NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Board of Governors

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Monday, February 4, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Governor's Boardroom T811

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dr. Glenn Feltham (Chair)	Kevin Shufflebotham	Sandra Marocco	David Migadel	Jamie Corfield
Malcolm Haines	Jen Glenday	Garry Wilson	Boni Ehmann	Gary Gora
Robert Ackroyd	Dong Ye	Naomi Pela	Willow Shelley	Karen Velasco

RESOURCES:	Dr. Ray Block	Sandy Timmer (recorder)	
GUESTS:	John Kent		
REGRETS:	Dr. Alexander Ondrus	Brenda Needham	Aleksandra Jaruga	Colin Doucet
	Chaimae Janah		

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Feltham called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dr. Feltham asked if any members wished to raise any conflicts they may have with the agenda items and none were raised.

Moved by Kevin Shufflebotham that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2018

Moved by Kevin Shufflebotham that the Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2018 be approved as presented.

Carried

2. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Feltham informed Academic Council that an important and special announcement will be taking place this Wednesday, February 6th. This will be to announce the purchase by NAIT of land on Blatchford. Main campus will roughly double the size of the current campus, securing NAIT's future. It

will be amazing for NAIT to be part of this new and exciting community, will allow NAIT to consolidate the satellite campuses (other than Spruce Grove) onto main campus, and significantly enhance student life.

As the actual information for the announcement is confidential, Dr. Feltham asked Academic Council members to hold this information in confidence until the announcement is made.

This purchase has been seven years in the making and we are thrilled that it has come to its conclusion.

Dr. Feltham also advised that the purchase of the Westwood Bus Barn lands is complete, and that we are only waiting for the title to transfer. This parcel of land will allow us to move towards building a Skills Centre for all of our skilled trades programs. We will be having Academic Council provide input into what the Skilled Trades Centre could be.

With the additional space on Blatchford, we have the opportunity to think broadly about what NAIT's campus will look like into the future. Discussions will be had over the coming months with many stakeholders' involvement, including Academic Council.

Discussion was held with Dr. Feltham on the Blatchford lands and he concluded his update.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Faculty Emeritus Update

Mr. Kevin Shufflebotham provided an update on the Faculty Emeritus program on how names are brought forward for selection of the Faculty Emeritus award.

Kevin noted that the Faculty Emeritus Committee met to review its nomination process and how to attract more nominees. The Committee decided to have a longer window of opportunity available for nominee submissions. Nominations will be open year-round with a deadline in the fall so that the award can be given out in January. More robust and targeted communications to the NAIT community will also be done to engage the Schools more. We will include testimonials from past recipients on what the award means to them included in the communications. Resources will be provided on the intranet.

The philosophy behind the award is to recognize instructors who have made an impact to students, to the institute, and to their community. This is an honour to be recognized by the recipient's peers. It was suggested that input should be sought more broadly, including from students and industry partners.

It was agreed that the process should be reasonable, align with our values and be polytechnic in nature. The sub-committee will continue to look for opportunities to attract more nominees.

3.2 Program Name Change Update

Ms. Jen Glenday spoke to this item that was raised at the last Academic Council meeting. Ms. Glenday advised that name changes to programs typically take effect on July 1st. If a name of a program has been changed prior to the student graduating on July 1st of that year, the credential will have the current name of their program. If a student graduates after the name has been changed on July 1st, they will be provided with the new name on their credential. We continue to

be proactive with our naming to ensure the program meets the needs of students and industry and accurately reflects what the program is about.

Jen noted that program name changes are vetted with the instructors of that program as well students.

Discussion ensued on how the program name should be noted on our website as students may search for the name they knew before it was changed. It was advised that only the current names approved by Advanced Education are shown on the website. It was suggested that a link be provided on our website that will link back to a program's previous name for accessibility for students and others, such as employers, who are looking for a program's previous name.

4. ADMINISTRATION

Kevin welcomed John Kent, Director of Program, Pathways and Enrolment Planning, to speak to the proposed program name changes.

Mr. Kent advised that the following name changes to these programs have come about as the new names better reflect what the program and curriculum is currently and is what industry is looking for.

