

Approved minutes for Meeting 82 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on November 14, 2023 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), F. Haider Alvi, Carrie Anton, Jolene Armstrong, Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, Angela Beltaos, Chantel Bradley, Priscilla Campeau, Karie-Lynn Chambers, Andrew Chiarella, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Lynn Corcoran, Michael Dabrowski, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Brittany Hollett, Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Angela Kuzyk, Jacqueline Limoges, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Dale Mountain, Brock Olive, Jennifer Pascoe, Cori Paul, Andrew Perrin, Matthew Prineas, Ann Reynolds, Kristin Rodier, Dur-E-Najaf Syed, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Jeff Vallance, Eric Wang, Lisa Watson, Ray Welshman, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Josie Auger, Walid Belassi, Davina Bhandar, Caroline Buzanko, Mark Crawford, Steven Johnson, Frederique Pivot, Bailey Sousa, Ching Tan, Lorraine Thirsk

Presenters: Catherine Swindlehurst

Governance Staff: Eileen Hendy (Governance Coordinator) and Allison Strydhorst (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order

The Chair welcomed Dale Mountain, Vice President, Finance and Operations & CFO, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and delivered a land acknowledgement.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 **Motion 82-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 81 held October 5, 2023, as presented.

Morpurgo/Fabbro

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.

Discussions held on:

- University Relations marketing campaign successes
- collection and tracking of data to improve/enhance learner experiences and supports

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office recruitment
- Chief Growth Officer role and responsibilities
- University leadership culture, prioritizing internal capacity around administrative work including research, reputation, relationships with community, industry and post-secondary institutions and building internal infrastructure for positive leadership structure and support
- government relations work, including meetings held with officials from provincial and federal governments

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Integrated Resource Planning (IRP): Process and Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting:

- improvements continue to be made to make the IRP process more transparent and increase consultations from team members involved in the IRP process, including:
 - engaging the larger Senior Leadership Team
 - changing Administrative Council membership to include additional leaders
 - consultation with student groups
 - aligning the IRP with institutional priorities and academic mission
 - increasing use of data driven approaches and identifying trends around enrolment and enrolment growth assumptions
 - developing a 3-year plan to identify opportunities for growth
 - Tuition and Fees Working Group reviewing how tuition and fees are set and looking at data around demand, price sensitivity and impacts resulting from price change

Discussion held on the longer planning process, connecting the IRP to the Strategic Plan and the process to present future opportunities for consideration.

4.2 University Strategic Planning

The Chief Growth Officer presented this item noting the launch of the strategic planning process and the Possibilities Paper, drafted by the President and Chair Dr. Alex Clark and that consultations with the university community will be commencing in the coming weeks. It was additionally noted GFC would be engaged throughout the strategic planning process including the final draft of the plan being presented to GFC to recommend approval to the Board of Governors in 2024.

Discussion held on the stakeholders to be consulted and the consultation process.

Break: 2:15-2:30 p.m.

4.3 Beyond Near Virtual: Flexible and Hybrid Work Culture

The Chief Growth Officer presented this item noting as AU moves beyond near virtual the focus is changing to thinking about a flexible and hybrid culture at AU, by building choice on how and where we work together, revitalizing the AU campus to be an attractive place to work and learn,

and building a positive workplace culture and community. It was further noted that a working group has been established and that regular updates will be provided to GFC.

Discussions held on:

- place-based functions and activities, and the potential for growth in the Athabasca region and expanding the presence at AU main, including:
 - a Maker Space for the Master of Architecture program
 - utilizing the campus as a conference centre and residence to promote hybrid conferences
 - having invigilation centres for learners and spaces for learners to obtain instructional support
- the importance of balancing operational needs and staff choice

4.4 Research Status & Strategy Update

The Associate Vice President, Research presented this item, noting:

- courses including the Knowledge Mobilization course and courses offered by Research Impact Canada are open to everyone, including CUPE staff
- the Research Centre is actively exploring what is possible in terms of research security
- the success of the PURE portal
- the importance of thinking 3-6 months ahead of grant submissions and a reminder that team members can contact the research centre to partner on their research

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.