Approved minutes for meeting 09 of the Academic Learning Environment Committee held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, in Governing Chambers Council, AU-Athabasca.

In Attendance: Alex Kondra (Chair), Elaine Fabbro, Cindy Ives, Tim Terry and via teleconference: Amanda Nielsen, Bethany Tynes, Evelyn Ellerman, Bob Heller, Josh Evans, Houda Trabelsi, Julie Peschke, Maria Torres, Shandip Saha, Margaret Edwards, Wayne Brehaut, Sherri Melrose

Governance Staff: Carol Lund (University Secretary), Eileen Hendy (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Marti Cleveland-Innes

Regrets: Mike Battistel, Terry Anderson Tracey Lindberg, Derek Briton

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   1.1 Motion 09-01 That Academic Learning Environment Committee approves the agenda as presented.

       Fabbro Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

   2.1 Action Subject to the Conflict of Interest provision of the General Faculties Council General By-Laws, the Chair asked members to declare any conflict they may have with respect to the meeting agenda.

       No conflicts declared.

3. MINUTES

   3.1 Motion 09-02 That Academic Learning Environment Committee approves the minutes of Meeting 06, held April 23, 2013; Special Meeting 07, held May 22, 2013 and Special Meeting 08, held June 20, 2013 as presented.

       Ives

       Amendments – April 23, 2013 meeting minutes

       Agenda item 5.1

           • Revise paragraph 13 to read: Member Anderson commented the drive for efficiencies cuts across the mandate for this committee but he is unable to contribute to the financial discussions as he is unaware of what the costs are, however he can contribute to discussions regarding pedagogy.

           • Revise paragraph to read: member Trabelsi commented focus needs to be on delivery models and perspectives need to be obtained (students, faculty).

       Agenda item 6.1

           • Turnit should be Turnitin

           • Paragraph four – delete +

           • Paragraph seven – change case to cause

           • Paragraph eight – change Member Change to Member Chang
The amendments were accepted as friendly amendments by the mover.

The motion (restated) now reads as follows:

That Academic Learning Environment Committee approves the minutes of Meeting 06, held April 23, 2013 as amended; Special Meeting 07, held May 22, 2013 and Special Meeting 08, held June 20, 2013 as presented.

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
None

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Action Report from ALEC Learning Support Working Group
Houda Trabelsi and Wayne Brehaut, co-chairs of the ALEC Learning Support Working Group provided a report on activities completed by the working group since the June 20, 2013 ALEC meeting, noting the main activity completed was the compilation of information. She informed members the working group hopes to present a final report at the November 19, 2013 meeting of ALEC.

Member Heller expressed interest in serving on the working group. Co-chair Trabelsi requested he send her an email.

Member Ives asked if CLDD will be consulted and member Elaine Fabbro asked if the library will be consulted. Co-chair Trabelsi responded consultations are still underway and both will be consulted.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Discussion Athabasca University Learning Environment
Josh Evans and Cindy Ives informed members, since the June 20, 2013 ALEC meeting, discussions have been held with faculty Deans, noting it become clear that a university-wide discussion about the AU learning environment might be merged or integrated with ongoing discussions about restructuring.

The Chair noted discussions could be integrated with the enrolment plan.

Member Ellerman commented the learning environment is a bigger picture and the matter being worked on by the learning support working group is part of the learning environment. She further commented there is a lot of work going on at the university relating to the learning environment and suggested grouping matters – mapping the network and identifying gaps.

Member Ives noted the learning environment is cross functional across the university. She agreed with member Ellerman suggestion to map the network and suggested this could be next step.

Member Heller noted consideration needs to be given to the SUP and CIP. Members Ives and Evans agreed.

Member Trabelsi suggested the established smaller working groups could report to bigger working group.

The Chair asked for volunteers to be on a mapping working group.

Member Ives offered to undertake the development of a map for the next meeting. She suggested the meeting be held in connect to enable all members to view the
diagram.

Member Trabelsi suggested establishing a landing site.

Members Ives informed members she will consult with members Heller, Trabelsi and Evans and draft a plan for the February 2014 meeting.

6.2 Discussion MOOCs at Athabasca University

The Chair noted a small group of staff with an interest in MOOCs got together and the President asked them to draft a statement on MOOCs in the context of Athabasca University.

Marti Cleveland-Innes presented this item, provided members with an overview of what MOOCs is and the grant Athabasca University received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to identify and disseminate research on massive open online courses. She reviewed the four objectives Athabasca University is proposing in support of the MOOC movement (attachment 1).

Member Saha inquired about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and noted other post-secondary institutions are going ahead with MOOCs. He inquired what the difference was between MOOCs and teaching companies hiring academics.

Member Edwards commented the public needs to be informed about MOOCs, the four objectives are not required, this matter be taken to GFC, the drafted press release should be treated as a background document and Advancement asked to prepared a press release. She also commented there needs to be a policy statement.

The presenter noted the feedback she received implied the four objectives are important to state and that it was important for Athabasca University to state it was doing something about MOOCs and what it was doing. It was suggested a press release announcing Athabasca University receiving this grant be made.

Member Heller noted MOOCs has generated conversations regarding online courses, discussion needs to occur on what Athabasca University wants to do with MOOCs and consideration needs to be given to resources required. He also noted information about who is taking MOOCs should to be obtained.

Member Evans commented consideration be given to how MOOCs uses the term online learning and Athabasca University providing its definition for online learning.

The presenter thanked members for their comments, noting this is an opportunity for Athabasca University to show what it is and what it is doing in the field of online learning. She noted Advancement will be contacted in regards to press releases and inquired if a next step should be a presented made to GFC.

The Chair recommended the drafted statement be presented to GFC for discussion, noting Executive Group approval is required if this statement is to be Athabasca University’s position on MOOCs.

Member Ellerman commented the statement outlines two important matters – 1) Athabasca University recipient of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding and 2) what Athabasca University doing in the future.
6.3 Discussion

**Creation of a Library Collections Advisory Committee**

Member Elaine Fabbro presented this item and asked for member’s comments regarding creation of a library collection advisory committee to develop the library’s collection.

Member Ives inquired if it should be just be a working group and suggested ALEC members discuss this matter within their faculties and provide feedback to the presenter.

The Chair commented the presenter consider what a working group should consider of and bring back suggestions. He noted the creation of a working group did not require approval and could be established anytime.

Member Ellerman noted the role of the AUAC Library Standing Committee was to advise on acquisition of library materials and be a liaison between the library and staff.

The presenter noted it was important for the library to obtain advise from academics regarding subscriptions to library databases and periodicals.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. SCHEDULE OF PENDING ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Motion 09-03 That the Academic Learning Environment Committee be adjourned.

Elaine Fabbro  Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.