



MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

General Academic Council

Minutes

April 2, 2024

Courtyard

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Hearing no additions to the agenda, the motion for approval was called.

Motion: (L. Schaerer)

“That the agenda of the General Academic Council meeting of April 2, 2024, be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 22, 2024

- Item #3 (Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2023)

The motion refers to the minutes from the “**November 27, 20203**” meeting. This will be revised to: “November 27, 2023”.

Motion: (J. Openo)

“That the minutes of the General Academic Council meeting of January 22, 2024, be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

UPDATES

Executive Administration

- Funding has been received from CPA for computer lab technology to support flexible learning within the accounting program. The lab is planned to be ready for fall 2024.
- The postings for the 3 associate dean positions will go out this week.
- MHC has signed a dual credit agreement with Grasslands School District for Health Care Aide beginning in fall 2024. The SE AB Trades Academy (in partnership with Prairie Rose School District) is now full for fall 2024 and we have a similar agreement with SD76 for trades programming as well.
- MHCs’ new Kinesiology Diploma will be running in fall 2024, as well as Data Analytics for Business.

Faculty Update

- Colleen Whidden has started another Academic Integrity Working Group with faculty, which is great.
- Hearing from faculty and students about difficulty with navigating the new College website and locating various things. As Mark Keller was in attendance at the meeting; he offered to meet with faculty to discuss further. Jana will connect with Mark.

Student Update

- Pleased to hear about the work being done by faculty regarding academic integrity as there has been a few concerns so far this year.
- Elections have taken place and all 4 positions are filled; 377 students voted this year which is significantly higher than previous years. Lily has been re-elected as SA President; the 3 new members of the SA Executive Team will be introduced at the fall 2024 GAC meeting.
- Planning underway now for Last Class Bash.
- Dealing with a few appeals as they come in.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Curriculum Committee Minutes: February 9, 2024

- Included for information.

Program Termination: Practical Nurse Refresher Certificate

- Nearing the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the regulating body for Practical Nursing education in Alberta, CLPNA (College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta) advised MHC of an anticipated demand for recertification of practical nurses who had expired licenses and would be seeking to return to the workforce. In response, MHC developed the Practical Nurse Refresher Certificate with CPNA indicating they would be referring students to our program, in essence acting as a recruiter for these potential students. Unfortunately, the demand for the program did not materialize, and the program didn't run. CLPNA has advised that there is no longer demand for the program and as a result, MHC will need to terminate the program with the Ministry of Advanced Education. MHC was able to sell the curriculum to CLPNA for possible future needs.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That General Academic Council refer to the Board of Governors for approval, the termination of the Practical Nurse Refresher Certificate, subject to the approval of the Minister of Advanced Education."

CARRIED

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Agricultural Program Update: Dr. Nancy Brown, on behalf of Dr. Morgan Blair

- As MHC is not traditionally known for agriculture programming; Morgan Blair and Chad Flinn recently reached out and have made connections in the agriculture sector as there are various programming opportunities arising in this space. This has led to five new opportunities created within MHCs' Extended Learning area:
 1. Agri-Business Certificate of Completion: 4 core modules; provide learners with knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage business & financial aspects or apply professional expertise to ag operations.
 2. Quick-fix Welding (practical techniques for repair & maintenance): students learn practical welding techniques designed to address short-term repair and maintenance needs.
 3. Quick-fix Welding (practical welding techniques for agriculture): students learn practical agricultural welding techniques tailored specifically to the short-term repair and maintenance of ag equipment.
 4. Tourism and Hospitality Entrepreneurship (Agri-tourism): a short course designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs, business owners, agricultural producers and industry professionals with the skills needed to explore new revenue stream potential, value-added business opportunities and diversification opportunities in the rural tourism and hospitality industry,
 5. Drones in Industry: two new bite-sized learning opportunities on drone operation & maintenance.
- Applied research/C4i Opportunities:
 1. Ag Economic Analysis: working with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and APEX AB to complete a baseline ag economic analysis.
 2. NSERC Mobilize Grant: will potentially provide funding for 5 years to support agricultural applied research. Requesting \$1,000,000 over 5 years to fund a full-time researcher, agronomist, and provide course reassignment for faculty engaging in related applied research. If successful, funding would be provided for 2025-onward.
- A big thank you to Morgan & Chad for all their work on this and the connections made in the agriculture sector in SE Alberta.

NEW BUSINESS

Honorary Applied Degree Nomination

Motion: (L. Schaerer)

"That General Academic Council move to an in-camera session".

CARRIED

MOTION: (K. Shufflebotham)

"That General Academic Council exit the in-camera session".

CARRIED

Motion: (K. Shufflebotham)

"That General Academic Council recommend to the Board of Governors for approval, the recipient of the 2023-24 MHC Honorary Applied Degree".

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

- Meeting adjourned at 10:44am.
- Next meeting: May 28, 2024