



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

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Monday, February 1, 2021**  
**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Jo Gunter (Chair)	Sue Fitzsimmons	alison lewis	Stewart Cook	Jen Crothers
Garry Wilson	Max Arevalo	Dong Ye	Annemarieke Hoekstra	Steve Chattargoon
Mark Schneider	Kelly Hobbs Bruzzese	Jamie Corfield	Alexis Sieben	Alessandra (Alley) Medeiros
Karen Guasca	Jordan Augustin	Kody Shwaga	Tara Chahl	Angela Skuba
Kelly Beaudin				

**GUESTS:** Stacy Oslund      Len Sperling      Madlen Christianson

**REGRETS:** Jerilyn Kotelniski

**RESOURCES:** Sandy Timmer, Lynda Robertson (recorder)

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**1. OPENING**

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

Laura Jo Gunter welcomed Academic Council members and called the meeting to order.

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Academic Council members. No changes were made to the agenda.

***Moved by Garry Wilson that the Agenda be approved as presented.***

***Carried***

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings.**

**1.2.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2020**

***Moved by Steve Chattargoon that the Minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2020 be approved as presented.***

***Carried***

### **1.3 Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

Sue Fitzsimmons noted that the Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and the changes were redlined. They are now considered complete for this academic year.

Sue Fitzsimmons noted that the Special Meeting of Academic Council was held on November 24<sup>th</sup> around the program approvals for skilled trades diplomas.

## **2. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Laura Jo Gunter provided an update that Constitution and Bylaws from Academic Council were reviewed and accepted by the Governance Committee and will be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors at their meeting on February 23, 2021.

Laura Jo Gunter provided an update on Alberta 2030 as it continues to work its way through Government. The date for the release of the report has been pushed to spring/summer and will be dependent on how well it does in cabinet. It was noted that NAIT had someone present at every public Alberta 2030 Townhall hosted in January. The objectives (discussed here previously) were provided on the public forum with no real changes except that the Governance Model is still being reviewed.

No changes are expected to the PSLA until the fall sitting; however, there may be changes coming to apprenticeship and the *Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act* based on the Skills for Jobs Task Force Report.

## **3. ADMINISTRATION**

Sue Fitzsimmons introduced Natasja Saranchuk to speak to the Instructional Excellence nominees being recommended for Academic Council's consideration.

### **3.1 Instructional Excellence**

Natasja Saranchuk introduced the names of the two successful nominees recommended for the Instructional Excellence award for Academic Year 2019/2020. Out of 44 nominations, the committee recommends:

From the School of Health and Life Sciences: Carmen Puchyr, Diagnostic Medical Sonography and from the School of Applied Sciences and Technology: Haley Peacock, Mathematics.

***Moved by Sue Fitzsimmons that Carmen Puchyr and Haley Peacock be accepted as Instructional Excellence award winners for 2019/2020.***

***Carried***

Sue Fitzsimmons thanked Natasja Saranchuk for the work this committee has completed in order to bring forward the nominees and Natasja departed the meeting.

### **3.2 New Program Proposal – Court Transcription Certificate**

Sue Fitzsimmons introduced Stewart Cook, who in turn introduced Len Sperling, Chair of the Captioning and Court Reporting program, to speak to the program proposal for Court Transcription Certificate.

Stewart Cook described the evolution of the Captioning and Court Reporting Diploma program into a 1+1 where the first year will be Court Transcription Certificate and students could potentially leave the program and go to work, or carry on to the second year and graduate with a Court Reporter Diploma.

Len Sperling answered questions and reviewed the reasons why this proposal is important as these positions are in high demand and this certificate will allow more people to participate.

***Moved by Stewart Cook that the Court Transcription Certificate program be accepted by Academic Council and recommends approval by the Board of Governors.***

***Carried***

Sue Fitzsimmons thanked Len Sperling for his work with the evolution of this program and Len departed the meeting.

### **3.3 Faculty Emeritus Update**

Garry Wilson announced the launch of the Faculty Emeritus search for nominees.

The nominations opened today, February 1, and the award ceremony will be held at an event in June. Closing date for nominations is February 26. All the details and a nomination package can be found on the staff portal and NASA website.

## **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Enrolment update**

Sue Fitzsimmons introduced Jen Crothers, Registrar and Associate Vice President Student Progression, to give an enrolment update.

Jen Crothers shared some slides to support a brief overview of enrolment in Credit and Apprenticeship and how it compares to last year and where we project we will be in 2021/22.

This year, NAIT is forecasting a 10% decrease in enrolment from numbers that were planned pre-pandemic. Domestic, International and Apprenticeship enrolments have all decreased due in large part to the implications of COVID.

Looking forward to 2021/22, it is anticipated that a 10% increase in enrolment year over year is expected (2% lower than originally planned before COVID).

The Registrar's Office is currently working with the Deans on ways to increase enrolment over and above what is currently budgeted.

alison lewis explained some of the work happening around student retention by the Agile Retention Group which is responsible for creating several different student retention strategies that either have or soon will be put in place.

#### **4.2 Sharing perspectives on Alberta 2030 Public Townhalls**

The government of Alberta hosted several public townhalls pertaining to Alberta 2030 from January 6-14, 2021. Gail Kelly, NAIT's Director of Government Relations, attended every session and remarked that each town hall was consistent.

Sue Fitzsimmons opened the floor to discussion for anyone who attended any of the sessions.

#### **Additions to the agenda**

Academic Council engaged in a discussion on contract instructors/contingent faculty.

**ACTION:** Sue and alison will bring further information back to this team around the kind of support available to contract instructors/contingent faculty.

**ACTION:** A call for agenda items will be put forward to members of Academic Council members in advance of each meeting.

### **5. PRESENTATION**

#### **5.1 Equity, diversity and inclusion**

Sue Fitzsimmons introduced Madlen Christianson, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at NAIT who provided a presentation to Academic Council on equity, diversity and inclusion.

alison lewis briefly set the context around the three-year project that has been led by Madlen Christianson and this strategy will remain a very important aspect of NAIT and the strategic plan going forward.

Sue Fitzsimmons thanked Madlen Christianson and her team for all their hard work in bringing this strategy together and Madlen for her informative presentation. The team recognizes that there is some learning that needs to happen and the first approach moving forward will be education. Madlen Christianson departed the meeting.

### **6. NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 22, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. via MS Office Teams**

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

***Moved by Garry Wilson that the meeting be adjourned at 3:47 pm***

***Carried***