



MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE General Academic Council

Minutes

May 26, 2025
10:00am – 12:00pm
Crowfoot Room/Teams

CALL TO ORDER

- As Kevin Shufflebotham was not able to join the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Nancy Brown opened the meeting at 10:03am and acted as Chair in Kevin's absence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That the agenda of the General Academic Council meeting of May 26, 2025, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 31, 2025)

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

Motion: (S. Henderson)

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

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE ACADEMIC STAFF UPDATE STUDENT UPDATE

- All updates included in agenda package; no questions raised during meeting.
- Roundtable introductions were done, as this is the first GAC meeting for the new Students' Association Executive Committee members.

HONORARY APPLIED DEGREE POLICY

- The Policy was up for its 5-year scheduled review. The main change is the addition of 4.4 which refers to revoking the Honorary Applied Degree. Other revisions were minor wording changes.

Motion: (M. Blair)

"That General Academic Council recommends the Honorary Applied Degree Policy to the Executive Committee for approval."

CARRIED

HONORARY APPLIED DEGREE PROCEDURE

- Only minor wording & format changes made, no change to content.

Motion: (H. Orr)

"That General Academic Council recommends the Honorary Applied Degree Procedure to the Executive Committee for approval."

CARRIED

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- Provided for information.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Agri-Business Certificate Proposal

- This proposal came out of partnerships & relationship building with the farming community in the region. Both the certificate and diploma are tailored to high school graduates, preparing them to tackle the challenges and opportunities in the rapidly evolving agribusiness sector.

- This Program blends theory and hands-on learning and equips students with an introduction to agricultural practices and business principles, prepping them for careers in the agri-business landscape.
- Students who successfully complete the Agri-Business Certificate will be eligible for entry into the second year of the Agribusiness Diploma.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

“That General Academic Council refers the proposed Agri-Business Certificate to the Board of Governors for approval.”

CARRIED

Agri-Business Diploma Proposal

- Both the certificate and diploma are being proposed for fall 2026 implementation.
- The Diploma Program provides students with a comprehensive foundation in both agricultural practices and business principles. Whether the students’ goal is to manage a farm/ranch, work in agri-food production, marketing, sales, service, this Diploma will prepare them for success.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

“That General Academic Council refers the proposed Agri-Business Diploma to the Board of Governors for approval.”

CARRIED

ELCC Name Change

- This name change provides a greater focus on the education portion of the program and allows for more consistency in provincial legislation and certification.
- The change will also aid those searching for early childhood education programs, as it aligns better with other institutions in Alberta and is more prevalent across Canada.
- The change will be effective September 1, 2026.

Motion: (S. Henderson)

“That General Academic Council refers the proposed name change from “Early Learning & Child Care” to “Early Childhood Education”, to the Board of Governors for approval.”

CARRIED

DISCUSSION TOPIC: 2024-25 Good News Stories/Updates/Accomplishments

- **Sandy Henderson**
 - This year, we’ve seen the highest enrolment #'s in the last 10 years which is a testament to all the good work happening.
 - 500 students will be crossing the stage at convocation this year; the highest number of grads we’ve had; will be a great celebration.
 - Athletics has seen success in Futsal this year (indoor, fast-paced game similar to soccer with a smaller ball). Our men’s team won gold at provincials and the women received the bronze medal, making it the first time MHC has won in the last 10 -15 years.
- **Hadija Drummond**
 - We’ve had the strongest enrolment with the highest # of international students this past year and will have the most international students graduate that we’ve ever had.
 - Pilot program funding students going abroad; 10 students travelled abroad this year, and it was a great success.
- **Haven Orr**
 - The disc-golf ribbon cutting was held last week; we’ve already seen a lot of people out utilizing the course which is great.
- **Morgan Blair**
 - Business students won 2nd place in their case competition. A lot of work went into training and getting the students ready to compete – a big thank you to Miranda Davies & Dillon Batsel for the mentorship they provide.
 - Students competed in a marketing competition in Calgary this year and was a success.

