



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

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Monday, April 19, 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 Chattaroon
Mark Schneider	Kelly Hobbs Bruzzese	Jamie Corfield	Tara Chahl	Alessandra (Alley) Medeiros
Karen Guasca	Jordan Augustin	Kody Shwaga		Angela Skuba
Kelly Beaudin	Jerilyn Kotelniski	Alexis Sieben		

**GUESTS:** Michael Haworth

**REGRETS:**

**RESOURCES:** Sandy Timmer, Lynda Robertson

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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.***

***Seconded, Carried***

## 1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2021.

*Moved by alison lewis that the Minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2021 be approved as presented.*

*Seconded, Carried*

## 1.3 Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

Sue Fitzsimmons called on alison lewis to provide a verbal update on the continuing work to improve support available to contract instructors.

Sue Fitzsimmons reviewed the action items around Academic Integrity and will work with Executive Committee of Academic Council to ensure these items are brought forward for future discussion as required.

## 2. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Laura Jo Gunter announced that work on the strategic plan is commencing and response to both the live, interactive sessions as well as the guided survey has exceeded expectations. Michael Haworth will join Academic Council at this meeting to review the strategic plan with Academic Council members and give them an opportunity to provide input.

Laura Jo Gunter shared the news that legislation has been passed on changes to the *Apprenticeship Act* which will allow post-secondaries more control over curriculum and assessment. Government has committed to engage with post-secondary institutes as they develop those changes to the regulations.

AB 2030 passed cabinet and more details will be announced later this spring. No big changes are expected from anything that was discussed during the town halls.

## 3. ADMINISTRATION

### 3.1 Academic Council membership

Sue Fitzsimmons brought forward a question that was asked of her around Academic Council membership. The Post-Secondary Learning Act states that the number of Academic Council members elected to council shall not be less than one-third of the total number of members and that the President (Chair) position also sits as a member. Looking at the current membership, if council agrees that the President (Chair) is counted as a voting Senior Management/Board member, then NASA and NAITSA members each have less than one-third of the total membership and therefore do not meet the membership requirement of the Post-Secondary Learning Act.

Simply stated, Academic Council currently has 7 NASA representatives, 7 NAITSA representatives and 7 Senior Management/Board members **plus** the Chair. When Laura Jo (Chair) is included in the numbers, there becomes 8 Senior Management/Board members giving this group the advantage of one more individual than the other two groups have.

Sue welcomed comments and led a discussion about the number of members in each group and whether Council believes the Chair position is separate from or included in the membership as a voting member.

**DECISION:** Council members concluded that the Chair position will remain a voting member and agreed that there should be equal numbers in each of the categories that make up the members of Academic Council.

**ACTION:** Take a recommendation forward to Governance Committee of the Board to reduce by 1, the number of “senior officials/additional members appointed by the Board” for next academic year so there are an equal number of members in each category. (NASA, NAITSA and Senior Officials)

### 3.2 Approach to Fall Planning

Sue Fitzsimmons shared a brief presentation to update Council on NAIT’s approach to fall planning from the education lens.

“NAIT is building upon the in person learning and student services that have been offered all along and increasing these as health guidelines allow, always in keeping with our strategic direction. As we finalize plans regarded by our commitment to students and our deep desire to create a more vibrant campus community while attending to the needs of students, staff and our whole organization, health and safety remains a priority.”

## 4. OTHER BUSINESS

### 4.1 Faculty Emeritus Recommendations

Garry Wilson, Chair of the Faculty Emeritus Sub-Committee, brought forward for consideration the names of retired NASA staff members who are nominated to receive a Faculty Emeritus award.

Names were reviewed and council members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Garry Wilson abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

***Moved by Sue Fitzsimmons that the names be recommended to the Board for Faculty Emeritus Award pending Human Resources’ review.***

***Seconded, Carried***

### 4.2 Termination of a program code no longer in use

Sue Fitzsimmons referred to the termination proposal for the Culinary Arts Certificate put forward to reduce administrative workarounds in processing admissions and government reporting. As this proposal has no impact to the program, staff, industry, or students, it has been provided as an information item only. Academic Council members were given the opportunity to request further information.

***Moved by Sue Fitzsimmons that the termination of the program code for the Culinary Arts Certificate is approved by Academic Council.***

***Seconded, Carried***

## 5. PRESENTATION

### 5.1 Strategic Planning Session

Michael Haworth joined Academic Council to lead a strategic planning session to give Academic Council members the opportunity to provide input on the vision, mission and strategic plan.

Laura Jo began the session by walking everyone through a presentation on “NAIT Strategic Plan – Our Shared Path Forward” an overview of where we have gotten to today.

Laura Jo turned it back over to Michael who explained the goal of this consultation session is to first, engage members’ reaction to the core vision elements found in the Padlet document, and second, divide council members into smaller breakout rooms for further thoughts on what the student experience, learning experience and campus experience are and how they fit into the strategic plan.

Council members provided ratings and shared their thoughts and feedback.

**Next steps:** The ideas brought forward from all engagement sessions will be put into a large data analysis and be used to build the first plan for the Board in May and June.

Michael thanked Academic Council for their feedback and time and turned it back over to Laura Jo.

Laura Jo thanked Michael for leading the session today and all the work he is putting into creating this strategic plan.

Michael Haworth left the meeting.

6. **NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for Orientation and Monday, September 13, 2021 for the first meeting of the year.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

***Moved by Garry Wilson that the meeting be adjourned at 4:00 pm.***

***Seconded, Carried***