



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

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

**11:15 am – 1:15 pm
O102P Governors Boardroom**

MINUTES

PRESENT:	Dr. Sam Shaw Leanne Telford Arun Bhardwaj Norm Hill Geoff Tate Norm Hill	Dr. Berry Calder Anna Foshay Barry Ritson Timothy Jobs Patrick Warwaruk	Dr. Paula Burns Betty Anne Ross Mike Abou-Ghaida Tessa Cocchio John Foley
RESOURCES:	Corie Phillips	Roxanna Stumbur	
GUESTS:	Eleanor Frandsen		
ABSENT:	Cecilia Rodriguez Chris Schmidt	Matt Bell	Joel Chanin

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 am.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Timothy Jobs moved that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

1.3 Review of the Minutes of January 25, 2010

Dr. Berry Calder moved that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

2.1 Aboriginal Awareness Course

Eleanor Frandsen presented on the NAIT ABA 610 Aboriginal Awareness Course, which took three years to develop. It is built on a framework that combines an academic and spiritual focus. It is now available to NAIT staff and faculty; the first student offering will be available in April 2010. The course was designed to introduce the cultural and historical significance of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; it supports NAIT's guiding principle that reads, "Embrace diversity and respect one another." ABA 610 was written and developed by Aboriginal people and was vetted by

Elders. Dr. Shaw sent a letter to Minister of Indian Affairs, the Honorable Chuck Strahl, offering course access to his senior staff.

ACTION: It was suggested that Eleanor's team create a trailer to advertise the course to external stakeholders and provide information about the course to potential applicants to encourage enrolment.

ACTION: It was suggested that Eleanor's team explore ways to compact course content to enable inclusion within other NAIT courses. As well, it was suggested that Eleanor's team develop a course template for use with other cultures.

ACTION: Betty Anne Ross was asked to forward to Corie names of "Reveal Your Research" participants as possible presenters at upcoming Academic Council meetings. (Carried forward from January minutes).

3. Information Items

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Sub Committee Reports

5.1 Instructional Awards of Excellence

Dr. Paula Burns shared the following for approval as winners of the Instructional Award of Excellence:

Donna Groves, JR Shaw School of Business
 Ronan Murray, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Technology
 Dave Critchley, School of Resources and Environmental Management
 Jeff Strangman, School of Applied Media and Information Technology
 Donna Brown, School of Applied Building Science
 Thomas Ball, School of Health Sciences
 Rob Povey, School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts
 Len Sperling, School of Arts, Science and Communication
 Cliff Chapman, School of Electrical and Electronics Technology
 Daniel Cunningham, School of Professional and Continuing Education

Committee members agreed that, due to the overwhelming number of nominations received, review and ranking of each was both time consuming and difficult. A suggestion was brought forward for consideration for next year that individual schools review the nominations prior to forwarding a summary for review and decision by the Subcommittee.

Moved by Barry Ritson that the Instructional Awards of Excellence nominees be approved by Academic Council.

Carried

ACTION: The Instructional Awards of Excellence Subcommittee was asked to bring forward recommendations for change for the 2010/11 academic year to the April 27, 2010 meeting.

5.2 Honorary Degree

Dr. Berry Calder distributed at table revisions to the terms of reference for the Honorary Degree Subcommittee.

A revision was made to page 2 to add the School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts to the fields in which individuals must demonstrate their leadership and excellence.

Moved by Dr. Berry Calder that the Honorary Degree Subcommittee Terms of Reference be accepted as amended.

Carried**5.3 Faculty Emeritus**

ACTION: The Faculty Emeritus Subcommittee will discuss gifts (e.g. medals) that could be given to award recipients in addition to the certificates currently handed out and bring forward recommendations to the April 27, 2010 meeting.

5.4 Program Excellence

Dr. Paula Burns advised that the Subcommittee has not met and therefore she has nothing to report.

Moved by Geoff Tate that the Terms of Reference for the Program Excellence Subcommittee be reviewed to ensure they are appropriately rigorous.

Carried**5.5 Campus Community**

Leanne Telford provided an overview of the minutes of February 1, 2010 highlighting the BMI presentation and the revisions being made to that course. The Subcommittee is focused on clarification of purpose and determination of what is already happening in regards to the creation of a healthy, respect workplace as well as what more needs to transpire.

a. Minutes of February 1, 2010

Leanne Telford moved that the minutes of the February 1, 2010 Campus Community meeting be accepted for information.

Carried

Action: It was requested that the Academic Council minutes be posted online so faculty can be informed of the nature of discussion at meetings.

Action: Leanne Telford to speak with Dallas regarding the suggestion of an alternate source for streamlining information arriving into the email inbox.

5.6 Academic Policy Review Committee

Dr. Calder reviewed the purpose of the Subcommittee as discussed at the Academic Council Agenda Planning meeting. The Subcommittee's purpose will be to continually review academic policies across the institute.

The positions on the Subcommittee will include:

Provost and VP Academic, Chair

President, NASA

Registrar

NAITSA VP Academic

Moved by Dr. Berry Calder that Academic Council approve the creation of an Academic Policy Review Subcommittee.

Carried**6. New Business****6.1 Degree Regulations**

Anna Foshay advised that she is currently undertaking a revision process of all procedures and regulations to better streamline them across the institute. Degree regulations were the first to be revised and presented to Academic Council.

Moved by Anna Foshay that the Degree Regulations be accepted as presented.

Carried

6.2 Open Studies Regulation

Suggestions were made to revise the Regulation to remove the age requirement for Diploma candidates to ensure it enables younger students to apply, if eligible.

Moved by Anna Foshay that the Open Studies Regulation be accepted as amended.

Carried

ACTION: Anna Foshay was asked to provide a progress report to Academic Council one year after the Open Studies Regulation is implemented.

7. **Open Questions to the Chair**

8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 from 11:00 am to 1:15 pm in Ernest's Dining Room.

9. **Adjournment**

Geoff Tate moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Carried