



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Meeting 37 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on March 22, 2017, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton (Peace Hills Trust Tower)

Present: Neil Fassina (Chair), Jane Arscott, Lisa Carter, Marc Cels, Margaret Edwards, Bob Heller, Deborah Hurst, Cindy Ives, Dietmar Kennepohl, John Latremouille, Estelle Lo, Ann Reynolds, Donna Romy, Veronica Thompson, Harris Wang and via teleconference: Mark Crawford, Elaine Fabbro, Merlyn Foo, Rick Harland, Steve Johnson, Anshuman Khare, Suzanne Kyle, Ronnie Leah, Peggy Lynn MacIsaac, Richard MacLeod, Michael Mauws, Dawn Mercer-Riselli, Susan Moisey, Terra Murray, Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Shauna Reckseidler-Zenteno, Saktinil Roy, Shandip Saha, Meenal Shrivastava, Angela Specht, Eric Strikwerda, Marlyss Valiant, Shawna Wasylshyn, Dunwei Wen

Regrets: Mohamed Ally, Terry Beckman, Rhiannon Bury, Priscilla Campeau, Jeff Chang, Oksana Delgado, Steve Green, Pamela Hawranik, Jennifer Knopp-Sihota, Michael Lithgow, Douglas MacLeod, Kim Newsome, Julie Peschke, Virginia Vandall-Walker, Vlad Voytenko

Presenters: David Head, Nancy Parker

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

Call to Order

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 **Motion 37-01** That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda as presented.

Carter/Edwards

Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

No conflicts declared.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 **Motion 37-02** That the General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 36, held December 07, 2016, as presented.

Kennepohl/Thompson

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Member Reynolds asked when the Faculty of Science and Technology Student Success Centre Final Report will be presented to GFC. She was informed the final report will be presented to GFC following discussion at Deans Group.



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6. REPORTS

6.1 Report of the President

The President presented this item for information.

Member Edwards suggested a notice be sent to all staff regarding the recruitment of the Provost and Vice President (Academic).

Member Hurst inquired if any discussions have been held regarding the coordination of programs among post-secondary institutions pursuant to Alberta Advanced Education's core principles for the adult learning system in Alberta. She was informed no discussions have yet occurred.

Member Heller inquired about the Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer position. The President noted the Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer was away on leave and an Interim Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer has been appointed and there was nothing further to report at this time.

Member Arscott noted she supported the initiatives to establish an Indigenous Advisory Circle and an advisory council made up of diverse members of the AU community. She suggested terms of reference be developed for the advisory councils and GFC be involved in these initiatives.

Member Arscott noted the renaming of the Strategic University Plan and inquired if an academic plan would be developed and if the AU Master Plan will include academic goals. She was informed academic goals will be incorporated in the AU Master Plan. She also noted the AU community needed to be involved in the strategic planning process.

Member Reynolds noted there needed to be representation from the collective bargaining units on the advisory councils.

Member Leah noted tutors want to be involved and participate in university planning and on advisory councils.

Member Wang inquired if AU participated in the development of Alberta Advanced Education's core principles and if there were such principles at the national level. The President noted post-secondary institutions were not involved in the development of Alberta Advanced Education's core principles and that there were no such principles at the national level as the Constitution of Canada provides each province with the responsibility for higher education. Member Wang also noted AU needed a better presence on the web/internet and was informed the web team is looking into this.

6.2 2017-2018 Proposed Budget Plan

The President, referencing the March 16, 2017 email sent to all staff, informing them that a 2017-18 Budget will not be presented to the Board of Governors until the third party review process has concluded.

It was noted a special meeting of GFC will be scheduled to discuss the proposed budget prior to presentation for approval to the Board of Governors.

6.3 Summary Capital and ICT Infrastructure Plan 2017-2022

The President presented this item for information.

Member Arscott inquired about what contributions have been made since the last plan and was informed the differences are what is required now and in the future. She inquired if the time frame for delivery of priorities within one year will be met and was informed it would be.



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Member Heller noted the implementation plan for the Gradebook project and suggested consideration be given to implementing other Moodle Modules (e.g., Moodle quiz and the analytics modules) to eliminate the use of duplicating products (MuchLearning). He inquired about the projected 2.021 million investment for infrastructure operations support program noted in table 3, page 9 of the plan and was informed this projection was to ensure funding would be available if an update to the platform is required.

