

Academic Council Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

5:00 – 6:30 PM

MS Teams



Time	Agenda Item	Action	Owner
A. WELCOME AND TREATY ACKNOWLEDGMENT			
5:00	Attendees: Leadership: Arlene Eaton-Erickson, Cindy Boucher, Debbie Little, Loni Robertson, Meagan LaRiviere, Morgan Gauthier, Norma Schneider, Neetu Shah, Ryan McKale Faculty: Bonnie Holtby, Jeff Ryan, Janelle Morrison, Karen Cook-Newbury, Melanie Mattila, Ortensia Norton, Taylor Scanlon Students: Anish Ranabhat, Arnold Lapay, Deniz Cakil, Gursimran Kaur, Hebah Abukhadra, Jissel Diaz, Khadijat Idowu, Sukhmanpreet Kaur Guests: Roy Young, Reg Rubar, Brad Arkison, Rachel Grannary, Nicole Kean, Ayshea Thornton, Jadine Sherman Regrets: Anjana Jagatheesh, Anne Bello, Erin Turnell, Irine Rijo, Nancy Thornton, Rowena Quedado Chair: Bev Suntjens Scribe: Safa Harb Meeting started at 5:02PM.		
B. AGENDA ITEMS			
5:02	1. Approval of Agenda – Feb. 10, 2026 MOTION: That Academic Council approve the presented Feb. 10, 2026 agenda. Moved by Hebah Abukadra. Seconded by Sukmanpreet Kaur. All in faovur. Motion Passed.	Approval	Bev Suntjens (Chair)
5:05	2. Approval of the Minutes – Nov. 18, 2025 MOTION: That Academic Council approve the presented November 18, 2025 minutes. Moved by Cindy Boucher. Seconded by Melanie Mattila. All in favour. Motion Passed.	Approval	Bev Suntjens (Chair)
5:07	Update: The Academic Council welcomes two new appointed student voting members: Deniz Cakil and Jissel Diaz replacing Trinity Amable and Sehajveer Singh.	Information	Bev Suntjens (Chair)
5:08	Student Printing Credits Roy Young and Reg Rubar, representing Technology Services and Support, presented a proposal to remove free student	Feedback	Roy Young & Reg Rubar

printing credits effective August 14th, 2026, seeking feedback from Academic Council members

- The removal of free student printing credits is intended to support sustainability, align with sector norms, and redirect savings to services that support student success, such as digital resources and technology upgrades. The current model, which provides \$10–\$25 per student per term, is outdated and not aligned with digital learning trends.
- Most Alberta post-secondary institutions do not offer free print credits and often have higher per-page costs. The proposal aims to encourage digital tool usage, reduce paper consumption, and support environmental sustainability goals.
- The current system has led to confusion among students, who sometimes mistake credits for refundable fees, and has created administrative burdens. There is also a lack of documentation regarding the origin of the free credit policy, complicating efforts to modernize the system.
- Some questions and concerns raised about accessibility, program-specific needs, financial impact, and potential mitigations.

Concerns:

- There are programs that rely heavily on printing such as Health programs (PN, Pharmacy Technician, HCA), foundational programs, and Early Learning & Child Care Program and require documentation on paper.
- There is a financial impact where some students cannot afford purchasing personal printers.

Suggestions:

- Maintaining credits for high-need programs
- Providing emergency support
- Ensuring transparent communication about the use of savings

Questions:

- Has there been any consultations done with program areas? If so, is the data available?

Roy Young to check back with his supervisor (Stephanie) who may be able to roll-out the data.

- Where will the savings go?

Savings could be redirected to student-support initiatives (technology, tutoring, etc.)

Roy Young clarified that removing credits will not remove access to printing and students will pay per use.

Feedback was acknowledged by Technology Services and Support team and agreed to take concerns back to the team for further consideration, including requests for more data on program specific usage and consultation with high and low-usage program areas.

The proposal remains in the feedback stage, with no immediate approval sought.

