

Approved minutes for Meeting 91 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on March 10, 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, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Brittany Hollett, Steven Johnson, Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Candy Khan, Angela Kuzyk, Jan Lehmann, Denver Ma, Michael Mauws, Alain May, Rebeccah Nelems, Amy Neumann, Hugh Notman, Jennifer Pascoe, Cori Paul, Andrew Perrin, Kristen Petrovic, Frederique Pivot, Matthew Prineas, Adnan Qayyum, Diana Ramirez, Ann Reynolds, Kathleen Roberts, Ian Stephenson, Ching Tan, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Eric Wang, Lisa Watson, Ray Welshman, Krystal Zahara, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Derek Briton, Lynn Corcoran, Jacqueline Limoges, Manijeh Mannani, Marc Nesca

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 Ian Stephenson, PowerED™.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 91-01 That General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.**

Anton/Belassi

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 91-02 That General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 89 held January 30, 2025, as presented.**

Cleveland-Innes/Paul

The Chair presented this item.

Amendment to January 30, 2025 minutes:

- 5.3 - in the discussion revise the first bullet to read: 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 amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and without objection by any member.

The motion (restated) now reads:

That General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 89 held January 30, 2025, as amended.

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair presented this item noting change that is occurring locally and globally and how economic changes can result in people seeking to improve their education, further noting that AU provides an opportunity like no other and enrolments and fiscal performance at AU remain steady.

The Chair also thanked Dr. Matthew Prineas, Provost and Vice President Academic for his contributions to GFC and AU.

Discussions held on:

- enrolment growth and strategic enrolment management noting:
 - increased growth in graduate programs
 - increased number of international visiting students in undergraduate programs from post-secondary institutions across Canada
 - building partnerships through pathways and articulation agreements with other post-secondary institutions
 - ensuring program growth remains steady while recognizing the importance of visiting students
- official opening of Makerspace around convocation in Athabasca, June 5-6, 2025
- One Child Every Child funding
- ongoing work on a connections grant with the Research Office, Sweden University, and partners in Australia to address challenges in education in rural and remote communities
- continued advocacy for AU in provincial spaces

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5.1 Motion 91-03 That General Faculties Council reappoints the Associate Vice President, Indigenous Conciliation as a member of General Faculties Council in accordance with section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act, effective March 10, 2025, to serve a three (3) year term of office, expiring June 30, 2027.**

Kennepohl/Zenteno

The Chair presented this item.

Carried

Break: 2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

5.2 2025-2026 Integrated Resource Plan Overview

The Chair, Provost and Vice President Academic, and Acting Vice-President, Finance and Operations & Chief Financial Officer presented this item noting the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) focuses on building values expressed through the academic vision and mission and commitment to jobs.

Discussions held on:

- allocation process for federal research grants
- how vacant positions are budgeted, guidance on budgeting for new positions and noted no layoffs are included in the IRP
- the opportunity for growth across all programs at the institution, and leveraging support from University Relations in identifying new markets

5.3 Research Status Update

The Associate Vice President Research presented this item and introduced the new Director, Research Innovation.

Discussions held on:

- updating PURE to catalogue the facilities and equipment available for researchers
- work continuing on the transition away from Romeo, noting some ways forward have been identified through PURE

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

Prior to adjournment the Chair thanked Lisa Watson, Dean, Faculty of Business and Dr. Matthew Prineas, Provost and Vice-President Academic for their contributions to GFC.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.