

Approved minutes for Meeting 86 of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council held on May 2, 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Alex Clark (Chair), Nina Acharya, Carmen Allen, F. Haider Alvi, Carrie Anton, Jolene Armstrong, Angela Beltaos, Davina Bhandar, Chantel Bradley, Derek Briton, Caroline Buzanko, Priscilla Campeau, Kari-Lynn Chambers, Andrew Chiarella, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Mark Crawford, Michael Dabrowski, Elaine Fabbro, Glen Farrelly, Shawn Fraser, Stella George, Megan Hall, Bob Heller, Brittany Hollett, Steven Johnson, Paul Kellogg, Dietmar Kennepohl, Angela Kuzyk, Jacqueline Limoges, Manijeh Mannani, Sue Mitchell, Mark Morpurgo, Dale Mountain, Jennifer Pascoe, Cori Paul, Andrew Perrin, Frederique Pivot, Matthew Prineas, Diana Ramirez, Ann Reynolds, Kristin Rodier, Bailey Sousa, Ching Tan, Vina Tirven-Gadum, Lisa Watson, Ray Welshman, Shauna Zenteno

Regrets: Walid Belassi, Lynn Corcoran, Alain May, Brock Olive, Lorraine Thirsk, Jeff Vallance, Eric Wang

Guests: Catherine Swindlehurst

Governance Staff: Tyler Tollefson (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel), Allison Strydhorst (Governance Coordinator), Eileen Hendy (Recording Secretary)

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgment and welcomed new member Diana Ramirez, Athabasca University Students Union representative and returning members Chantel Groening, Athabasca University Students Union representative and Brittany Hollett, Athabasca University Graduate Students Association representative.

The Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel provided an overview of meeting protocol and guidelines.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Motion 86-01 That the General Faculties Council approves the agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda, including the minutes of Meeting 84 held March 11, 2024, as presented.**

Kennepohl/Fabbro

Carried

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.1** 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 will be asked to declare any conflict they may have with respect to particular agenda items contained within the meeting agenda.

No conflicts declared.

3. REPORTS

- 3.1 Report of the Chair**

The Chair presented this item noting the strategic plan development, dates for convocation, conversations held with provincial bodies on the provincial priorities act and federal bodies on the funding for research at post-secondary institutions.

Discussions held on the number of environmental research grant applications having to be reviewed and the implications for graduate students applying for research grants.

3.2 Faculty of Business Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Business presented this item.

3.3 Faculty of Graduate Studies Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item.

3.4 Faculty of Health Disciplines Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines presented this item.

3.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences presented this item. It was suggested the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences consider establishing an award honoring Geoffrey Peruniak, a colleague who passed away in 2019. The Dean agreed to take forward.

3.6 Faculty of Science and Technology Quarterly Report

The Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology presented this item.

4. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.1 Motion 86-02 That General Faculties Council reappoints the Associate Vice President, Research and the Associate Vice President, Student and Faculty Relations as members of General Faculties Council in accordance with section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act, effective July 1, 2024, to serve a three (3) year term of office, expiring June 30, 2027.**

Morpurgo/Zenteno

The Chair presented this item.

Carried

- 4.2 Motion 86-03 That the General Faculties Council approves the General Faculties Council Rules, effective May 2, 2024.**

Fabbro/Perrin

The Chair presented this item. Discussed leaving in 'location' for clauses 9.5.2 and 9.5.3. The amendments were accepted as friendly amendments by the mover and seconder and without objection by any member.

Carried

Break: 10:31-10:40 a.m.

4.3 Motion 86-04 That General Faculties Council approves the following General Faculties Council Standing Committee Membership and Terms of Reference, effective May 2, 2024:

- Executive Committee Membership and Terms of Reference
- Academic Excellence Awards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference
- Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference
- Academic Research Committee Membership and Terms of Reference
- Student Academic Appeals Committee Membership and Terms of Reference
- Student Awards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference

Bradley /George

The Chair presented this item.

Discussions held on:

- Associate Vice President Research being designated as the Chair for Academic Research Committee
- Adding the Graduate Awards Scholarship Liaison Officer, Faculty of Graduate Studies as a non-voting member on Student Awards Committee
- Clause 3.1 of the Academic Research Committee Membership and Terms of Reference strengthen to advise and recommend to General Faculties Council on research goals and innovation goals of the University
- Responsibility for artificial intelligence (AI)

The amendment to add Graduate Awards Scholarship Liaison Officer as a non-voting member on the Student Awards Committee was accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder and without objection by any member.

Motion 86-04 amended now reads:

That General Faculties Council approves the following General Faculties Council Standing Committee Membership and Terms of Reference, effective May 2, 2024:

- **Executive Committee Membership and Terms of Reference**
- **Academic Excellence Awards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference**
- **Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference**
- **Academic Research Committee Membership and Terms of Reference**
- **Student Academic Appeals Committee Membership and Terms of Reference**

And further,

- **The Student Awards Committee Membership and Terms of Reference, as amended.**

Carried
Abstained - Heller

4.4 Motion 86-05 That General Faculties Council endorses the 2024-2029 AU Strategic Plan, “Like No Other” to forward to the Board of Governors for Approval.

Watson/Zenteno

The Chair and Chief Growth Officer presented this item.

Discussions held on:

- Role of CUPE members lacking in the plan.
- Role of Artificial intelligence (AI) to support education lacking in the plan.
- Visiting students and non-starting students not addressed in plan.
- Need for clear expectations for carryout the plan. The next step is to develop an operational plan with performance metrics that will come forward to the General Faculties Council for discussion.
- Faculties adopting this plan into their faculty plans to address issues as required or needed.

Member Zenteno noted her support for the plan.

Carried
Abstained – Heller
Opposed - Reynolds

4.5 Frontline Learner Services Transformation Update

The Vice President University Relations presented this item. It was noted the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic is working with University Relations on transitioning frontline learner support.

4.6 Nukskahtowin Update

The Interim Associate Vice President, Indigenous presented this item.

4.7 Flexible and Hybrid Work Culture Update

The Chief Growth Officer and Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

The Chair thanked the following members for their service on GFC as their terms are ending June 30, 2024:

Walid Belassi, Faculty of Business

Haider Alvi, Faculty of Business

Mark Morpurgo, Faculty of Business
Jeff Vallance, Faculty of Health Disciplines
Jolene Armstrong, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mark Crawford, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Andrew Chiarella, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Davina Bhandar, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Karie-Lynn Chambers, non-academic staff member
Naju Syed, AUSU student member
Sue Mitchell, Tutor/Academic Expert, Faculty of Business

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.