- Finishing the 1st year of Dual Credit Trades programming; the students and The School Districts are very happy with how it's been going and will be continuing this next year.
- **Peter Kelly**
 - We've seen some great interdepartmental collaboration between Carpentry (Mark Stock & Paul Schaan) and Art & Design (Jessica Plattner). They've been working together to have The Carpentry program utilize some of the Art & Design space for classes next year, as well as TRAD Dual Credit. Also working on sharing some of the equipment in the space. A big thank you to Jessica, Mark & Paul, as well as Clay's Team for assisting with this.
- **Kallie Lavoie**
 - We saw a large representation of Social Work students at the IGNITE event.
 - A lot of interdisciplinary collaboration on various initiatives with Social Work and Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as the Counselling Office.
 - We've been busy working on the development of the diploma program (BSW).
 - Kallie attended & spoke at an international conference this year. It was her first time doing so and it went very well. She's already received an invitation to return next year.
 - We've welcomed a new full-time person (Marina) who has been a wonderful addition to our team.
- **Clay Bos**
 - A lot of behind-the-scenes work has been happening with programming, etc. Kudos to the staff and faculty that have been busy securing program opportunities and doing a lot of great work.
 - Education/MRU: this is a very popular degree at MHC; known as The Premier Degree in AB and we will now be expanding to run 2 cohorts in the fall.
 - Jennifer Usher has done an extensive amount of work on the ELCC name change and the curriculum requirements, etc. Thank you to Jennifer on her incredible work.
 - The Kinesiology Diploma has been very successful, and we are seeing an increase in student numbers.
- **Candia Sissons**
 - Participates in a community volunteer tax program, which became an official club this year. Last year, prepared tax returns for community members and they increased the number of returns done this year (software provided by CRA). A couple of clinics were held at the Root Cellar which were not as well attended as last year so planning for more awareness and advertising next year. Also hoping to start working with the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter.
- **Michelle Banks**
 - Jennifer Usher was awarded the ACIFA Teaching Award this year.
 - Jessica Plattner was selected for an AB Foundation for the Arts, Artist Spotlight.
 - The Humanities & Social Sciences Program organized a student conference, showcasing H&SS Diploma/UT Arts students doing exceptional work in their classes. Seven students who are all moving onto universities next year, were asked to participate in a symposium. Four were actually able to participate and it was similar to a formal conference with presentations and papers presented. Hoping to continue this next year.
- **Jason Openo**
 - Yuill Foundation donation: \$5,000,000 for program enhancements & research, which will provide amazing opportunities for the College, and the School of Health & Community Services.
 - Pharmacy Technician lab space secured in the 13th Avenue Co-op Mall (Co-op's old pharmacy space)
 - A faculty & staff simulation steering committee has been created.
 - We are working with U of C on a research grant focusing on building capacity for faculty to conduct more research.

- Addictions Counselling will be starting in fall 2025; came out of targeted enrolment expansion funding for increased mental health programming.
 - Lyndsay McBride: received a grant to explore the preceptor experience in AB.
 - F156 construction starting soon; renovating the space as it was not conducive to learning.
 - New Chair of Nursing: Kate Squires
 - New Chair of Health: Kristal Lawson
- **Kate Squires**
 - Currently wrapping up the 1st year of the Targeted Enrolment Expansion funding initiative in the Practical Nurse program which has been a success. In January, we accepted our 2nd cohort.
- **Maria Solorzano**
 - Excited to begin this journey with the new Students' Association Executive Team. Grateful to be a part of the Team!
 - Margarita Fiesta was held last week and was a success with a lot more people attending than expected.
- **Dawson Yeoman**
 - Participates on the Events Committee. A big success this year was the Bingo After Dark event, but overall, we had a successful year of student events.
- **Wayne Resch**
 - This week is Wellness Week. This was created last year and was continued this year as we received a lot of positive feedback.
 - The Formal Awards Program was rolled out this year and 3 awards presented (Lorelei Boschman: Leadership, Kim Dirk: Achievement/Excellence, Loretto Mattioni: Outstanding Contribution).
 - MHC received a clean audit last year which is great news.
 - A lot of policy work currently happening.
 - Facilities Projects: F156 renovations. Also working on renovating the 13th Avenue Co-Op Mall Pharmacy space.
 - Grant funding received for parking lot upgrades taking place this summer and next year.
- **Colleen Whidden** *(not in attendance but provided some notes to be shared)*
 - It's been a busy and productive year for Teaching and Learning, with several exciting initiatives underway. One of the big accomplishments was launching a Program Quality Assurance process across all schools with Barb Mitchell at the helm.
 - We've also started exploring how to support the use of Generative AI in teaching and learning. Geoff Hamilton is working on researching Gen AI and what it means at MHC, sharing vetted resources, and beginning the process of shaping future policy to make sure we're using these tools wisely and effectively.
 - On the CITE side, we've continued to support faculty in using Blackboard. Also, course development for our new programs and dual credit trades offerings have been an exciting part of our work.
 - The library transformation is ongoing too—we're reimagining the space as a collaborative, hands-on learning hub that better supports today's students and learning styles. You will see new additions both in furniture, space usage, and resources.
 - Work on dual credit has also happened this year in order to strengthen our connection with local high schools. By working with an outside contractor, a solid dual credit framework that supports high-quality learning experiences and strong partnerships was developed and will guide upcoming dual credit offerings.

- Supporting instructors remains a top priority. Our New Instructor Mentorship Workshop has been running all year, along with Active and Experiential Learning, Respondus, and Geekapalooza sessions for all instructors to engage with creative, student-focused teaching strategies.
- Overall, it's been a year of growth, collaboration, and laying the groundwork for even more innovation ahead.
- **Nancy Brown**
 - The 2nd Annual Scholars' Celebration was held on April 25. Faculty nominated each other for their research & scholarship work and awards were presented (Juan Aldana: Disciplinary Research Award, and Heather Gillespie: Scholarship Award).
 - \$63,000 allocated this year in PDSA funding.
 - In the VPA & Provost position, two events that I'm honored to participate as emcee for are The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (September 30) and Red Dress Day, in honor of missing and murdered Indigenous women (May 5). I encourage everyone to participate in these, and other important community events.

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

- Meeting adjourned at 10:54am.
- Next Meeting: TBD Fall 2025

Motion: (S. Henderson)

"That the May 26, 2025 General Academic Council meeting is adjourned."

CARRIED