



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

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Monday, March 22, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams**

MINUTES

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	Tara Chahl	Alessandra (Alley) Medeiros
Karen Guasca	Jordan Augustin	Kody Shwaga		Angela Skuba
Kelly Beaudin	Jerilyn Kotelniski			

GUESTS: Natasha Saranchuk Lauren McVeigh

REGRETS: Alexis Sieben

RESOURCES: Sandy Timmer, Lynda Robertson

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Jerilyn Kotelniski introduced the members of the incoming NAITSA Executive.

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 Sue Fitzsimmons 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 February 1, 2021

Moved by Garry Wilson that the Minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

1.3 Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

Sue Fitzsimmons noted the Constitution and Bylaws which were brought forward two meetings ago were approved by the Board as per Academic Council recommendation.

2. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Laura Jo Gunter shared news that the Ministry has approved the following programs for NAIT:

- Auto Service Diploma
- Welder Diploma
- Plumber Diploma
- Electrician Diploma
- Court Transcription Certificate
- Cyber Security Post Diploma Certificate
- Data Analytics Post Diploma Certificate

Alberta 2030 continues to move along and is now with the minister to be taken to cabinet. Work on IMA's (3 year plans) is expected to resume on April 1 since being paused just before the pandemic and reintroduce a pilot in performance based funding around Work Integrated Learning.

Last week the minister sent out a message regarding the fall, wanting us to optimize on campus life as much as possible while at the same time keeping students safe. NAIT continues to look at what the fall will look like, balancing the scheduling and preparation deadlines, with decisions from AHS on restrictions and the vaccine rollout. NAIT will maintain a student centric view on where we are going and what we can learn from the pandemic to go forward to serve our students better.

Sandra Marocco, VP Industry Partnerships and Chief Marketing Officer is leaving NAIT for a new opportunity with Blue Cross. Darlene Crowell, an experienced MarCom and Advancement person with experience with oil and gas and former AVP at U of Calgary will act in the role in the interim 3-6 months to help us out during recruitment.

3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Academic Direction in Relation to the Strategic Plan

A new NAIT strategic plan was talked about at the board retreat in October to ensure alignment in terms of broad direction. The broad frames were revisited in February based on consultation with leadership teams and president's advisory group and are now being shared with the NAIT community for feedback before going back to the Board.. Some key pieces include shifting our vision statement from one of identity to one of impact and revising our values.

Academic leaders had begun talking about the future of education even before the pandemic. Our vision is to blend the best of our history (face to face, hands on, physical learning aligned with industry needs) with engaging virtual approaches that are defining the field of education.

“Shining the light on the road we are on” articulates this approach. As the engagement continues around strategic planning, our academic directions are embedded in the broader frame and as time goes on and we get more clarity about the strategic plan, we will have more opportunities to engage.

ACTION: In response to Academic Council’s request to have an opportunity to provide input on the vision, mission and strategic plan, Michael Haworth will be invited to the next Academic Council meeting to hold a strategic planning session.

3.2 Approach to Fall

Government is predicting more openness in the fall, while at the same time, the minister is recognizing individual approaches based on the needs of students and organizations. As we think about our strategic direction, we are mindful of creating a blend of polytechnic hands on physical learning with highly engaging virtual learning. Over time, we want to ensure we use learnings from the pandemic as we think about the future of NAIT education.

NAIT’s approach to fall planning continues to prioritize the health and safety of our community. We will reintroduce in-person learning as health guidelines allow, aligned with our strategic direction - and we will ensure students are at the centre of our decisions. School and program staff have been engaged in setting these directions for fall based on program learning outcomes and student success factors. As always, we will ensure we have the ability to shift as we need to, recognizing that there are still risks and unknowns.

A second survey to students will be sent out in the near future. We understand there is no one single solution to make everyone happy and at the same time value the data we receive because it will inform our decisions and help us find that right balance.

Enrolment is expected to open in July. As things continue to shift and change, NAIT is trying to keep to that enrolment timeframe because it is critical to student success.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Engagement Activity

Sue Fitzsimmons led an engagement activity to collect outstanding questions, concerns and considerations related to academic integrity.

Based on what was learned, topics will be brought forward to future Academic Council meetings for discussion.

ACTION: The list will be synthesized and shared with Academic Council.

ACTION: Sue Fitzsimmons will work with the Academic Council executive to ensure key ideas are brought forward for future discussion.

ACTION: If you have any additional thoughts and comments, please forward them to lyndar@nait.ca.

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 WIL

Work Integrated Learning has been core to what a NAIT education means, including apprenticeship education. Opportunity to learn in an authentic work setting has been critical to what it means to be a polytechnic and provide students with an amazing education. NAIT has been strong in many ways around WIL, but as we grew, we didn't always come together to ensure we had a consistent view across the organization on how we define WIL, what kinds of processes and procedures support it, how we manage student related risk, how we work with employers to support students, how we help students understand the difference between different types of WIL experiences and looking to the future, how we think about innovations that can support learning in real work situations via simulations.

Sue Fitzsimmons turned it over to Alison Lewis who provided a background to the creation of the framework for Work Integrated Learning.

Alison Lewis invited Lauren McVeigh and Natasja Saranchuk to present the WIL Framework, where we are going in the future and next steps to Academic Council.

Once the framework is complete, the strategy will be developed.

PSIs in Alberta are expected to meet a WIL target (related to number of programs that incorporate WIL) in the coming year. Government of Alberta will negotiate a target with each institution based on their current baseline. Achievement of the target will be linked to performance-based funding for the fiscal year starting April 1, 2021.

Sue thanked Lauren and Natasja for the presentation and all the proactive work happening with the team.

Lauren and Natasja left the meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING – Monday, April 19, 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