



NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Monday, February 12, 2024
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Peter Leclaire (Chair)	Gerard Hayes	Jen Crothers	Matt Lindberg
Dennis Sheppard	Jodi Howick	Shauna MacDonald	Steve Chattaroon
Jocelyn Crocker	Jackie MacDuffie	Max Varela Arevalo	Spenser Rawluk
Starr Zhang	Tyleen Saison	Marina Bruno	Travis Luscombe
Jenna Williams	Poojan Ribbonwala	Mubshra Arshad	Eduardo Lembcke

REGRETS:

Denise MacIver

RESOURCE:

Lynda Robertson

GUESTS:

Natasja Saranchuk Sonja Gauvin

1. OPENING

1.1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Peter Leclaire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Guests observing the meeting were kindly reminded to keep their microphones muted and cameras off.

There were no additions to the agenda.

There was no declaration of conflict of interest for Council members.

Moved by Jocelyn Crocker that the agenda be approved as presented.

Seconded, Carried

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of the Minutes of Academic Council for the meeting held November 20, 2023.

Moved by Gerard Hayes that the Consent Agenda items be approved as presented.

Seconded, Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION: Academic Excellence will bring a draft process on Paused Admission forward to the next Academic Council meeting with the intent to provide clear guidelines around pausing of enrolment and the differences between pausing and suspension.

Natasja Saranchuk provided an update on the process work she's undertaking to create a transparent and robust process for bringing forward suspensions and terminations.

The document has been created as a policy and procedure. The plan has been approved and the draft is almost complete. More information is currently being gathered from other PSIs to ensure we are in alignment with other institutions and following ministry guidelines for suspensions and terminations, general principles and definitions to include pausing admissions and how it's differentiated from the suspension approach. Engagements are planned with program and pathway services, Academic Leadership Team, Associate Deans, HR, NASA and NAITSA before it will come back to Academic Council on April 22. There will be opportunity for feedback and revisions before presentation to Policy Committee for approval.

UPDATED MOTION: Moved by Max Varela Arevalo that Academic Council approve the working Academic Integrity policy and procedure (with modifications as noted to 5.3.1 and 7.2.3) with mandatory review brought back to Academic Council in April.

Work is in progress and will come back to Academic Council on April 22 for further discussion after the initial pilot is run through.

ACTION: Photographic Technology diploma discussion at next meeting.

Being that the options previously brought forward to Council to support the suspension and termination of the Photographic Technology diploma program did not meet expectations, a commitment was made to go back and complete a more robust investigation and more rigorous review of the program to ensure there are no longer any gaps in the data and bring viable next steps to the Academic Council meeting on April 22.

4. ACADEMIC UPDATE

The written Academic Update in the meeting package provided Academic Council with an update on the organizational review the Academic Portfolio is currently undertaking to better align programming in the schools to create a more agile, future focused and networked organization designed to move NAIT forward, address industry's need and create opportunities for students.

Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions - no questions were asked.

5. ADMINISTRATION

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that Academic Council move to in-camera.

5.1. Honorary Degree

As Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee, Jodi Howick brought forward a PowerPoint presentation, sharing the names and a brief bio of each of the four candidates chosen to receive NAIT's 2023 – 2024 Honorary Degree.

***All names are to be kept confidential until announced.**

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that Academic Council move out of in-camera.

Moved by Jackie MacDuffie that Academic Council supports the recommended nominee(s) for Honorary Degree(s) and recommends approval by the Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

5.2. Admissions for the 2-year Photographic Technology program

Before proceeding with conversation around the motion brought forward by Shauna MacDonald, Academic Council discussed whether it is within the powers and duties of council to put forward a motion to re-open admissions and how the administrative/operational decision rests with the Board.

Points discussed included:

- If the motion is to provide support for unpausing and reopening the program as opposed to a recommendation, it is within the purview.
- On matters that are under the purview of the board of fiduciary responsibilities are deferred to the executive. For Academic Council to wade into this, is making a decision which may not be the best interest of the institution which is fundamental to what we are doing in our committee structures.
- Academic Council has the right to make recommendations.
- Shauna emphasized that the board has the right to not take our recommendations, but Academic Council has the right to make such recommendations. There is no provision in the Post Secondary Learning Act where the board can tell Academic Council not to look at something.
- Actions can be brought forward to the board, but the board has already communicated that there are elements that they are not prepared to entertain. The fiduciary responsibility of the Board determines the sequencing of who determines when the program will run which becomes an operational issue and not an issue of Academic Council.

Following the discussion, it was decided to follow Roberts Rules of Order and bring the motion forward for the vote.

Moved by Shauna that Academic Council supports the motion to re-open and un-pause admissions and enrolment for the 2-year Photographic Technology program so students can register for the Fall 2024 term.

11 In Favor, 5 Opposed, Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought forward.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jodi Howick that the meeting be adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Seconded, Carried