahara, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Derek Briton, Lynn Corcoran, Brittany Hollett, Denver Ma, Amy Neumann, Diana Ramirez, Bailey Sousa, Ray Welshman

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

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgment.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 90-01 That General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.**

Watson/English-Dubois

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Motion 90-02 That General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 89 held November 12, 2024, as presented.**

The Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel (CGOGC) noted the Board of Governors, General Faculties Council and their committees will approve the agenda and minutes separately to align with governance best practices. The CGOGC further provided an overview of meeting protocol.

Kennepohl/Kellogg

Carried

4. REPORTS

- 4.1 Chair Report to GFC**

The Chair presented this item noting:

- the appointment of the Associate Vice President Indigenous Conciliation
- fiscal year-end work is continuing, noting the institution is on track to have a balanced budget
- the announcement that the Provost and Vice President Academic will be leaving his role to return to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- promotions across the institution demonstrating achievement of our highest contribution
- 900 courses have been migrated to Brightspace
- programs successfully reviewed in the Faculty of Business and Faculty of Health Disciplines
- the new open access course on Anti-Indigenous Racism and Discrimination has opened with PowerED with high enrolment
- work continuing on strengthening cyber resilience and proactively addressing potential security risks
- preparation and planning for Convocation 2025 to be held June 5th and 6th in Athabasca is ongoing
- enrolment numbers continue to be stable

Discussion held on:

- support and engagement of GFC with the development of a comprehensive cyber security plan
- marketing and promotion of AU programs where there is an opportunity for growth

4.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item noting the ongoing continuous improvement processes for the Association to Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation.

4.3 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item noting 148 applications were received for research awards, and planning has begun for the 2025 Graduate Student Research Conference.

4.4 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item. Discussion held on the cross-faculty generative AI group at the institution.

4.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) presented this item noting growth surplus across all FHSS programs.

4.6 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology presented this item noting Assistant to the Dean, was a recent recipient of a Service Excellence Award.

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Motion 90-03 That General Faculties Council approves rescinding the Temporary Compassionate Grading Policy, effective January 30, 2025.

Lehmann/Cleveland-Innes

The Chair, the Provost and Vice President Academic, and Associate Vice President Students presented this item noting students with compassionate grounds can be assisted through existing academic appeals processes.

Discussion held on:

- processes in place in the Office of the Registrar to assist students requiring accommodations
- increasing communication regarding policies, procedures, and supports available for learners
- team members working in coordination with the Office of the Registrar and Accessibility Services to reduce barriers for students seeking support
- Ombuds office supports
- the availability of Accessibility Services to provide workshops to teams across the institution

Carried

5.2 Motion 90-04 That General Faculties Council approves revisions to the Posthumous Awarding of Credentials Policy including changing the name to Awarding of Credentials Posthumously or for Terminally Ill Students Policy, effective, January 30, 2025.

Belassi/Zenteno

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Registrar presented this item.

Discussion held on the minimum completion requirements noting they were developed through thorough consultation and are in line with other post-secondary institutions.

Carried

Break: 10:47-10:55 a.m.

5.3 Motion 90-05 That General Faculties Council approves the revised Academic Program Review Policy effective January 30, 2025.

Watson/Qayyum

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item.

Discussions held on:

- consultation for the policy was carried out through the governance process with this policy approved by the GFC Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee. It was noted that the revisions incorporate years of feedback in response to a concern expressed over the short consultation period and lack of presentation at faculty and centre meetings
- the importance of having this policy in place prior to the Campus Alberta Quality Council Audit in May 2025

Carried

Abstained: Heller

5.4 Learner Success and Learner Access Update

The Chair and Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting:

- Transforming Graduate Admissions project is on track
- the launch of Ask AU on the website
- work continuing on custom reporting including reporting on student success with learning analytics
- Kobo partnership pilot to provision eBooks to students in Philosophy 252
- the launch of a new course accommodation form by Accessibility Services
- continued progress on Open Education Resources (OER) noting:
 - applications for the OER Publishing Support Program are being accepted
 - the recent hire of an AU Press OER Project Coordinator
- phase 2 of the Course Development pilot has begun
- work continuing on selecting an e-portfolio solution

Discussion held on next steps once an e-portfolio solution is selected and the pedagogical applications of the tool.

5.5 Nuksahtowin Update

The Chair and the Associate Vice President Indigenous Conciliation presented this item noting:

- collaboration continues with faculties and departments across the institution
- work continuing on the new Nuksahtowin Plan
- Bannock and a movie in Athabasca continuing, noting desire for local high schools, Northern Lakes College and the Athabasca Friendship Centre to join future sessions
- work continuing on micro-credentials noting collaboration with the Faculty of Health Disciplines looking at cultural knowledge and how we do business with Indigenous Peoples
- assisting with the recruitment for an Indigenous Studies professor

- work continuing on how to make conciliation with Indigenous entities, and how to make conciliation work for them and us

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.