Approved minutes for the Centennial Meeting 100 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on October 8, 2026 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), Trevor Baxter, Angela Beltaos, Jason Bernard, Donna Bowen, Leigh Brownhill, Shauna Bryce, Priscilla Campeau, Andrew Chiarella, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Ellen Cobham, Liam Connelly, Ali Dewan, Richard Dixon, Elaine Fabbro, Osire Glacier, Lisa Gray, Sami A. Houry, Ramses Ilarraza, Steven Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Bangaly Kaba, Anshuman Khare, Angela Kuzyk, Matthew Lee, Denver Ma, Manijeh Mannani, Ken Munyikwa, Rebeccah Nelems, Amy Neumann, Hugh Notman, Nina Paulovicova, Kristin Petrovic, Adnan Qayyum, Sandra Rein, Saktinil Roy, Simon Sigué, Serita Smith, Catherine Swindlehurst, Norin Taj, Tyler Tollefson, Harris Wang, Krystal Zahara, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Farook Al-Shamali, Caroline Buzanko, Alexa DeGagne, Joel English-Dubois, Kelly Miller, Marc Nesca, Diana Sarkis, Ian Stephenson, Cynthia Spring, Ray Welshman

Others present: Aimee Couturier, Nickkisha Farrell-Myles, Allison Strydhorst

The Chair delivered the AU Land Acknowledgement and recognized September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Call to Order
The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

1.1 Motion 100-01 **That General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.**

The Chair presented this item. Member Paulovicova noted an amendment be made to page 14 of the agenda package to correct the spelling of their last name.

The amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and without objection by any member.

The motion (restated) now reads:
That General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda as amended.

Khare/Dixon **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 100-02 That General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 99 held September 1, 2026, as presented.

Zahara/Taj **Carried**

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chair Report to GFC

The Chair presented this item noting cybersecurity remains a critical institutional risk and highlighted the shared responsibility of protecting students, employees, research, and institutional information. Faculty, staff, and instructors were encouraged to complete cybersecurity awareness training, which will be launched October 15th, by December 31, 2026.

The Chief Information Security Officer provided an overview of the cybersecurity training noting the training launch aligns with Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Discussions held on:

- what would be awarded as part of the new employee excellence awards
- AU's approach to managing emerging cybersecurity risks, including geopolitical considerations, evolving threats, and technology infrastructure vulnerabilities
- the possibility of having AU Space be open retroactively for past students to use the repository

4.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Interim Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

4.3 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item.

4.4 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

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

4.5 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology presented this item, and expressed appreciation to Information Technology staff for their outstanding support and contributions in ensuring meetings and events run successfully.

4.6 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Interim Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item.

4.7 Faculty Quarterly Reports Discussion

Following the presentations of the faculty quarterly reports discussions held on the recent articulation agreement with Alberta Industry Training, noting the initiative has been soft

launched, is intended to reduce barriers to access and create additional pathways for prospective students, and how the new funding model could support the initiative.

Break 2:36 – 2:50 p.m.

5. Action and Discussion Items

5.1 Nukskahtowin Report

The Associate Vice President Indigenous Conciliation presented this item noting this year is the Centre's 25th anniversary, and shared a teaching from Elder Campbell with members and noted autumn is recognized as a time of strength, authority, and mystery. You may see people gathering and harvesting traditional medicines during this season.

5.2 GFC – Looking Back, Looking Around, Looking Forward

The Chair presented this item noting the significance of the 100th meeting of the General Faculties Council (GFC), recognizing it as an important milestone in the University's history of collegial governance. The Chair further noted:

- AU's academic governance roots date back to 1975 with the establishment of Athabasca University Academic Council
- governance responsibilities expanded over time, including authority related to academic programs, degree granting, and research governance
- AU became a Comprehensive Academic and Research University (CARU) in 2004, supporting the growth of research governance structures
- The first GFC meeting was held on November 8, 2011
- Since 2011, approximately 845 individuals have served on GFC, contributing significant time and expertise in support of collegial governance
- The continued success of GFC reflects the commitment of faculty, staff, students, academic experts, and administrators to the University's academic mission

The Chair expressed appreciation to current and former GFC members for their service and contributions over the years.

6. Business Arising from the Consent Agenda

None

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.