Two programs – the paramedic programs – are legislated changes; these name changes are national changes going across Canada.

The Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management changes will support graduates moving into leadership and managerial roles within their original discipline. The student's credential would read: Bachelor of Technology.

4.1 Proposed Program Name Changes:
  - **4.1.1** Emergency Medical Technician--Ambulance (certificate) to *Primary Care Paramedic*
  - **4.1.2** Emergency Medical Technology—Paramedic (diploma) to *Advanced Care Paramedic*
  - **4.1.3** Emergency Management (diploma) to *Disaster and Emergency Management*
  - **4.1.4** Biological Sciences Technology—Renewable Resources (diploma) *to Biological Sciences Technology—Conservation Biology*
  - **4.1.5** Biological Sciences Technology—Laboratory and Research (diploma) *to Biological Sciences Technology—Laboratory Research and Biotechnology*
  - **4.1.6** Biological Sciences Technology—Environmental Sciences (diploma) to *Biological Sciences Technology—Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*
  - **4.1.7** Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management (degree) *to Bachelor of Technology—General*

Academic Council discussed the name changes with Mr. Kent. Mr. Kent noted that for the Bachelor of Technology, the "General" will connote concentrations under it rather than specializations but "General" won't be noted on the credential.

Academic Council reviewed the name changes and supported the new names for these programs.

Moved by David Migadel that Academic Council support the new names for each of the above-noted programs and recommend approval by the Board of Governors.

Carried

4.2   Honorary Degree

Mr. Shufflebotham advised that there are two nominees being put forward to receive Honorary Degrees at Convocation this spring. Kevin provided a biography on each nominee for Council's information. Both nominees have been vetted and both nominees have made an impact to their industry, community and have connections to NAIT.

Once Academic Council approves these two individuals, they will be put forward to the Board of Governors to approve. Each will then be notified by Dr. Feltham on their Honorary Degree. Until each have been notified, this information is confidential.

Discussion then ensued on how we award Honorary Degrees and broadening our scope of who should be awarded these degrees. It was suggested that we should also increase our communications on the intranet about these nominations. The nomination window could be similar to that for Faculty Emeritus.

Moved by Kevin Shufflebotham that Academic Council support the recommended nominees for Honorary Degrees and recommend approval by the Board of Governors.

Carried

5.   INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no new information items for Academic Council's attention.

6.   PRESENTATION: Student Progression

Jennifer Glenday addressed Academic Council on Student Progression. Ms. Glenday discussed how the Registrar's Office works in relation to students from admission to graduation. She noted that we work to ensure pathways for continuous learning are seamless. Jen reviewed the student integration model which paved the way for understanding student progression. Progression activities are those that lead students to completion of their educational goals. Institutional factors can be academic or related to the student's social system.

Jen noted the importance of understanding why students leave programs, and how we can support them in staying. Retention is the outcome of how many students remain enrolled from term to term, and year to year. The things we measure and the strategies we implement are to support the outcome of students staying and ultimately completing.

How we think about progression leads to expanded flexibility for students in how and when we deliver programs. Students are also changing and we must be increasingly aware of student activities and how students plan for their education and how it will fit into their life. Addressing those needs will ensure students stay or come back for more education.

Things to consider for student retention and progression:

* Are we offering courses when we need to offer them?
* Are we offering the right supports for our students?
* What is the impact of shifting from a cohort enrolment model to open self-enrolment?
* How do progression issues differ across Schools and student demographics?
* What/where are we doing well and how do we scale good practice?
* What do students and staff need from our information systems to support this work?

Ms. Glenday then concluded her presentation and opened up the floor for comments.

Discussion with Academic Council ensued. Ms. Glenday indicated that a survey is being developed and we will use those results to assist new students in their progression for learning.

It was suggested that we should collect feedback from students on why they stayed and why they chose to come to NAIT. This could also benefit us to ensure we are responding to our students' needs.

There was no further business to come before Academic Council.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2019 at 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Governor's Boardroom, T811

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gary Gora that the meeting be adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Carried