Member Reynolds inquired about proceeding with the Northern Alberta Data Centre opportunity. The Interim Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer noted the risk of the network for Northern Alberta and as AU moves to a Private Cloud environment, requiring less physical space, the opportunity to create a Northern Alberta shared Services Data Centre becomes possible.

Member Wang noted consideration needs to be given to coordinating systems and projects.

Member Carter agreed with member Wang's comment regarding the need to coordinate systems. She also noted she was pleased to see solar power noted in the plan and suggested consideration be given to renovating some of the existing buildings for researchers to use to conduct their research.

Member Heller inquired if there will be increased cost with the increased traffic in the campus area due to opening of the new school being constructed and was informed discussions are underway regarding the sharing of some of costs.

Member Reynolds requested it be noted in the minutes that Greymatter does not make it easy for tutors and students to communicate.

Member Wasylyshyn noted students want consistency when using software products (e.g., Moodle) and currently there is no consistency as some features of Moodle are enabled in some courses but not in other courses. The Vice President, Academic (Interim) noted some of the student concerns will be noted when the Faculty of Science and Technology Student Success Centre Final Report is presented. The President requested two discussions be held when the Faculty of Science and Technology Student Success Centre Final Report is presented to GFC: 1) a discussion on the report and 2) a discussion on consistency for users using software.

Member Leah commented a broader discussion on instructional models across the university is required. The President noted a broader discussion on the learning framework will be held with the university community.

6.4 Report of the Interim Vice President, Academic

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this item for information, noting the reappointment of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Member Heller requested an update on the Learning to Learn Online course and was informed the course has been offered three times with over 1000 students enrolled each time. He also inquired about the future plan for the course. The Vice President, Academic (Interim) noted she will request a report on the LTLO MOOC from the Centre for Distance Education be provided to GFC.

Member Leah inquired how academic expert and tutor accomplishments can be noted in the Vice President, Academic Report. The Vice President, Academic (Interim) noted this information is provided by Deans. The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences noted members of the faculty are requested to forward accomplishments to the Dean. She also noted the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has established an online 'bookshelf' and all faculty members are encouraged to submit publications for inclusion.



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6.5 Report of the Vice President, Finance and Administration

The Vice President, Finance and Administration presented this item for information.

6.6 Report of the Interim Vice President, Information Technology & Chief Information Officer

The Interim Vice President, Information Technology & Chief Information Officer presented this item for information.

Member Arscott inquired about the estimated cost spend on the Gradebook project and was informed approximately 1.5 million was spent on the project.

Member Thompson inquired when the LMS-SIS integration project will begin and was informed a project manager has been engaged and will be starting at the end of March, 2017.

6.7 Report of the Interim Vice President, Advancement

The Interim Vice President, Advancement presented this item for information.

Member Reynolds noted she would forward a report titled 'How to get students and what students would like' to the Interim Vice President, Advancement for information.

Member Heller suggested including a link to the transcript credit guide on course webpages. He inquired about what the asterisk meant for the listing 'revenue raised' on Appendix A and was informed this was signals the target expectation will not be met.

Member Kennepohl suggested a link to the BC transfer credit guide also be included on the course webpages.

Members Leah and Peuramaki-Brown inquired about requesting printed brochures for programs. The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences advised that such requests should be forwarded to her to coordinate in accordance with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Strategic Plan.

6.8 Quarterly Enterprise Risk Management Summary Report

The Vice President, Finance and Administration presented this item for information.

Member Reynolds inquired about the statement noted for risk 3.2 regarding the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences plan for future instructional plan. The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences noted this relates to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Strategic Plan and an implementation plan for its instructional model will be developed following the implementation of phase 2 of Gradebook.

Member Heller inquired about the factors considered for risks 1.2 and 3.1 and if learning resources fees, etexts and OERs were taken into consideration. It was noted the list of factors presented is not an exhaustive list.

Member Wasylyshyn noted there is evidence that etexts affected student satisfaction and suggested the university survey students on this matter.

Member Heller inquired about the progress of discussions with the University of Alberta relating to disaster recovery needs. The Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer informed members discussions transpired with the County of Athabasca which have resulted in arrangements for a backup site to be in place by the end of the year with the County.

Member Wang noted it has been requested consideration be given to changing the learning resources fee when etexts and OERs are used for courses. He also noted that students have expressed concerns regarding being charged a learning resources fee when there are no resources, such as textbooks, etexts or OERs.



