



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

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Monday, April 24, 2017  
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Ernest's Dining Room**

**MINUTES**

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**PRESENT:**

Dr. Glenn Feltham (Chair)	Kevin Shufflebotham	Keith Meagher	Malcolm Haines	Arlana Moskalyk
Anna Foshay	Dr. Alexander Ondrus	Len Sperling	David Wagstaff	Dr. Mohammed Elbarkouky
John Perozok	Katie Spencer	Tamara Russell	Doris Car	Dan Hein
Allison Richels	Brenda Needham			

**RESOURCES:** Sandy Timmer (recorder)

**GUESTS:** Tracey Scarlett, Denise MacIver, Gina Jackson

**REGRETS:** Dr. Ray Block    George Andrews    Max Arevalo    Silvie Forest    Jeff Mason  
Josh Stock

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**1. Opening**

**1.1 Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Feltham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

*Moved by John Perozok that the Agenda be approved as presented.*

*Carried*

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2017**

The minutes were reviewed and no changes were noted.

*Moved by Dr. Alex Ondrus that the minutes of March 20, 2017 be approved as presented.*

**2. Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

**3. President's Update**

Dr. Glenn Feltham provided an update to Council on his recent trip to China. As part of this trip he signed a Letter of Intent with BYD at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Premier Notley, Minister Biliious, and Ambassador McCallum were in attendance. Under the Letter of Intent NAIT and SAIT

will jointly develop curriculum and provide education to service BYD's electric buses. This signing was part of the Government of Alberta's Asia-Pacific trade mission.

Dr. Feltham also provided personal insights about China. He noted how the world is becoming flatter and more competitive, and the pace of change is evident in China. Glenn further discussed the shift in China toward polytechnic education – they are in the process of converting almost half their public universities into polytechnic institutes. Glenn noted that parity of esteem is starting to shift there as well with a greater understanding and appreciation of the role of polytechnic education.

It was an enlightening trip and as the China/NAIT/SAIT partnership develops, Academic Council will be updated.

Glenn advised that he is reviewing Alberta's skilled trades' education model, and believes that change is necessary. He believes the model needs to be less cyclical, and react better to the needs of our changing economy. It needs to be more forward-looking. Glenn commented that NAIT and SAIT must lead change in the skilled trades.

#### **4. Administration**

##### **4.1 Instructional Excellence**

Kevin Shufflebotham updated Academic Council on the nominees for Instructional Excellence this year. To date, 279 nominations were received. This is an outstanding achievement for NAIT and its instructors. Chairs will be notified on the recipients.

#### **5. Information Items**

No information items were brought forward.

#### **6. Presentation**

##### **6.1 BBA Health Administration – new program opportunity**

Glenn commented that we are continually seeking pathways to further their education. A degree pathway is important for learners in health-related fields to further their education and assume leadership roles. This proposed program is one that could meet those needs.

Glenn then turned the presentation over to Tracey Scarlett, Denise MacIver and Gina Jackson.

Tracey advised that she has been working with Rick Trimp for pathways between their two Schools. They were looking at the strengths of the BBA program and the Allied Health field as well as market needs. They reviewed labour market information and there was significant opportunity.

Denise indicated that Allied Health includes support groups who are not doctors or nurses. Most do not obtain a degree but their programs should ladder to a degree. This proposed program would be suitable for anyone in the field who is looking to move into a leadership role.

The program would have a flexible delivery as many in the field are working and would prefer to do this on a part-time basis.

Discussion on who would "own" the credential ensued. It was advised that market research will be undertaken to determine what type of degree or diploma this would be and what the program curriculum should be. That would then determine where the program would formally reside.

This presentation was provided to Academic Council for their information. It will come back to Academic Council in the next 4-6 months with a further update.

Glenn thanked Tracey, Denise and Gina for their presentation.

**7. Open Questions to the Chair**

A comment was raised in respect of the Campus Alberta's Quality Council (CAQC) consultations. Glenn suggested that a more in-depth discussion on CAQC should be on a future Academic Council agenda.

**8. Next Meeting**

September 2017, date to be determined.

**9. Adjournment**

*Moved by Dr. Glenn Feltham that the meeting be adjourned at 3:35 p.m.*

**Carried**