NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Monday, November 18, 2024
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Peter Leclaire (Chair)	Jen Crothers	Agatha Ojimelukwe	Matt Lindberg
Dennis Sheppard	Stephen McMillan	Shauna MacDonald	Gilles Prefontaine
Tami Cogger	Irene Kirby-Frith	Max Varela Arevalo	Steve Chattargoon
Jenna Luczak	Marina Bruno	Brayden Shopland	Salinderjit Kaur
Nicolas Constantin	Ajoke Akinmade	Bianca Hamtig	

REGRETS:

Laura Jo Gunter

RESOURCE:

Lynda Robertson

GUESTS:

Alexandra Trovato Todd Matsuba

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1. OPENING

1.1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Moved by Jen Crothers 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 October 7, 2024

2.2. Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Engineering Design Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Surveying and Geospatial Engineering Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Chemical Engineering Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Petroleum Engineering Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Wireless Engineering Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Electrical Installations Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Baking and Pastry Arts.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Industrial Heavy Equipment Technology.

Salinderjit Kaur requested that all of the optional co-op proposals be moved to new business for further discussion.

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented with the exception of item 2.2.

Seconded, Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action Item: Add a deadline column to the table tracking business arising from previous meetings was accepted by Council Members and will be added for the next meeting.

3.1. Process on Paused Admission and new Policy on Suspension and Termination

Work continues and will be brought forward to a future meeting.

3.2. Academic Council Bylaws

Marina, Shauna and Peter have met to begin updating the bylaws. Future meetings are planned and work continues on the update.

3.3. Instructional Excellence Award

Instructional Excellence was removed from Academic Council in order to allow timely turnaround for the selection and presentation of the award. Questions arose as to whether this award is an Employee Award or an Academic Award. Since Instructional Excellence is guided by the Employee Recognition Procedure which is owned by ODS, a representative from NAITSA and one from NASA will meet with Marcus Nordin for further clarification. A vote was not held at this time.

4. ACADEMIC UPDATE

The written Academic Update in the meeting package provided Academic Council with an update on the Academic Portfolio Design project as it transitions to Phase Two.

Additional information was requested about the recent changes to CIP codes and their impact on the post-graduate work permit. Peter and Jen updated the Council on NAIT's efforts with both the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as with schools, to review CIP code alignments. They are also reviewing the SEM plan, to explore opportunities to increase both international and domestic enrolment. The situation is evolving rapidly, and there are currently limited details on how it will be administered.

5. ADMINISTRATION

5.1. Building Automation System Technology, “apprenticeship like” Program Proposal

Matt Lindberg, Alex Trovato, and Todd Matsuba presented a brief overview to support the Building Automation System Technology "apprenticeship-like" Program Proposal before opening the floor for questions. The discussion included questions about the students' preparedness for LEED certification, the expected outcomes of the program,

and the opportunities for graduates of other NAIT programs to broaden their skillset by moving into this program.

Moved by Matt Lindberg that the Building Automation System Technology, "apprenticeship like" program proposal be recommended for approval by NAIT's Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

5.2. Biological Sciences Technology Program Termination Proposal 2025

Agatha Ojimelukwe shared a brief presentation on the Biological Sciences Technology Program Termination Proposal. This program is currently suspended, and this proposal is taking the next step to move forward with termination.

Agatha confirmed that there has been no impact on students and no negative impact on staff and then opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

Moved by Agatha Ojimelukwe that the Biological Sciences Technology Program Termination Proposal, effective July 1, 2025, be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

5.3. Applied Financial Program Termination Proposal 2025

Jodi Howick joined Dennis Sheppard to present and lead a discussion on the Applied Financial Services Program Termination Proposal 2025. Dennis explained that due to a shift in the labor market for graduates of this program, they found a way to create pathways into the workforce through the diploma program, as the certificate program was no longer meeting employers' needs.

Jodi confirmed that there has been no impact on staff positions and that the curriculum will be integrated into the diploma program. She also explained the consultation process with industry, as well as engagement with students, the program team, and the chair.

Moved by Dennis Sheppard that the Applied Financial Services Program Termination Proposal, effective July 1, 2025, be recommended to approval by the Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Optional co-op proposals moved to New Business from the Consent Agenda.

As requested by Salinderjit Kaur, the co-op proposals from 2.2 of the Consent Agenda were moved to New Business for further discussion.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Engineering Design Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Surveying and Geospatial Engineering Technology.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Chemical Engineering Technology.

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Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Baking and Pastry Arts.

Recommendation to the Board of Governors to approve the proposal to add an optional co-op experience to Industrial Heavy Equipment Technology.

Questions/Comments arising around the co-op proposals include:

- Is there compensation to students while participating in the co-op? (inconsistent language in the proposals)
- What are the student benefits of having these co-ops?
- What safeguards are in place to ensure students aren't being exploited?
- Stay mindful that WIL doesn't take a work opportunity away from a graduated student.
- Are there guidelines presented to each placement area to state the work the student should be doing?

ACTION ITEM: A presentation will be brought to Council to explain how Co-ops are managed. This will ensure confidence in due diligence, include guidelines, student feedback, and the controls and safeguards in place before undertaking any work placement for students.

Moved by Matt Lindberg that all eight optional co-op proposals be recommended to the Board of Governors for approval as listed.

Seconded, Carried
****7 Abstained***

****Jenna Luczak, Marina Bruno, Brayden Shopland, Nicolas Constantin, Ajoke Akinmade, Bianca Hamtig and Salinderjit Kaur abstained from voting due to insufficient information. They would like to see evidence for how students will be protected and supported during their co-ops (like guidelines for the placements and opportunities for feedback)***

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Seconded, Carried