

Approved minutes for Meeting 92 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on May 1, 2025 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, Carrie Anton, Walid Belassi, Priscilla Campeau, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Lynn Corcoran, Michael Dabrowski, Richard Dixon, Joel English-Dubois, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Brittany Hollett, Ramses Ilarraza, Steven Johnson, , Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Candy Khan, Angela Kuzyk, Jan Lehmann, Denver Ma, Manijeh Mannani, Michael Mauws, Alain May, Marc Nesca, Hugh Notman, Jessica O'Connell, Cori Paul, Frederique Pivot, Adnan Qayyum, Diana Ramirez, Ann Reynolds, Catherine Swindlehurst, Eric Wang, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Angela Beltaos, Derek Briton, Caroline Buzanko, Stuart Johnston, Jacqueline Limoges, Rebecca Nelems, Amy Neumann, Kristen Petrovic, Ian Stephenson, Ching Tan, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Ray Welshman, Krystal Zahara

Guests: James McInnes

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

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgment and welcomed new members and returning members:

- Catherine Swindlehurst, Provost and Vice President Academic
- Richard Dixon, Interim Dean, Faculty of Business
- Stuart Johnston, Vice President Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer
- Jessica O'Connell, Acting Vice President University Relations
- Ramses Ilarraza, Acting Associate Vice President Research
- Jan Lehmann, Athabasca University Students Union representative
- Diana Ramirez, Athabasca University Students Union representative.

Call to Order

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 92-01 That General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.**

Kennepohl/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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Motion 92-02 That General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 91 held March 10, 2025, as presented.**

Kennepohl/Fabbro

Carried

4. REPORTS**4.1 Chair Report to GFC**

The Chair presented this item acknowledging World Password Day, Administrative Professionals week, and the 45th Canadian Federal Election. The Chair further noted:

- the upcoming Athabasca University budget
- acknowledgement of new funded research projects
- continued community engagement activities in the Athabasca region and across the province
- continued planning activities for Convocation 2025 noting the importance of volunteers
- the annual Call for Nominations for General Faculties Council (GFC) and GFC Standing Committees

4.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Interim Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

4.3 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item noting \$187,000 of funding was awarded to 25 research-based graduate students.

4.4 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item.

4.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

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

Discussion held on the importance of the Write Site in supporting both undergraduate and graduate learners.

4.6 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology presented this item.

Discussion held on the importance of the Makerspace for accreditation nationally, and the requirements and process to borrow equipment from the Makerspace.

Break: 10:13-10:30 a.m.

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**5.1 Nukskahtowin Update**

The Associate Vice President Indigenous Conciliation presented this item noting:

- desire to make the micro-credential 'Indigenous Knowledge in the Workspace' a two-hour course for AU staff
- continued recruitment activities for Indigenous academia
- external funding received for a Blackfoot knowledge course in collaboration with Red Crow College, noting team members that have previously collaborated with Blackfoot scholars that could provide support for the course to contact Nukskahtowin

Discussion held on two scholarships available for Indigenous learners noting information can be found on the CUPE 3911 website.

5.2 Learner Success and Learner Access Update

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

- the open and online structure of AU that serves and welcomes all learners
- continued strong relationships with local Athabasca community, and provincial and federal governments
- continued growth at AU providing long-term stability and increased positive impact
- priorities in the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic including:
 - fostering positive academic culture for faculty, instructors, team members and learners
 - the focus on learner first approach and building to improve student supports
 - research impact and building a strong and positive research culture
- the upcoming launch and consultation process for the AU Academic Plan

Discussions held on:

- learner engagement and the learner experience
- the consultation process for the AU Academic Plan

5.3 Presentation of Student-Developed Networking App – Prompty

The Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association Representative and James McInnes presented this item.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

Prior to adjournment, the Chair thanked the following members for their contributions on GFC as their terms are ending June 30, 2025:

- Lynn Corcoran, Faculty of Health Disciplines
- Jacqueline Limoges, Faculty of Health Disciplines
- Martha Cleveland-Innes, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Paul Kellogg, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Vina Tirven-Gadum, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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- Michael Dabrowski, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Stella George, Faculty of Science and Technology
 - Qing (Ching) Tan, Faculty of Science and Technology
 - Angela Beltaos, Faculty of Science and Technology
 - Coral (Cori) Paul, Tutor/Academic Expert, Faculty of Health Disciplines
 - Manju (Nina) Acharya, Tutor/Academic Expert, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Carmen Allen, Tutor/Academic Expert, Faculty of Science and Technology
 - Brittany Hollett, Athabasca University Graduate Students Association Representative

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.