



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

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Monday, September 13, 2021**  
**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Jo Gunter (Chair)	Steve Hudson	alison lewis	Stewart Cook	Jen Crothers
Annemarieke Hoekstra	Jamie Corfield	Renata Medeiros	Randy Dreger	Dong Ye
Mark Schneider	Kelly Hobbs Bruzzese	Shauna MacDonald	Steve Chattargoon	Jerilyn Kotelniski
Jorgia Moore	Kody Schwaga	Narish Momin	Natalie Sarzynski	Raymond (Leshan) Masikonte

**GUESTS:** John O'Keefe

**REGRETS:**

**RESOURCE:** Lynda Robertson

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**1. OPENING**

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

Laura Jo Gunter welcomed everyone to the first full meeting of Academic Council for the 2021/22 academic year (after the Orientation meeting last week) and called the meeting to order.

Laura Jo asked if there were any conflicts of interest to declare. alison lewis and Stewart Cook declared that they are in a personal relationship with one another. This disclosure was made for transparency and awareness.

***Moved by Shauna MacDonald that the Agenda be approved as presented.***

***Seconded, Carried***

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2021.**

***Moved by Jorgia Moore that the Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2021 be approved as presented.***

***Seconded, Carried***

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

Discussion deferred to agenda item 3.1 later in the meeting.

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

Laura Jo Gunter announced NAIT is one of nine institutions who are making vaccines mandatory for all staff, students and visitors on campus. Dates and more information will be confirmed and shared as they become available. John O'Keefe, Chair of NAIT's Covid-19 Advisory Committee will join Academic Council later in the meeting for further discussion.

NAIT's Board of Governors passed the Strategic Plan at the June board meeting. Copies may be requested from Michael Haworth.

## **3. ADMINISTRATION**

### **3.1 Academic Council Constitution and Bylaws on Membership**

Steve Hudson reviewed the briefing note taken forward to Governance Committee proposing a change to the wording in the Academic Council Constitution and Bylaws around membership to align with the recommendations from last meeting to restructure the membership so there is an equal 1/3 members of each member category: 7 Senior Management/Appointed by the Board (including the President who sits as Chair), 7 NAITSA representatives and 7 NASA representatives.

Clarification of the Senior Management/Appointed by the Board members will be taken to the next Board of Governors meeting.

***Moved by Renata Medeiros that the attached amended Academic Council Constitution and Bylaws be recommended for review by the Governance Committee.***

***Seconded, Carried***

## **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Instructional Excellence Award Recommendations**

Natasja Saranchuk joined Academic Council to bring forward the names of instructors recommended for the Instructional Excellence Award.

A change in process and ideas that may help improve interest in the Instructional Excellence Award were discussed for future nominations.

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

***Moved by Kelly Hobbs Bruzzese that the Instructional Excellence award recipients be approved as presented.***

***Seconded, Carried***

#### **4.2 Discussion for Presentation Ideas for 2021-22 Academic Council Meetings**

Steve Hudson led a discussion to review past presentation topics and encourage council members to bring forward ideas for future presentations that would be beneficial to this group. Ideas were recorded for reference by the Academic Council Planning Committee when planning future meetings. (list of past presentations and future suggestions attached)

#### **4.3 ToR Instructional Excellence**

Please replace the ToR for Instructional Excellence from the orientation binder of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the version included in the meeting package.

### **5. PRESENTATION**

#### **5.1 COVID Response update**

John O’Keefe joined Academic Council to provide an update and answer questions on NAIT’s current response to COVID-19 as well as NAIT’s vaccine mandate that was announced earlier today.

The COVID-19 Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Coordinated Response Team (CRT) continue to operate in a very dynamic environment with a rapid response framework focused on safety for all students and staff which has resulted in only 150 reported cases on campus since COVID struck.

Vaccine mandate:

- A recommendation was made to extend the drop date for students to allow them time to consider the implications of their choices. Consideration of the possibility that WIL or Industry components of their education also insists on proof of double vaccination.
- While initial feedback is mixed, the majority has been positive.
- NAIT is committed to making the verification process as easy as possible, with both online and in person options made available and exploring ways for staff and students to prove verification without NAIT storing any personal medical information.
- More information on procedures and an implementation date for the mandate will be communicated as details become available.

### **6. NEXT MEETING – Monday, November 15, 2021 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

***Moved by Renata Medeiros that the meeting be adjourned at 3:04 pm.***

***Seconded, Carried***