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Member Shrivastava noted students have also expressed concern with etext not being available after completion of a course.

The President acknowledged the concerns expressed by members regarding learning resources fees, noting there will be further discussion on this matter at a future meeting.

Agenda item 8.7 was discussed prior to 6.9

6.9 Enterprise Risk Management – Ranking of AU's Primary Risk Exposures (2017)

The Vice President, Finance and Administration presented this item for information.

7. Executive Committee

7.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

8. Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee

8.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

8.2 Undergraduate Online Course Evaluations

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this item for information, noting a review of the course evaluation questions is underway.

Member Reynolds noted at the March 07, 2017 Academic Learning Environment Committee meeting she requested there be CUPE representation on the committee reviewing course evaluation questions. The Vice President, Academic (Interim) noted a request for representation has been sent to CUPE.

Member Heller suggested this report include a three year window of data to show trends.

8.3 Exploring Alberta Undergraduate Growth

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this item for information.

8.4 National Survey of Student Engagement – Summary Results

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this report for information.

Member Heller inquired if the first year students were program students and was informed the students were program students.

8.5 University and Colleges Applicant Survey 2016 Results (CONFIDENTIAL)

The report was received as information.

8.6 Motion 37-03 That the General Faculties Council recommends the Board of Governors approves the Faculty of Business revised organization structure as follows, effective March 30, 2017:

From:

Faculty of Business

Centre for Innovative Management

Centre for Organizational Behaviour and Marketing

Centre for Accounting and Taxation

Centre for Finance, Economics, E-Commerce and Decision Sciences

To:

Faculty of Business



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Department, Accounting & Taxation
Department, Organizational Analysis
Department, Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Information Systems
Department, Economics, Finance & Operations Management

Hurst/Romyn

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

Carried

Member Reynolds abstained

- 8.7 Motion 37-04 That the General Faculties Council recommends the Board of Governors approves the addition of hockey management specialization within the Master of Business Administration (MBA), effective January 01, 2017.**

Hurst/Romyn

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

Carried

- 8.8 Motion 37-05 That the General Faculties Council approves changes to the Academic Excellence Awards Policy to reflect the new Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS), effective March 22, 2017.**

Ives/Kennepohl

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this item.

Carried

- 8.9 Motion 37-06 That the General Faculties Council approves changes to the Plagiarism Detection Technology Policy, effective March 22, 2017.**

Ives/Hurst

The Vice President, Academic (Interim) presented this item.

Member Wasylyshyn inquired if the software would be made available to students, about the implementation of the software and if markers can use the software. The Vice President, Academic (Interim) noted pursuant to the policy a course coordinator determines whether and how PDT is used. She further noted if a course coordinator determines PDT will be used, then students and markers can use the software. She also noted students can use the software as a learning tool.

Carried

9. Academic Learning Environment Committee

9.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

10. Student Awards Committee

10.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

11. Academic Excellence Awards Committee

11.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.



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12. Student Academic Appeals Committee

12.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

Members Edwards and Reynolds inquired why penalties are not being upheld. The Registrar, Chair of the Student Academic Appeals Committee, noted the reason, in some cases, was more details came forward at the appeal hearing. He also noted the Office of the Vice President, Academic has been informed of the issues and matters coming forward to the committee and decisions of the committee are communicated back to the Dean and Investigator. Member Reynolds requested the decision be also communicated to the academic expert/tutor. The Chair acknowledged this suggestion. He also noted not all cases come forward to the committee.

Member Edwards noted students are permitted to present their case and requested the policy be revised to allow faculty to present their case. The Registrar noted this suggestion.

Member Wasylshyn commented it would be nice to know what the total number of charges was compared to the number of appeals heard. It was noted statistics on the number of 'conversations' that no formal charges are made are not available, however, statistics on the number of students charged and the number of appeals heard are available.

It was also noted the letter to students advising them of the charge outlines the process for appeal.

Member Fabbro inquired if statistics were kept on the number of students charged, and was informed statistics are kept.

The President noted a broader discussion on academic misconduct cases is required.

13. Academic Research Committee

13.1 Report of the Chair

The report was received as information.

14. Schedule of Pending Items

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

15.1 Motion 37-07 That the meeting be adjourned.

Hurst

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.