



NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Monday, January 26, 2026  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
via Microsoft Teams

### MINUTES

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#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Peter Leclaire (Chair)	Clayton Davis	Jen Crothers	Terry Schlitter
Tamara Peyton	Agatha Ojimekwe	Stephen McMillan	Shauna MacDonald
Jamie Nimcan	Gilles Prefontaine	Max Varela Arevalo	Krysta Westlund
Jordan Anderson	Lilly Houcher	Danielle Libunao	Teaira Current
Faris Jawahir	Wyatt Waters	Jeetika Mishra	Ishana Hettiarachige

#### REGRETS:

#### RESOURCE:

Lynda Robertson

#### GUESTS:

Mike McCready	Harvey Miedreich	Stacy Oslund	Aruna Brennan
Trevor April	Mike McCready	Alex Trovato	

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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 reminded to keep microphones muted and cameras off.

There were no additions to the agenda.

***Moved by Jamie Nimcan that the agenda be approved as presented.***

***Seconded, Carried***

Jordan Anderson, Acting Chair of the MET program declared a conflict of interest and did not vote on the MET Suspension Proposal in Administration 5.4.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1. Approval of the Minutes of Academic Council for the meeting held December 15, 2025.

***Moved by Gilles Prefontaine 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**

Paused Admission and Suspension and Termination Policy is brought forward in Administration 5.8.

### **3.2. Program Suspension Proposals**

Program suspension proposals from the last meeting are listed under Administration 5.3 to 5.7.

### **3.3. Millwork and Carpentry Program Suspension**

Millwork and Carpentry Program Suspension is brought forward in Administration 5.9

### **3.4. AI in the Workplace**

Work in progress with an update expected in February.

### **3.5. Paused Programs Verbal Update**

Peter Leclaire confirmed no newly identified program pauses to announce.

#### **4. ACADEMIC UPDATE**

The Academic Update provided an overview of current work and new initiatives throughout the Academic Portfolio. No questions were asked.

#### **5. ADMINISTRATION**

##### **5.1. Honorary Degree Presentation**

***Moved by Agatha Ojimelukwe that Academic Council move to in-camera.***

Honorary Degree Committee member, Agatha Ojimelukwe brought forward a PowerPoint presentation, sharing the names and a brief bio of each of the candidates chosen to receive NAIT's 2025-2026 Honorary Degree.

**\*All names are to be kept confidential until announced at Convocation.**

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

***Moved by Jeetika Mishra that Academic Council supports the recommended nominees for Honorary Degrees and recommends approval by the Board of Governors.***

**Seconded, Carried**

##### **5.2. Program Suspension Presentation**

As requested at a previous meeting, Council members were provided with the presentation containing the data used to support decisions on the suspension proposals.

##### **5.3. Pre-employment Autobody Certificate Program Suspension**

Stephen McMillan began the presentation with a program overview and continued to explain recent challenges in this program to support why it's being brought forward for suspension. Stephen welcomed all questions and further discussion on data used to explain the decline.

***Moved by Stephen McMillan that Pre-employment Autobody Certificate Program Suspension Proposal be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.***

**Seconded  
9 in favor 10 opposed  
Motion defeated**

#### **5.4. Materials Engineering Technology Diploma Program Suspension**

Stephen McMillan presented the proposal and addressed questions about the proposed suspension of the Materials Engineering Technology Program, noting that NAIT recognizes it is an important service program, however a very high program to run, with low demand.

Jordan Anderson, Interim Chair of the Materials Engineering Technology program presented to Academic Council and spoke to points for contravening the program suspension proposal, bringing forward concerns that this program is not merely specialized – it is foundational to numerous sectors and its graduates play a critical role in ensuring public safety, maintaining infrastructure integrity and driving innovation.

***Moved by Stephen McMillan that the suspension proposal for Materials Engineering Technology Diploma Program be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.***

***Seconded,  
6 in favor 12 opposed 1 abstain  
Motion defeated***

#### **5.5. Nano Systems Engineering Technology Diploma Program Suspension**

Stephen began his presentation on the suspension of the Nano Systems Engineering Technology Diploma program with a brief program overview and continued to further explain the data used to support suspension of the program.

***Moved by Stephen McMillan that the suspension proposal for Nano Systems Engineering Technology Diploma Program be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.***

***Seconded,  
15 in favor 4 opposed  
Carried***

#### **5.6. Alternative Energy Technology Diploma Program Suspension**

Agatha Ojmelukwe reviewed the proposal and addressed questions about the proposed suspension of the Alternative Energy Technology Diploma Program, noting that significant change is needed for a program like this to be viable and shared with Council that the school is exploring opportunities within the renewable energy space.

***Moved by Agatha Ojmelukwe that the suspension proposal for Alternative Energy Technology Diploma Program be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.***

***Seconded,  
15 in favor 3 opposed 1 abstain  
Carried***

#### **5.7. Graphic Communication Certificate Program Suspension**

Tamara Peyton introduced the presentation by explaining that the Graphic Communication Certificate Program was originally designed to train individuals for print-media production, not digital or online environments. As the industry has shifted toward digital formats, the program no longer aligns with current needs, prompting its consideration for suspension, noting that another program already exists within the school with focus on digital design.

***Moved by Tamara Peyton that the suspension proposal for Graphic Communication Certificate Program be recommended for approval by the Board of Governors.***

***Seconded,  
18 in favor 1 opposed  
Carried***

#### **5.8. Suspension and Termination Policy and Procedure**

Bring forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

#### **5.9. Millwork and Carpentry Certificate Program Suspension**

Bring forward to a future meeting due to lack of time.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

Monday, February 23, 2026, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

***Moved by Gilles Prefontaine that the meeting be adjourned at 3:58 pm.***

***Seconded, Carried***