



**NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Board of Governors**

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Monday, February 6, 2017
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Governors' Boardroom**

MINUTES

PRESENT:	Dr. Glenn Feltham	George Andrews	Kevin Shufflebotham	Keith Meagher
	Dr. Alexander Ondrus	Anna Foshay	Max Arevalo	Len Sperling
	Dr. Mohammed Elbarkouky		Silvie Forest	David Wagstaff
	John Perozok	Tamara Russell	Katie Spencer	Josh Stock
	Dan Hein	Doris Car		
RESOURCES:	Dr. Ray Block	Sandy Timmer (recorder)		
GUESTS:	Tracey Scarlett			
REGRETS:	Arlana Moskalyk	Malcolm Haines	Jeff Mason	Allison Richels

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Feltham called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Moved by Kevin Shufflebotham that the Agenda be approved and the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting will be moved up under agenda approval today and going forward.

Carried

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 28, 2016

Moved by Anna Foshay that the minutes of November 28, 2016 be approved as presented.

1.3 President's Update

Dr. Feltham provided an update to Council on the recent emergency response events at NAIT. He indicated that he was very proud of the immediate response from staff and students. He further noted that there would be further support provided to staff and students who witnessed or were affected by the incidents.

Glenn then proceeded to provide an update on the Board renewal and appointments. We are still awaiting news from the Minister's office on the appointments for both the public members and the

Chair position. He noted that the interviews for the public member positions were held last week and the Board Chair interviews will be held this week. We are hoping that the Orders in Council for these positions will be approved in March. As Academic Council is a committee of the Board, the changes to the Board impact Academic Council.

The new PIC building was discussed and Glenn reiterated the purpose of the building. The Centre will be the “front door” for industry to NAIT and the place industry comes to succeed. The Centre has three main focuses, each of which NAIT has history and success in. These three areas are:

- 1) Applied Research
- 2) Productivity
- 3) Acceleration

Glenn then discussed how we are working with an industry advisory board to define how PIC will be structured, and to more broadly steer the direction of PIC. He noted that these members have deep understandings of NAIT and what we can offer, and they also understand industry and what is needed to be competitive.

The construction of the PIC building continues to progress well.

This facility will add to NAIT being a world-leading polytechnic in all that it can offer industry.

2. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

3. Administration

3.1 Honorary Degree Award

George Andrews provided a review of the nominees for Honorary Degree awards to be given out at Convocation in May. George advised that the Honorary Degree Committee vets all applications and makes three recommendations from the applications. The information is confidential until the nominees are contacted and agree to accept the award. There are two alternates chosen in the event that one of the three nominees are not available or choose not to accept the degree. Although we now have four ceremonies at Convocation, at this time, there will only be the three (or less if a nominee declines) degrees awarded. It was recognized that the nominees are all male, and noted that it is important to increase our efforts to ensure more qualified women are nominated in future years.

George provided a description of all the candidates and their background. It was indicated that none of the nominees have applied for the award but are nominated by others.

Moved by George Andrews that the three nominees for the Honorary Degree Awards be accepted and recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.

Carried

4. Information Items

4.1 Faculty Emeritus Update

Kevin Shufflebotham thanked Academic Council for their asynchronous vote on the Faculty Emeritus Awards. Kevin advised that the Faculty Emeritus awards were given out at the Long Service and Employee Recognition Awards in January which was previously done at Convocation. It was felt that this award was more appropriate to be given out at the Employee Recognition Awards.

The Faculty Emeritus Committee had discussed the process for the Emeritus nominations and it was suggested to start the nomination process earlier next year as the awards are now given out in January. Kevin thanked the Committee members for their work on this process. Faculty Emeritus winners will not be on the Platform at Convocation.

4.2 Instructional Excellence Committee Update

4.2.1 Instructional Excellence Committee Terms of Reference Update

Kevin advised that there were a few housekeeping items changed in the Instructional Excellence Committee's Terms of Reference. The changes are included in the meeting materials. These changes are non-substantive and were made for clarity. These changes are for Academic Council's information.

4.2.2 Instructional Excellence Committee Members List Updated

Kevin informed Council that Allannah Wrobel will be replaced with another member as she is no longer on Academic Council.

5. Presentation

5.1 Trades to Degree – Update and Next Steps

Dr. Feltham noted that, consistent with NAIT's vision, we must continue to develop new programs that will provide students with learning opportunities and meaningful pathways to additional education. One of those learning opportunities is the Trades to Degree program.

Tracey Scarlett, Dean of the JR Shaw School of Business, provided a review of the new Trades to Degrees program that has had its first cohort complete the program.

Tracey indicated that the pilot for this program was launched in 2012 and the first cohort will convocate in May. There were 15 students in the first class. Tracey wished to thank Max Arevalo as he was instrumental in setting up the program. She noted that the common theme was career progression and improving management skills. From there the students can move into leadership roles. The business program was a natural fit to help tradespeople move into management roles.

Tracey further noted that the JR Shaw School of Business further provides a business diploma program for tradespeople. Approximately 80% of applicants from the skilled trades have enrolled in this program. Many are mature students who have extensive trades experience and now wish to move into management opportunities.

The students in the first cohort had the benefit of diversity in the classroom and that created a cross-mentorship amongst them. Peer support was critical to their success.

Trades to Degrees is a unique program in North America. It fits in well with a polytechnic education and complements other programs at NAIT.

Next steps include developing a strong marketing campaign to promote the program and keep the momentum going on the program. Tracey was confident that will be a significant demand for this program.

The Council members discussed this program with Tracey and thanked her for her presentation.

5.2 New Program Opportunity – Health Administration

This topic will be deferred to the next Academic Council meeting on March 20th.

6. Open Questions to the Chair

There were no questions for the Chair.

7. Next Meeting

Monday, March 20, 2017 at 2:30-4:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Dr. Glenn Feltham that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Carried