5:35	Student Fees and Tuition • Brad Arkison, Vice President of Enrolment and Communications, and Rachel Granary, Senior Executive Associate, presented the proposed tuition and fee changes for the 2026–2027 academic year, outlining regulatory constraints, proposed increases, exceptional tuition submissions, and feedback from SANQC. • Brad Arkison described the regulatory environment, including a 2% cap on domestic tuition increases mandated by the Government of Alberta, and the committee’s guiding principles, which balance institutional sustainability with student impact and legislative compliance. • The proposals include an 11% exceptional tuition increase for the Practical Nurse (PN) and PN for Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) programs (pending ministerial approval), a 5% increase for the Social Work program, a 0% increase for Academic Upgrading, and a 5% increase for international tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIFs), with some exceptions. • The exceptional increases for PN and PN IEN are intended to address structural deficits, as these programs cost more to deliver than current tuition and grants cover. The increases are designed to partially close the gap while maintaining access and avoiding seat reductions. • Consultations with SANQC and Academic Council highlighted concerns about affordability, the desire to limit international tuition increases to 2%, and suggestions to hold all foundational program tuition at 0%. Questions: • What is the rationale for increases in Foundational Learning programs compared to Academic Upgrading? This is due to the differences in program size and funding. • Are there additional financial supports for students facing increased costs? Ongoing efforts to support students through scholarships, bursaries, emergency funding, and process improvements continue.	Information	Brad Arkison & Rachel Grannary
------	--	-------------	--------------------------------

6:01	Program Terminations - Nicole Kean, Manager, Program Development, presented the final step in terminating the PN Refresher and Teaching English as an Additional Language (TEAL) programs due to low enrollment, with Academic Council asked to approve the terminations effective July 1, 2026. - The reason for Termination is that both programs have had no new student intake since 2020 (PN Refresher) and 2023 (TEAL), and the termination follows a prior suspension approved by Advanced Education. - Academic Council was asked to approve the terminations as the final step before removal from Advanced Education records, with no questions raised by council members. MOTION: That Academic Council recommends the approval of the program terminations to Executive Team. Moved by: Meagan LaRiviere. Seconded by: Janelle Morrison All in favour. Motion Passed	Approval	Nicole Kean
6:03	Arts & Sciences Diploma Changes - Ayshea Thornton, Academic Program Manager, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, presented proposed changes to the Arts and Sciences Diploma. - Ayshea Thornton also outlined changes effective Fall 2027, including clarifying high school prerequisites, adding Indigenous Studies 1000 as a required course, removing certain electives, adding Justice courses, developing new psychology and ethics courses, reassessing calculus transferability, and raising the graduation GPA from 1.0 to 2.0 to align with transfer requirements. - The changes aim to improve clarity, transferability, and support for students transitioning to degree programs. Consultations were held with teaching, cross-faculty, admissions, curriculum, and Dean's Council teams. MOTION: That Academic Council approves the proposed changes for the Arts & Sciences Diploma Program for Fall 2027. Moved by: Anish Ranabhat. Seconded by: Jissel Diaz. All in favour. Motion Passed	Approval	Ayshea Thornton

6:15	FOAS Multiple Program Changes - Jadine Sherman proposed lowering English Language Arts 30-1 and ESLG 1860 admission requirements from 60% to 50% for several programs, including Educational Assistant, Early Learning and Childcare, Disability Studies, and Child and Youth Care, to align with other institutions and reduce barriers. - Additional pathways into the Educational Assistant program were proposed, including micro-credentials, open admission, and recognition of prior learning for working professionals, with support from program advisory committees and the Office of the Registrar. Questions: - Will there be academic supports for students with lower English grades or with whom their English language is not their first language? Early intervention, monitoring, and support through instructors, tutoring, and academic advising to assist students admitted with lower English grades will be in place. MOTION: That Academic Council approves the proposed program changes for the Faculty of Arts & Sciences programs for Fall 2027. Moved by: Jeff Ryan. Seconded by: Cindy Boucher. All in favour. Motion Passed	Approval	Jadine Sherman
6:32	Meeting Adjourns Moved by Ortensia Norton. Meeting ended at 6:32 PM.		