

Athabasca University General Faculties Council
Academic Learning Environment Committee (ALEC)

Terms of Reference

Approved November 08, 2011 (GFC Motion 01-03)

Amended July 09, 2015 (GFC Motion 27-06)

The *Post-Secondary Learning Act* gives the Athabasca University General Faculties Council (GFC) responsibility, subject to the authority of The Governors of Athabasca University (Board), over “academic affairs” (section 26(1)), including the ability to delegate (section 26(3)). GFC has thus established an Academic Learning Environment Committee and has delegated certain powers to its Academic Learning Environment Committee.

The complete wording of the section(s) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, as referred to above, and any other related sections, should be checked in any instance where formal jurisdiction or delegation needs to be determined.

Academic Learning Environment Committee is responsible for the promotion of an optimal learning environment through the encouragement of innovative design and development, teaching, learning, assessment, resources, and use of technology. Academic Learning Environment Committee has the following powers and duties:

1. Encourage the development of innovative and creative learning design and development, teaching practices, and related research.
2. Encourage the scholarship of teaching and learning.
3. Enable critical reflection on the impact of broad societal changes on the University’s learning environments and instructional technologies.
4. Develop and recommend to the Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee on policies and practices that promote quality of teaching and learning outcomes in alignment with University guiding documents.
5. Provide input to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Investment Governance Committee on the use of technology in teaching, learning, and research in alignment with University guiding documents.
6. Pursuant to section 26(1)(k) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, make rules and regulations for the management and operation of the library.
7. Recommend to GFC on any other matter deemed by Academic Learning Environment Committee to be within the purview of its general responsibility.
8. Biannually review the Terms of Reference for the Committee and recommend any changes to GFC.
9. Where the Chair of Academic Learning Environment Committee deems it necessary, a special meeting of the Committee shall be called to deal with urgent matters.