



NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Monday, September 15, 2025
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Peter Leclaire (Chair)	Clayton Davis	Jen Crothers	Patti Hergott
Tamara Peyton	Terry Schlitter	Matt Lindberg	Shauna MacDonald
Jamie Nimcan	Gilles Prefontaine	Max Varela Arevalo	Ann Hrabok
Irene Kirby-Frith	Krysta Westlund	Lilly Houcher	Danielle Libunao
Robin Murillo	Teara Current	Wyatt Waters	Jeetika Mishra
Ishana Hettiarachchige			

REGRETS:

None

RESOURCE:

Lynda Robertson

GUESTS:

Stacy Oslund

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.

Moved by Jen Crothers that the agenda be approved as presented.

Seconded, Carried

No conflict of interest

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of the Minutes of Academic Council for the meeting held April 14, 2025

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

Seconded, Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. Paused Admission and Suspension and Termination Policy

5.2 below

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3.2. Academic Council Bylaws

5.3 below

3.3. Paused Programs Verbal Update

Peter Leclaire confirmed that at this time there are no newly identified program pauses to announce.

4. ACADEMIC UPDATE

The Academic Update provided in the meeting package provided Academic Council with an overview of current work being undertaken throughout the Academic Portfolio.

When asked, Peter explain what it took to recently bring a program back online. (continued trend on student demand and strong application pressure).

Peter validated that within the AI Strategy, human validation will explore AI recommendations.

5. ADMINISTRATION

5.1. Chair of Academic Council

To remain in compliance with the PSLA and Academic council Bylaws a vote was held, and Peter Leclaire was appointed as Chair of Academic Council. NAIT's President and CEO has delegated the chairing of Academic Council to maintain consistency in its leadership due to her external schedule.

Shauna MacDonald would like to go on record stating the importance of the President's involvement in Academic Council to give her the ability to fully convey the conversation to the Board.

Moved by Gilles Prefontaine that Peter Leclaire be appointed Chair of Academic Council for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Seconded, Carried

5.2. Paused Admission and Suspension and Termination Policy

Stacy Oslund joined Academic Council to present the Suspension and Termination Policy and Procedure, seeking Academic Council approval for implementation.

The development of the policy and procedure began in early 2024 but finalization was delayed due to leadership transitions and the Academic Portfolio Design Project. Revised versions were shared in early 2025 with senior leadership, NAITSA, NASA and Academic Council. The Policy Committee reviewed and approved both the policy and procedure on July 17, 2025 to bring forward to Academic Council.

Greater clarity is requested on the exception clause, how and when can it be used, as well as more information to help members better understand the transition between a pause and suspension.

Moved by Matt Lindberg that Academic council approve the Suspension and Termination Policy for implementation.

11 Opposed, Motion defeated

5.3. Academic Council Bylaws

As stated in the amended version, bylaws will be updated by the April meeting of Academic Council every year. Due to some technical difficulties, this was not possible

last year and therefore last years version is brought forward to council at this time for approval.

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that the updated Academic Council Constitution and Bylaws be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

5.4. Dental Hygiene Diploma New Program Proposal

Touching on some of the highlights from the proposal, Terry Schlitter led a presentation to establish a Dental Hygiene Diploma Program at NAIT, led discussion and answered questions. This new two-year program with a proposed effective date of July 1st, 2026 is aimed at addressing the shortage of dental hygienists in Alberta.

Moved by Terry Schlitter that the Dental Hygiene Diploma New Program Proposal be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.

Seconded, Carried

***Before proceeding to the program suspensions being proposed at this meeting, Stacy Oslund led a presentation to review the Background – why this matters, and Overview – how decisions were made. Peter Leclaire reinforced the Obligations and Roles of Academic Council Members and the process that will be followed.**

5.5. Millwork and Carpentry Certificate Program Suspension

Matt Lindberg spoke to the Millwork and Carpentry Certificate Program Suspension proposal, and answered questions brought forward from Council members. Speaking to some of the key points from the in-depth overview of the program and the challenges faced, including the results of student and industry engagement, financial sustainability, labour market outlook and student success.

Moved by Matt Lindberg that the suspension proposal for Millwork and Carpentry Certificate Program be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.

Before a vote, there was a request to share a copy of the program suspension presentation with council members and a substitute motion was introduced by Shauna MacDonald to allow council members more time to review the suspension proposals.

Moved by Shauna MacDonald to postpone the motion until the next Academic Council meeting on October 20th, 2025.

Seconded, Carried

5.6. Leadership in Healthcare Post-Diploma Certificate Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.7. Wireless Systems Engineering Technology Diploma Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.8. Computer Engineering Technology Diploma Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.9. Network Engineering Technology Diploma Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.10. Computer Network Administrator Certificate Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.11. Bachelor of Applied Information Systems Technology Applied Degree Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.12. Graphic Communications Certificate Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.13. Cybersecurity Immersive Industry Education Post-Diploma Certificate Program Suspension

Bring forward.

5.14. Captioning and Court Reporting Diploma Program Suspension

Bring forward.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 20, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Shauna MacDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Seconded, Carried