



MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE General Academic Council

Minutes

May 28, 2024

Courtyard

10:30 am – 12:00 pm (*Lunch served at 11:30am*)

CALL TO ORDER

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:36am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: (C. Bos)

“That the agenda of the General Academic Council meeting of May 28, 2024, be adopted as presented.”
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2, 2024

- Hearing no revisions to the minutes; the motion for approval was called.

Motion: (H. Stahl)

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

UPDATES

Executive Administration

As Nancy Brown is unable to attend today; Kevin provided the update on her behalf.

- As the academic year comes to an end; we look forward to convocation and celebrating with the students. All staff/faculty are encouraged to attend if they can (June 14).
- We hope faculty will have a relaxing & restorative summer break and that all staff get some downtime this summer.
- Good news: Dual Credit agreement now signed with Grasslands School District for the Health Care Aide program. This will help to provide ways for high school students to accelerate their entry into health care careers.

Faculty Update (*Jana Smith Elford*)

- Faculty are now on break for the summer.
- Hiring is currently underway for various new faculty members, and we will see some new faces at GAC next academic year.
- As Jana will be on leave next year, this will be her last GAC meeting.

Student Update (*Lily Schaerer*)

- We had a great year and looking forward to convocation.
- Training is currently underway with the new Students’ Association Executive Team. Mizuki Iwata (incoming SA VP Internal) was introduced, and the rest of the SA Executive Team will be introduced at GAC in the fall.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: 2023-24 In Review/Good News Stories

Faculty:

- The BN program transitioned from a Bachelor of Nursing to a Bachelor of Science beginning in 2024. Krystal Lawson is commended for all her work in making this happen. The first cohort of the program began in the fall of 2024 and students received the highest scores in the provincial exam which is a huge achievement.
- The Humanities & Social Sciences program brought back the Book Awards for the first time in 6-7 years. The Book Award is a way for instructors to acknowledge students and is a celebration of learning between students and faculty. Instructors present a book to a student in acknowledgement of their work in the

classroom, and is awarded to students who uplift others, contribute positively to the classroom and the atmosphere of learning. Faculty teaching within the Humanities & Social Sciences programs continue to foster a high level of collaboration and student mentorship within all programs.

- Liberal Education Conference: a number of MHC faculty members attended this year. The Conference fosters a lot of collaborative work and relationships between both students and faculty and provides a great opportunity to stay connected with MRU faculty. Three of our faculty members presented, as well as 2 MHC students.
- Congratulations to Rosalie Hirsch, faculty member in Arts (Linguistics), who recently successfully defended her PhD dissertation.
- There are currently a number of research projects underway at MHC incorporating student researchers which is great to see. As research opportunities/projects grow, this will provide more student mentorship opportunities as well.
- Education and Early Learning & Child Care programs: SSHRC grant secured, and articles published.
- The Education Team recently received an MHC Research & Scholarship Award within the Teaching & Learning category. Program Review has also been completed in partnership with MRU and this takes place every 7 years.
- Jennifer Usher (instructor in Education and ELCC) completed a multi-year research project on outdoor pedagogy which is great to see.
- The Education program just graduated 35 new teachers and most, if not all, have already secured employment. Various graduates of the MHC Education program in 2023 were nominated for the Edwin Parr award (1st year teaching award) which is fantastic.
- MHC collaborated with MHCBE to host 2 events on campus which provided professional development opportunities for Education students. MHCBE is working on revamping their interview process and tested it out with some of our students. They were able to go through the entire interview process, giving them a great preview for future. Nineteen students were also signed up as substitute teachers at one of the events, which is fantastic.
- The Business program hosted a student-run conference which was very successful. The student-clubs, ENACTUS/case competitions did very well in their competitions this year.
- The Advanced Accounting program is growing rapidly and seeing success with 19 students currently registered for the coming year.
- The Service Dog/Canine program, Sport & Event Marketing & Management, and Sustainable Innovation programs all graduated their first cohorts this year.
- The new Data Analytics for Business program will begin in the fall.
- Business students completed almost 200 tax returns for community members this year. This was held at the Root Cellar and was a big increase from the 50 tax returns completed last year.
- Trades Skills Competition: an MHC steamfitter/pipefitter student competed in the provincial competition and received a gold medal. He will now be competing at the national competition this week in Montreal.
- Try-a-Trade Event: high school students came onto campus this year to try out the various Trades programs and it was very successful. The Regional Trades Skills competition for high school students also went very well. This was the first year that these two events were held separately, which worked much better than when combined in past years.
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) recently donated \$61,000 as a continuation of trades and technology focused scholarships and program enhancement funding.
- Dual Credit Partnership: MHC has partnered with MHPSD to offer Trades programming for grade 10 students, with the opportunity to narrow their focus the following year. Their final year of high school could involve pre-employment or registered apprenticeship programming, which provides new career pathways for students. MHC will also offer Health Care Aide programming to MHPSD students in the fall (as well as Grasslands and Prairie Rose), providing them with high-demand career training. Most of the program will be done online with local opportunities for hand-on learning. This provides ways for high school students to accelerate entry into healthcare careers.
- We are looking forward to the accreditation report for the Social Work program, which is expected any day now.
- The Criminal Justice program will be launching the new curriculum in the fall.

- Targeted Enrollment Funding was received by government for the Practical Nurse program, which allowed for the addition of a new cohort.
- MRU Education Degree: we reviewed the collaborative agreement with MRU and they are very happy with the current arrangement. The auditors were pleased with the relationship model our Education faculty have with MRU faculty, as well as the Humanities & Social Sciences faculty who also teach in the program.
- A number of Trades instructors were invited to the Building Futures conference this year (AB Skilled Trades Instructors Conference) which was a great experience. It's rare for Trades instructors to be invited to conferences so it was great to see this year.
- A Scholar's Celebration was recently held in The Library to celebrate all of the research projects MHC staff and faculty were involved in this year. Research & scholarship awards were handed out for the first time, in the following 3 categories:
 - Disciplinary: projects inclusive of applied research.
 - Teaching & Learning: research in or for the classroom that is field-specific, uses new technologies, and/or develops original pedagogical techniques.
 - Scholarship: significant achievement in peer-reviewed scholarly activity.
- Enrollment is currently up 10% which is huge. There are a lot of contributing factors including strong international student growth year over year, as well as some new programs launching in the fall.
- This was also a very successful year in all Athletics programs.
- Continuing Studies: very active this year and a lot of great work done in developing new opportunities. The recent partnership with the Medicine Hat Tourism Association is huge and going forward, we will be providing all of their front-line staff with initial training.
- Other recent CS opportunities/partnerships involve training in welding for agriculture, as well as the Urban School/Agriculture Discovery Centre which allows students to become familiar with farm labor, etc.

Students:

- Elections were recently held, resulting in a great turnout with both council and executive members and there was some competition this year with the elections for the Executive Team.
- Shortly after covid, the SA found that student event engagement had decreased considerably, however; this year they noticed a lot more engagement and attendance at various events.
- 13 student clubs were registered by the end of the academic year. Students can start any sort of club on campus as long as they have 6 members to start. The Sport & Event Marketing & Management student clubs collaborated this year and were able to raise funds in order to provide a gaming system for the hospital.
- Lily and Nikita attended a conference in the fall during advocacy week which was a great experience; they were able to meet with provincial government representatives and had fantastic discussions.
- This year, the SA will have a budget surplus which will allow them to put additional supports toward scholarships.

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

- Kevin thanked everyone for all of the great work done at GAC this year. Have a great summer!
- Meeting adjourned at 11:16am.
- Next meeting: Fall 2024