



Athabasca University General Faculties Council

Approved minutes for Meeting 58 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on August 26, 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Neil Fassina (Chair), Murray Anderson, Jane Arcscott, Raju Aryal, Judd Asoyuf, Laura Barakeris, Terry Beckman, Natasha Donahue, Monique Durette, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, James Greenwood-Lee, Lorelei Hanson, Pamela Hawranik, Bob Heller, Richard Huntrods, Deborah Hurst, Margaret Kierylo, Vive Kumar, Annette Lane, Glynnis Lieb, Elizabeth Loree, Douglas MacLeod, Alain May, Chris McTavish, Deborah Meyers, Sue Mitchell, Terra Murray, Aga Palalas, Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Matthew Prineas, Saktinil Roy, Jennifer Schaeffer, Anne-Marie Scott, Jessica Butts Scott, Veronica Thompson, Adrienne Weare, Barret Weber, Kristine Williamson, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Luisa Barton, Rhiannon Bury, Marc Cels, Nichole Collins, Michael Dabrowski, Margaret Edwards, Anita Girvan, Tilly Jensen, Richard MacLeod, Teresa Rose

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

Welcome New Members

The Chair welcomed new members:

- Terry Beckman, Faculty of Business
- Marc Cels, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Nichole Collins, Non-Academic Staff
- Michael Dabrowski, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Glen Farrelly, Faculty of Business
- Bob Heller, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Richard Huntrods, Faculty of Science and Technology
- Margaret Kierylo, Associate Vice President, Integrated Planning and Assessment
- Vive Kumar, Faculty of Science and Technology
- Glynnis Lieb, Tutor
- Terra Murray, Faculty of Health Disciplines
- Aga Palalas, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Anne-Marie Scott, Deputy Provost, Academic Operations

The Chair congratulated Dr. Shauna Zenteno on her appointment as Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, thanked Dr. Douglas MacLeod for serving as Interim Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, and Dr. Veronica Thompson for her contributions and accomplishments while serving as Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 58-01 That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 57 held June 25, 2020, as presented.**

May / Beckman

Carried



2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Action** Subject to the [Code of Conduct for Members of the University Community](#) and the Conflict of Interest provision (clauses 11.1 and 11.2) of the [General Faculties Council Rules](#), members were asked to declare any conflict they may have with respect to particular agenda items contained within the meeting agenda.

No Conflicts declared.

3. REPORTS

Prior to agenda item 3.1 the Chair provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of General Faculties Council and members, and protocol for meetings.

3.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair presented the Report noting two key changes have been made to the format of the report including an “Executive Summary” at the beginning and a “communications” section at the end, and highlighted the following:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-study – the draft is near completion. Members were asked to review the report and provide feedback prior to September 1
- Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) – the 2021/22 process has begun. Members were encouraged to contact their Administrative Council leaders to find out how to provide input
- Enrolment growth – enrolment has increased for Q1 (April-June). Recruitment for resources is currently under review
- Alberta 2030 system review, now called “Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs, is in the consultation phase with 6 major focal points

Discussions held on: AU high-school marketing campaign; consultations conducted on the Designation as Academic Policy; rollout of cell phones; Organizational Communications Framework; enrolment growth/registrations; Telework Policy; employee engagement survey; Globe and Mail 50th anniversary celebration, digital experience platform (DXP), media opportunities to promote AU, simplifying AU’s website for learners, and 2020 transformations.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Strategic Issues Roundtable

Discussed:

- building environments for AU Team members to communicate and collaborate with students and for students to communicate and collaborate with each other
- revisiting course renumbering. It was agreed this be forwarded to GFC Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee (APPSC) for discussion.
- migration process to the new learning environment platform and harmonization of exams
- new program proposals

An update on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Framework was provided. It was noted a strategic and action plan will be completed by the fall and consultations will be held with AU community.



4.2 Imagine Learning Framework Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Deputy Provost, Academic Operations provided an update on the Imagine Learning Framework noting the discovery phase was near completion and the next phase is planning and implementation, a program manager has been retained, a framework for migration of courses will be developed and discussions held on harmonization of exams.

4.3 Ad Hoc Committee on Re-Imaging Assessment in Support of the Learning Framework

The Provost and Vice President Academic and Deputy Provost, Academic Operations noted the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was held August 20, 2020, and discussions held on:

- guiding principles, based on Imagine and Imagine Learning Framework
- stakeholders and forms of engagements to be held
- communication channels to increase awareness and seek input from across the AU community
- resources available to assist the Ad Hoc Committee to complete its work

Discussions will be held at upcoming faculty council meetings, communiques will be issued to the AU community on the work and activities of the Ad Hoc Committee, open forums/workshops/webinars will be held, a Microsoft Teams site, accessible by all staff, is being created to share resources, articles, information, announcements, including Ad Hoc Committee meeting notes, and a webpage will be established on the OPVPA website to provide a link to the Microsoft Teams site and other relevant documents.

4.4 Watson/Queens Update

The Provost and Vice President Academic provided an update on the Watson/Queens initiative. The initiative, which is currently a proof of concept, is moving into research collaboration, called phase one to answer questions on how to interact with assistance education coach, how roles work and developing assets beyond the proof of concept. The phase will consist of 9 months of testing and AU will have access to tools for 1 year to determine how to move beyond a research project. A presentation will be provided to General Faculties Council once more tangible information is available.

4.5 Draft Athabasca University Annual Report FY2019-20

The Chair presented the draft 2019-20 Annual Report, noting there are two major components: the narrative, which will be presented to the Board of Governors in September for approval, and the Financial Statements which were previously approved by the Board in May.

It was noted, on page 39, the major, Indigenous Business, opened within the Bachelor of Commerce in July 2020.

Discussions held on:

- vacant position recruitments
- enrolments and registrations
- Strategic Research Plan outcomes
- digital security program for research
- student surveys – number of responses and characteristics of samples
- alternate forms of assessments
- PowerED budget - five-year business plan projected expenses and revenues
- Student Health and Wellness – notation of activities implemented in March relating to the pandemic for student health and wellness, and who is defined as front line faculty and staff. It



was noted some protocols have been drafted and once finalized will be rolled out to faculties and staff.

4.6 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Preliminary Self-Study Draft

The Provost and Vice President Academic and co-chairs presented the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) self-study draft.

Members were asked to review the self-study draft and provide feedback and evidence by September 1, 2020. A preliminary virtual visit by the MSCHE Team Chair is scheduled for mid-October 2020, at which time the Team Chair will provide feedback on the self-study draft.

4.7 Enterprise Risk Management Program Presentation

The Vice President, Finance and Administration & Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Program, noting enterprise risk management focuses on exposures that may impact all areas of risk (financial, reputational, infrastructure, education, research, human resources, safety and security) and provides a structured, systematic, and continuous process for the management of risks. It was also noted updates are provided to the Board of Governors quarterly and the ERM framework, policy, procedure, and tolerance statement outline the process, expectations, and parameters of the ERM program.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.