



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

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016**  
**11:19 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.**  
**O102P Governors' Boardroom**

**MINUTES**

---

**PRESENT:** Dr. Glenn Feltham      Dr. Neil Fassina      Keith Meagher  
George Andrews      Nicolas Brown      Darrell Cruz  
Anna Foshay      Malcolm Haines      Coleten Leblanc  
Michael MacComb      Jeff Mason      Arlana Moskalyk  
Norm Hill      Dr. Alexander Ondrus      Kim Watamaniuk  
Allannah Wrobel

**RESOURCES:** Dr. Ray Block      Sandy Timmer (recorder)

**GUESTS:** None

**REGRETS:** Max Arevalo      Justin Nand      Yang Yu

---

**1. Opening**

**1.1 Call to order and approval of the Agenda**

Glenn welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

***Moved by Malcolm Haines that the agenda be approved as presented.***

***Carried***

**1.2 President's Update**

Glenn noted that he was pleased to see leaders across NAIT taking on important initiatives and steps to advance NAIT and the value NAIT brings to the educational system.

Glenn discussed his role in Polytechnics Canada and their work to elevate polytechnic education. Polytechnics Canada connects with the federal government to ensure there is an understanding and support for polytechnic education and applied research. They also work to ensure funding for infrastructure where needed in polytechnics. Glenn noted that NAIT's Board Chair and two other Board members joined him in Ottawa recently for a meeting with federal government ministers, the Governor General, and heads of Canada's research councils to discuss the value of polytechnic education and applied research in Canada.

As Chair of COPPOA, Glenn is working with the presidents of Alberta's post-secondary institutions to strengthen the system including improving pathways for students. COPPOA will take an active role in some of the recently announced government initiatives including the Adult Learner Review, the introduction of the Sunshine List, and the review of boards. The presidents are meeting quarterly.

At the provincial level, a new minister for Advanced Education has been appointed. Minister Marlin Schmidt takes over the portfolio from Minister Lori Sigurdson. Glenn is hoping to meet with our new Minister shortly.

Glenn wished to thank George and Thomas for their successful efforts to have government ministers use NAIT as their backdrop to deliver some recent announcements. Glenn has been meeting with these ministers prior to their announcements.

Some of the Provincial Ministers that Glenn has recently met with are:

- Minister Deron Bilous – Minister of Economic Development and Trade
- Minister Margaret McCuaig-Boyd – Minister of Energy
- Minister Shannon Phillips – Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister Responsible for Climate Change
- Minister Oneil Carlier – Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Government House Leader
- Glenn has also met with three Deputy Ministers as well

In these meetings, Glenn is sharing the story of NAIT as well as ensuring that our priorities align with the Government's.

The discussions with the City continue on the bus barn lands and the Blatchford lands.

Engaging with staff and how we work together is an important priority for Glenn and Executive and more will be forthcoming on this.

Glenn advised that the Sunshine List (Bill 5) has passed in December and regulations are to follow. A group from COPPOA will be working on a submission to provide to government on the development of the regulations.

### **1.3 Review of the Minutes of December 15, 2015**

A few corrections were raised from the minutes and the minutes were approved with the corrections noted.

***Moved by Michael MacComb that the minutes of December 15, 2015 be approved with the corrections.***

## **2. Business Arising**

The two questions raised at the last Council meeting on the Academic Council submission to the Board were discussed by Glenn. He advised that a letter from the Governance Committee Chair will be forthcoming to Council.

### **3. Administration**

#### **3.1 Ratify Asynchronous Vote on Nominees for Honorary Degree**

Neil advised that the term “ratify” should be changed to “minute”. The asynchronous vote was called and was approved by the majority of Academic Council. The asynchronous vote was used given the timing of this meeting and the Board’s meeting of February 8<sup>th</sup>. The vote needed to be held prior to the Board’s meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> as they have to approve the Honorary Degree nominees.

Neil acknowledged that the Academic Council Bylaws and Constitution were approved by the Board on February 8<sup>th</sup> at their meeting.

The Terms of Reference for the sub-Committees were approved by the Governance Committee; however, the Program Excellence Committee will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Neil thanked all members of the sub-Committees for all their hard work as it is important to the whole of Academic Council.

### **4. Presentation**

#### **4.1 Update – Entrepreneurship and New Venture at NAIT**

Glenn briefly discussed the ICON (Investment Club of NAIT) presentation that was made to the Board of Governors on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The presentation showed the hands-on experience this Club provides for students.

As well as the ICON presentation made to the Board, Neil provided a presentation to the Board on Entrepreneurship and New Venture at NAIT and will show this presentation to Academic Council today.

Neil discussed his presentation to Council. He advised that this started in 2012 when it was raised that entrepreneurship is important for many areas of NAIT’s education. The School of Business had developed the initial vision and since then, it has advanced significantly. Where NAIT was in relation to northern Alberta was key as there was no other “flagship” school providing this entrepreneurial eco-system support in Northern Alberta. This, therefore, remained a unique opportunity for NAIT.

There are three major entrepreneurship themes included:

- Curriculum
- Research
- Connection with Community (outreach)

Curriculum for the program is being developed and launched.

Research is focused through the JR Shaw Research Chair in Entrepreneurship and New Venture. Individual and unique research projects have also been undertaken.

A student “hatchery” serves as a key element of community outreach. The Hatchery was developed so that students and recently, alumni, can pitch, incubate, and fine-tuned business ideas for launch.

NAIT is currently the sole provider of a 3-Day Start-up, a boot camp for entrepreneurs.

The goal is to make NAIT a western hub for entrepreneurs. As part of the initiative, NAIT is developing the concept of a Maker Campus, starting with the School of Trades which will make fabrication space

available for entrepreneurs to use.

General discussion ensued on the presentation and Neil concluded his presentation.

**5. Open Questions to the Chair**

No questions were raised for the Chair.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 15, 2016** from **11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.** in the Governor's Boardroom.

**7. Adjournment**

***Moved by George Andrews that the meeting be adjourned at 12:39 pm.***

***Carried***