



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Special Meeting 42 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on November 14, 2017, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton (Peace Hills Trust Tower)

Present: Neil Fassina (Chair), Rhiannon Bury, Lisa Carter, Marc Cels, Michael Dabrowski, Margaret Edwards, Elaine Fabbro, Mark Fabbro, Merlyn Foo, Shawn Fraser, Rick Harland, Pamela Hawranik, Bob Heller, Jill Hunter, Deborah Hurst, Steve Johnson, Dietmar Kennepohl, Jennifer Knopp-Sihota, Suzanne Kyle, Ronnie Leah, Michael Lithgow, Peggy Lynn MacIsaac, Douglas MacLeod, Richard MacLeod, Dawn Mercer-Riselli, Susan Moisey, Nathaniel Ostashewski, Julie Peschke, Matthew Prineas, Ann Reynolds, Donna Romyn, Saktinil Roy, Jennifer Schaeffer, Meenal Shrivastava, Mira Singh, Veronica Thompson, Marlyss Valiant, Harris Wang, Shawna Wasylyshyn, Gina Wong

Regrets: Terry Beckman, Walid Belassi, Priscilla Campeau, Marti Cleveland-Innes, Martin Connors, Paul Huebener, Anshuman Khare, Weiming Liu, Estelle Lo, Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Angela Specht, Eric Strikwerda, Vlad Voytenko

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 **Motion 42-01 That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda as presented.**

Carter/Hawranik

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. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3.1 Imagine: Transforming Lives and Transforming Communities – Athabasca University Strategic Plan

Motion 42-02 That General Faculties Council endorse the “Imagine: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities” to forward to the Board of Governors for Approval.

Ostashewski/Romyn

The President presented this item, asking for members comments. The following comments were made:

- Acknowledge having visiting students and AU's contribution to students successful graduating at other institutions (Member Heller noted he will send the President wording for this statement)
- Recognize AU is a distributed workplace, operates in and has a virtual space present
- Make the commitment to use data and digital technology AU has
- Include background notes for the diagram boxes on page 5
- The four international enrollment growth locations are locations AU most likely will be participating, not competing in
- Articulate what is intended by the statements in the boxes on page 5
- Important to conduct research prior to entering into international markets



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- 2020 outcomes: international enrollment growth prioritizing China, South America, India, and Africa, and supporting Indigenous Learner's success, contradicting each other
- Include more context regarding technology
- Note excellence of teachers and tutors in charts and context
- Include context regarding research and development
- Front line staff left out in core story
- Tone of story mixed (e.g., we are, we can't, we can)
- Defining digital literacy

The President summarized the comments, noting amendments will be made to the draft strategic plan reflecting the following comments:

- Need to make sure the roadmap is clear and laddered
- Need to bring in concepts of learning quality
- Add legend to roadmap
- Focus language around human talent
- Data analytics focus
- Resolve international and indigenous differences
- Technology enhance what we are doing
- Teaching and learning
- Clarifying how next steps going to happen
- Concept of learning environment
- Capture frontline talent in story

The mover and seconder accepted a friendly amendment to motion. The motion (restated) now reads:

That General Faculties Council endorse the "Imagine: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities" Athabasca University Strategic Plan, with friendly amendments, to forward to the Board of Governors for Approval.

The President thanked all members for their input.

The strategic plan was unanimously endorsed

Carried

4. ADJOURNMENT

4.1 **Motion 42-03** **That the meeting be adjourned.**

Leah

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.