



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

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Monday, March 20, 2017
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Governors' Boardroom**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Kevin Shufflebotham (interim Chair)	George Andrews	Keith Meagher	Malcolm Haines	Arlana Moskalyk
Dr. Alexander Ondrus	Anna Foshay	Len Sperling	Silvie Forest	David Wagstaff
Jeff Mason	John Perozok	Katie Spencer	Tamara Russell	Doris Car
Josh Stock	Dan Hein	Allison Richels		

RESOURCES: Dr. Ray Block Sandy Timmer (recorder)

GUESTS: None

REGRETS: Dr. Glenn Feltham Dr. Mohammed Elbarkouky Max Arevalo

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Kevin Shufflebotham, interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Kevin advised that the presentation from Rick Trimp and Tracey Scarlett will be added to the next meeting in April.

Moved by Arlana Moskalyk that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2017

A correction was made to the minutes to add Doris Car as attending.

Moved by George Andrews that the minutes of February 6, 2017 be approved as presented with the correction noted.

2. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

3. Administration

3.1 Honorary Degree Award

Academic Council was advised that all three Honorary Degree nominees were contacted by Dr. Feltham and only two were able to accept their degree this year. Both Ashif Mawji and Jerry Naqvi

will accept Honorary Bachelor of Business Administration degrees at this year's Convocation ceremonies. Mike Begin has asked if he could accept it next year as he is unable to attend Convocation this year due to a scheduling conflict.

3.2 Instructional Excellence

Kevin reported that there were 168 nominees for Instructional Excellence this year and 32 of those were re-nominated instructors. The nominations will close at the end of April 2017. Awards will be given out in January 2018 at the Employee Recognition Awards ceremony. Kevin noted this is a terrific program that celebrates instructor excellence for our students.

4. Information Items

Kevin made note of the list of the new Board of Governors list contained in the meeting materials. The new members, including the new Board Chair, were appointed on March 7th and will have a term of three years at this point. Two existing members were re-appointed for another three years.

5. Presentation

5.1 Enrolment Update

With the updates from Government and AIT regarding apprenticeship training, Malcolm Haines, Dean of the School of Skilled Trades, provided a presentation on the reductions that are taking place in some of the areas in skilled trades and how we determine our apprenticeship seats and what it looks like going forward.

He noted that apprenticeship students are actually clients of the government – AIT (Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board), not of NAIT, even though we consider them as our students. They must apply through the apprenticeship training board to take apprenticeship programs. The government then determines how many seats we will have available. Prior to 2015/16, the number of seats had stayed similar to years past. Both NAIT and SAIT are mandated by legislation to provide apprenticeship programs; other institutes that provide apprentice programs have the option to offer them or not. AIT provides updates to NAIT on apprenticeship registrations. Once numbers are finalized, then classes and the number of instructors are decided.

Based on the changes to the numbers from AIT, the budget has been revised several times. Estimates are currently showing a reduction of approximately 3100 seats. This is the largest drop in seats in NAIT's history. This will have a significant effect on our seat grant from the government for next year as AIT will base it on this year's numbers. Unfortunately, we are expecting a similar reduction in seats for next year. This will have a major impact on the subsequent years.

Due to the downturn in the economy and the resulting reduction in apprenticeship registrations, the Government is stepping up by providing a \$1,000 grant per apprentice up to 1,500 eligible apprentices during the 2016/17 academic year. This grant is to help reduce financial barriers and support them to progress towards a journey person certification.

NAIT is being hit hardest in our apprentice programs as we are more energy sector-focused and with the downturn in the energy industry, this is making a big impact to NAIT.

The reductions in registration will also have a significant impact to our teaching staff levels and we are working to make the best possible situation for our staff as well as the institute.

Kevin wished to thank Malcolm for all he is doing to help our staff and our apprentice programs during this challenging time.

5.2 PIC Update

Kevin discussed the functionality of what PIC will be and what it will do. As noted previously, this facility will bring industry and NAIT together to help them to make improvements in their industry and be more globally competitive.

This will also help us to meet our promise to industry and to Alberta.

Productivity and innovation are two key areas that PIC will be used for. Acceleration is also important feature of PIC. It will increase value to small- and medium-sized enterprises.

We will be increasing the number of applied research Chairs to meet the expected demand.

Kevin reviewed the slides on the overlap of the various areas in current and emerging education in productivity and innovation at NAIT. We will continue the work we've done in the Shell Manufacturing Centre and expand that into PIC. PIC will provide a central focus for applied research and will redefine our relationship with industry.

Much of the work has been done on the framework for PIC and some work still needs to be done. We will have an Industry Advisory Group to help steer the direction of PIC.

Discussion ensued. PIC will be an essential part of NAIT and will have an impact to industry. There will not be a hierarchical model at PIC and we will be working together across all areas in PIC. As well, intellectual property stays with the client. No other post-secondaries allow that to happen so this will set NAIT apart. This will be strictly industry-based at this time although there may be some opportunities for collaboration with students on research projects and capstones.

6. Open Questions to the Chair

There were no other questions for the Chair.

7. Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

Moved by Alex Ondrus that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Carried