



MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

General Academic Council

Minutes

March 31, 2025
10:00am – 12:00pm
Crowfoot/Teams

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: (S. Hansen)

"That the agenda of the General Academic Council meeting of March 31, 2025, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 20, 2025)

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

Motion: (K. Lavoie)

"That the minutes of the General Academic Council meeting of January 20, 2025, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

UPDATES

Administration Update

Academic Staff Update

Student Update

- Updates provided in agenda package; no questions raised during the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Board Motion

- The Draft Board Motion was tabled at the November 2024 GAC meeting and approved at the January 2025 meeting. Since then, Mark Kaethler reached out on behalf of the Faculty Association (FA), indicating that the Board Motion doesn't align with the FA's terms. The previous version stated that academic staff members will be nominated for a 1-year GAC term, but the FA nominates members for 2-year terms. The only changes made to the Board Motion at this time, is to reflect this alignment with the FA. If GAC approves, this will go forward to the Board of Governors at their next meeting.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That General Academic Council refers the proposed Draft Board Motion to the Board of Governors for approval, with changes as presented."

CARRIED

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- The 2025-26 academic calendar is now published. Thank you to the Curriculum Committee members for all the work done this year.

Data Analytics for Business Termination

- The Diploma in Data Analytics for Business was launched in 2022-23 as a result of the targeted enrolment expansion funding provided by government. As there was not sufficient uptake, The Diploma program was modified into a certificate, however; this did not increase interest. At this time, the recommendation is to terminate the certificate due to lack of student demand and no applications received.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That General Academic Council refers the proposed Data Analytics for Business Termination to the Board of Governors for approval."

CARRIED

BEET Program Name Change

- Approximately 8 years ago, the Computer Aided Drafting & Design (CADD) program was changed to Built Environment Engineering Technology (BEET). We've since seen challenges with this name, and it doesn't seem to resonate well, or identify what actually happens within the program.
- A key issue identified by stakeholders is that the name gets filtered out of HR search engines and students have indicated that the program was not readily identifiable in web searches they conducted when looking for postsecondary education, nor did they really understand what it means.
- Over the past two years significant analysis & consultation has taken place with stakeholders, students, industry, recruiters, etc. to discuss the most suitable program name.
- The new name, effective for the 2026-27 academic year, is Engineering Design & Architectural Technology. The Program Description has also been revised and shortened, using more approachable language, capturing key terms commonly used in industry, and using information directly from ALIS Alberta to specifically describe different technologist jobs and career opportunities.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That General Academic Council refers the proposed BEET program name change to the Board of Governors for approval." ***CARRIED***

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Extended Learning

- Christie Wilson provided a presentation on Extended Learning courses and programming offered. *(PPT attached for info)*

HONORARY APPLIED DEGREE NOMINATION

Motion: (K. Lavoie)

"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 2024-25 MHC Honorary Applied Degree". ***CARRIED***

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

- Next Meeting: May 26, 2025
- Meeting adjourned at 10:44am.



EXTENDED LEARNING

nimble. learner focused. connected



15 new courses

\$50,000 MHC investment

\$177,000 in increased revenue

*as at Jan 25 compared to Jan 24



Learning Pillars

We invest in the vibrancy of our communities by delivering courses through our learning pillars.

Employability and Entrepreneurship – supports a changing workforce

Workplace & Technology Upskilling – in demand digital abilities and skills

Industry and Organizational Leadership – addresses training challenges

Community Vitality and Wellbeing – healthy people, groups and communities

Employability and Entrepreneurship

Highlights:

New Agri-courses, career and workplace essentials courses

Enrollments increasing in management skills and workplace leadership

Pride Points:

Agri-business (12 students) & Basic Ag Welding

- **Enrollment strong**
- **Farm advisory relationship turns into advocates and students**
- **Validated market – farm families and employees, ag**

***Profit-based structure**



Workplace Tech and Upskilling

Highlights:

New and refreshed workplace technology courses

Brooks region market opportunity

Pride Point:

JBS Engagement

- **We work directly with their Learning and HR team members**
- **Exceeded training goals by 150%, making their plant the top educator**
- **Funding allocation from \$100,000 to \$300,000 for 2025.26 year**

***Profit-based structure**



Industry and Organizational Leadership

Highlights:

Bringing learning home – cornering the market in SE AB
Collaborating and engaging to build with not for
Police, Accommodation, HEO

Pride Point:

Police Training

- **Responsive, internal and external engagement**
- **Running strong – students are inspiring**
- **Model that works for MHC and partner**

***Profit-based structure + alignment to partner budgets**



Community Vitality and Wellbeing

Highlights:

Cluster in mental health and community resiliency forming
Internal engagement strong and shows the model can work

Pride Points:

- **Resilience in Death and Dying – 4 enrollments last term, now 9**
- **Resilience Coach – Internal and external partners that fund, align and validate, 24 students and waiting list**
- **Grasslands Public Schools – Welding and Fab training for rural JH students**

***Cost neutral and generates social capital**



Bringing learning home

Why it works

- Market driven
- Needs and region based
- Building programs together – joint effort – willingness on both sides
- **What we've learned:** the success goes far beyond our team – internally and externally

Pathways for students

Testing and exploring

- We can act as **testing ground** for academic programming
 - Ex. Agri-business – ag community sees learning relevance thru bite-sized practical
 - Validate assumptions, lower/risk cost – quick(er) market validation
- Exploring **non-credit to credit laddering** – helping students progress – step by step
 - Cool fact – students bundle to reach goals (Ag plus Credit)(CBookkeeping)
- We excited to work on course equivalency, learner path mapping and quality assurance activities
 - 2025.26 Priority

Future Milestones

On the horizon

- Collectively market products better
- Learner Pathways – let learner outcomes lead us to programming
- Brooks Campus - practical vocational training opportunities



Thank you!

- People, advocacy, opportunity supports and financial investment much appreciated and makes the difference!