



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Meeting 46 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on August 29, 2018, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton (Peace Hills Trust Tower)

Present: Neil Fassina (Chair), Walid Belassi, Lisa Carter, Marc Cels, Marti Cleveland-Innes, Martin Connors, Michael Dabrowski, Natasha Donahue, Elaine Fabbro, Mark Fabbro, Merlyn Foo, Shawn Fraser, Rick Harland, David Head, Bob Heller, Serena Henderson, Paul Huebener, Jill Hunter, Deborah Hurst, Paul Jerry, Steve Johnson, Dietmar Kennepohl, Anshuman Khare, Ronnie Leah, Douglas MacLeod, Richard MacLeod, Alain May, Dawn Mercer-Riselli, Nathaniel Ostashewski, Julie Peschke, Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Matthew Prineas, Saktinil Roy, Shandip Saha, Jennifer Schaeffer, Brandon Simmons, Meaghan Sullivan, Harris Wang, Gina Wong

Regrets: Pamela Hawranik, Alice Khin, Jennifer Knopp-Sihota, Michael Lithgow, Weiming Liu, Ann Reynolds, Veronica Thompson

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

Others: Jessica Butts Scott

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 46-01 That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, as amended.**

Amendments:

Add agenda item 5.5 Approve additional graduand graduating September 12, 2018

Add agenda item 5.2a Learning Environment Evolution (LEE) Phase I

Add agenda item 5.2b MyAU Bookstore Update

Hunter/Hurst

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Motion 46-02 That the General Faculties Council approves the minutes of Meeting 45, held May 09, 2018, as amended.**

Cels/Simmons

Amendments:

Page 5, 2nd last paragraph – revised to read: Member Heller noted he was familiar with reorganization of centres as he was involved for two years with the reorganization of centres within FHSS. He expressed concern about the size (number of faculty and programs) of FHSS compared to other faculties with the integration. He also noted consideration needs to be given to the role of the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute (TEKRI).

Carried



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair noted actions items coming out the Comprehensive Institutional Plan discussions will be brought forward at a later date.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Athabasca University Annual Report 2018

The Annual Report was presented for information. The following comments received:

Page 8: Human Resources – 3rd paragraph: Member Heller suggested updating the information re VP searches. It was noted, information contained in the Annual report are activities undertaken to fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, therefore, the information contained within the paragraph is correct.

Page 14: Prospective Student Access: Members congratulated administration on the work undertaken in expanding its prospective student initiatives.

Page 15: Conciliation, 2nd sentence in 2nd paragraph: add clarifier – not all courses are being updated with FHSS.

Page 21: Member Heller noted the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Survey is limited to program students only. It was noted, consideration is being given to the metrics evolution.

Page 22: Learning resource fees - it was noted, in some case the learning resource fees for undergraduate courses may not be lowered.

Page 23: 1st paragraph to be revised.

Page 25: Member Heller suggested more information be added about the positivity of phase 2.

Page 27: Table 11 – Member Heller requested clarification that the non-credential section were visiting students. This was confirmed and it was suggested a footnote be added to explain Non-credential.

Page 38: Internationalization – edit to include inbound and outbound language.

Page 46: Member Heller inquired what the Divisional IT Capital Requests were for. The Vice President Information Technology & CIO noted IT has to monitor the hardware and utilities on which all other programs depend to ensure issues can be addressed.

Page 47: Member Heller inquired about the Enterprise Architecture Program. The Vice President Information Technology & CIO noted the program was cancelled as it was not cloud based, moving to a transformation architect where system design is organized as a whole.

5.2 Teaching and Learning Framework Update

An update on the work completed and in progress was provided. It was noted a second webinar will be held on September 6, 2018, a concept paper will be released on September 12, 2018, and an open forum will be held on September 18, 2018. It was further noted the concept paper will be discussed at the open forum, as well integrated into the integrated planning calendar.



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

5.2a Learning Environment Evolution (LEE) Phase 1

The Vice President Information and Technology & CIO provided an overview of the successful launch of Learning Environment Evolution (LEE) Phase 1, noting:

- The Learning Environment Evolution, or LEE, Phase 1 launched this week, was a major upgrade of the Moodle LMS from 2.6 to 3.4 and a transformation of previous Moodle on-premise architecture to a secure, reliable cloud architecture and infrastructure.
- This is AU visibly transforming itself for a better student experience and was a critical deliverable of IT in the RISE plan.
- Overall 32 Moodle sites were upgraded to our AU cloud-based modern Moodle.
- Many AU staff across all the faculties, administrative units and IT worked together to make this success happen, particularly in testing the new user experience of all courses on the 32 Moodle sites.
- Our AU team and partners completed this major upgrade, with new coherent AU branding across all sites and on a new cloud architecture and infrastructure in only 5 months.

Member Heller inquired about the process for future upgrades to Moodle. It was noted a maintenance plan is in place, and the Teaching and Learning Framework will define what is needed in the future.

The President congratulated everyone involved in the successful LEE Phase 1 upgrade. He also commended members and staff on the successes that have been done collectively at the University during the last 18 months, noting the Course and Program Review, the work being done on the Learning Framework, and the Moodle upgrade.

5.2b MyAU Bookstore Update

It was noted work has been ongoing on the MyAU Bookstore initiative and the Course Production Team can be consulted regarding learning resources when doing course revisions/redesigns.

5.3 Professional and Corporate Relations Unit Presentation

The Director, Professional and Corporate Relations provided an overview of the Professional and Corporate Relations Unit and initiatives being undertaken by the Unit, and the results of recently completed market research. She noted a webinar will be held at the end of September.

Member Heller noted concern for corporate acuity of AU, initial responses about AU, and organization readiness for online professional development. He also inquired about the role of GFC and expectations of academics for the credit/non-credit programs. It was noted the Faculty of Business has conducted similar research, and organizations have expressed interest in AU. It was also noted faculty members are the subject matter experts and professional organizations define what the learning outcomes will be.

Member Heller inquired about the relationship between the Unit initiatives and the Learning and Teaching Framework. It was noted activities can happen in parallel.

Member Connors commended the initiative to offer one credit offerings leading into a three credit offering. He also noted his support to move into extension/blended teaching and suggested the Unit draw on the expertise within the University as there are already 1 credit courses being offered and involvement with startup initiatives.

5.4 Policy Framework – Governing Policy

The Policy Framework – Governing Policy was presented for information.



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

- 5.5 Action** Approve additional graduand graduating September 12, 2018
Motion 46-03 That the General Faculties Council awards the following credential to the following graduand with a graduating date of September 12, 2018:

**Master of Nursing
Mary Ann Barber
Wasaga, ON**

R. MacLeod/Hurst

Carried

6. REPORTS

6.1 Report of the Chair

The Report of the Chair was presented for information.

Page 4: Priority Outcome – A sustainable and adaptable course, program, and credential mix based in a lean and data-informed development, renewal, and retirement process – inquiry made about the moratorium on new programs – it was noted the university has taken steps to set the foundation to move forward on new programs. It was also noted new programs need to demonstrate sustainability.

Page 4: 2019 Priority Outcome – National enrollment statistics - Member Heller inquired if the students were program students. It was confirmed these were program students.

Page 5: Independent Third-Party Report Recommendations – Member Heller noted Table 1 was missing. The Chair will circulate Table 1.

The Chair thanked and acknowledged the contributions to AU's accomplished successes. He also thanked David Head for his service as Interim, Vice President Finance and Administration, and Rick Harland, for his service as Interim Vice President University Relations as both positions have been recruited to.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Motion 46-04** That the meeting be adjourned.
Harland

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Carried