



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Academic Learning Environment Committee

Approved minutes for Meeting 29 of the Academic Learning Environment Committee held on January 17, 2017, in Governing Council Chambers, AU-Athabasca.

Present: Cindy Ives (Chair), Donna Romyn, Alain May John Latremouille, Elaine Fabbro, and via teleconference: Walid Belassi, Rose Schroeder, Kimberley Lamarche, Jon Dron, Dietmar Kennepohl, Hugh Notman, Nathaniel Ostashewski, Veronica Thompson, Ann Reynolds, Kim Newsome, Kelly O'Neill, Carrie Anton

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

Others: Nancy Parker

Regrets: Tilly Jensen, Adien Dubbelboer, Steve Green

Call to Order

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 **Motion 29-01** That Academic Learning Environment Committee approves the agenda as presented.

Belassi

Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.1 **Action** Subject to the Conflict of Interest provision of the General Faculties Council Rules, 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 29-02** That Academic Learning Environment Committee approves the minutes of Meeting 28, held November 22, 2016, as presented.

Fabbro

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 **Update on appointment of ALEC members to serve on the Student Services Advisory Group and Learning and Teaching Service Advisory Group.**

The Vice President Academic (Interim) noted the following full-time academic faculty members, serving on ALEC volunteered following the November 22, 2016 ALEC meeting:

- Rose Schroeder to serve on the Student Services Advisory Group
- Tilly Jensen to serve on the Learning and Teaching Service Advisory Group

Member Reynolds inquired about the CUPE representative on the Service Advisory Groups. The Interim Vice President Information Technology & Chief Information Officer agreed to follow-up with member Reynolds directly on this matter.

5. ACTION ITEMS

None



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Academic Learning Environment Committee

6. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Update on the student relationship management (SRM) project

The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer provided a verbal update, informing members the SRM upgrade will be completed the weekend of January 20 – January 24, 2017, affecting only current background users. He further noted students will not be affected and that it was yet unknown when SRM will be rolled out across the university.

6.2 Use of technology in teaching and learning

The Vice President Academic (Interim) and the Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer provided a verbal update, noting they meet regularly to discuss this matter.

Members discussed the implications of upgrading Moodle to version 3 and were encouraged to send suggestions regarding Moodle upgrades to the Vice President Academic (Interim) and/or the Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer noted the Moodle incidences have to be addressed before newer versions are implemented and IT resources are limited.

Members Dron and Ostashevski inquired about what members or ALEC can do to accelerate upgrading Moodle to version 3. The Vice President Academic (Interim) and/or the Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer will discuss what role ALEC has for such matters. The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer agreed to discuss accelerating the Moodle upgrade with IT staff.

Member Reynolds expressed concern with the performance of Citrix and was informed Citrix's performance depends on the network system and an upgrade of the network system is required before users will experience improvements.

6.3 ICT Investment Roadmap

No discussion held for this item.

6.4 Request for Change Report: Learning & Teaching Service Advisory Group

The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer presented this item.

Member Romyn commented on the work processing on Turnitin. It was noted implementation of Turnitin can proceed once the policy is revised.

Member May noted requests for Moodle functional features to be turned on can come forward as requests for change.

6.5 Standing Report on ICT Investment Governance Committee

Member Dron provided a verbal update, noting at the last meeting the list of prioritized projects was reviewed. The list included online examinations and learning analytics but not the research environment.

The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer noted discussions regarding IT support for the research environment was being discussed within IT and a framework will be developed and input from academics sought on this matter.

Member Anton requested accessibility needs be considered when software products are being considered and inquired if there were policies in place that addressed what accessibility needs/criteria should be considered when evaluating software products. The Associate Vice President Student and Academic Services commented the current policy is under review and proposed revisions will focus on accessibility.



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Academic Learning Environment Committee

6.6 2017-2020 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) Guidelines

The Vice President Academic (Interim) presented this item.

6.7 National Survey of Student Engagement – Summary Results

The Director, Institutional Studies presented this item.

Member Dron commented consideration should be given to increasing student interaction and building a community environment for students. Member Thompson suggested consulting with students to obtain their perspective on this suggestion.

It was noted one initiative that may contribute to a community environment is having Athabasca University student email addresses. The Interim Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer noted the implementation plan is to issue student email addresses to graduate students first, then to students within the Faculty of Health Disciplines.

7. SCHEDULE OF PENDING ITEMS

- 7.1 The schedule of pending items was presented for information. It was agreed the existing undergraduate online course evaluation questions would be distributed and discussed at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 **Motion 29-03 That the Academic Learning Environment Committee be adjourned.**

Kennepohl

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.