
**Minutes of the 111th Council Meeting
26-27 May 2025
St. Mary's University, Calgary & Ambrose University, Calgary**

Council

Present: Moira McPherson (Co-Chair), Gayla Rogers (Co-Chair), Jaclyn Doherty, Christopher Hosgood, Amit Kumar, Erasmus Okine, Annie Prud'homme-Généreux, Arlette Zinck, Cynthia Zutter

Regrets Kevin McQuillan (Council), Allison Peters (Manager, Secretariat)

Secretariat Monte Kreuger (Executive Director, Program Innovation and Digital Transformation) – Day 1 (in-person); Day 2 – for agenda item 6 only (via videoconference), Paul Gaudette (Director, Program Oversight and Workforce Planning), Daniel Braun (System Quality Analyst), Alex Makar (System Quality Analyst), Alison Jeppesen (System Quality Analyst)

Guests St. Mary's University: Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President and Vice-Chancellor; John Deausy, Vice President, Finance and CFO; Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh, Vice-President, Academic – for agenda item 2 only (in-person).
Dr. Aoife MacNamara – for agenda item 4.1 only (via videoconference).
University of the Arts: Dr. Janis Goldie, President; Scott Powell, Vice-President Finance; Cherie Tutt, University Secretary; Carissa Matthews, Director, Academic Resources; Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Dean of Students – for agenda item 4.2 only (via videoconference)
Ambrose University: Dr. Pam Nordstrom, Provost & Senior Vice President, Academic; Patricia Neufeldt, University Librarian; Dr. Kyle Jantzen, Dean of Arts and Science; Dr. Murray MacTavish, Dean of School of Business; Dr. Christy Thomas, Dean of School of Education; Dr. Kenneth Draper, Professor of History and Director of Planning and Assessment; Helen Thiessen, Executive Director, Enrolment Management & Registrar – for agenda item 5 only (in-person)
Shannon Marchand, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education – for agenda item 6 only (via videoconference)

26 May 2025 (Day 1)

Members were welcomed to the first day of the one-hundred and eleventh meeting of the Campus Alberta Quality Council on site at St. Mary's University in Calgary, Alberta.

1. Approval of the Agenda of the 111th Meeting of Council

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda of the 111th Meeting of Council (26-27 May 2025) be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

1.1 Approval of the Minutes – 5 March 2025 (109th Meeting) and 26 March 2025 (110th Meeting)

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the 109th Meeting of Council (5 March 2025) and the 110th Meeting of Council (26 March 2025) be adopted, as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Meeting with St. Mary's University (and Tour)

Council Co-Chair welcomed Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, President and Vice-Chancellor; John Deausy, Vice President, Finance and CFO, and Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh, Vice-President, Academic, St. Mary's University, Calgary, to the meeting.

St. Mary's University (StMU) is an Independent Academic Institution in Alberta offering Ministry-approved undergraduate and graduate degrees. In 2024-25, StMU underwent an Organizational Evaluation by Council to offer graduate-level programming as part of the application to offer the first graduate-level degree. Following the successful Organizational Evaluation and subsequent Program Evaluation, Council recommended approval of the proposed Master of Education (Catholic Leadership) to the Minister of Advanced Education (approved).

The President thanked Council for their careful work on the Master of Education (Catholic Leadership) program proposal which included both a program and a graduate-level organizational evaluation.

Council members and the St. Mary's University leadership team discussed the Organizational Evaluation and the extent of the work undertaken to meet expectations of graduate-level organizational standards ensuring the quality of graduate degrees offered at St. Mary's University.

Council thanked the President for presenting and providing insights into St. Mary's University, and for hosting Council on campus.

As part of their visit to St. Mary's University, Council members had an opportunity to tour the campus facilities.

3.1 Reports of the Co-Chairs and Secretariat

3.1.1 Quality Assurance Process Audits

Secretariat provided an update on the Quality Assurance Process Audits (QAPA). Athabasca University and the University of Alberta are scheduled for their cyclical audits in June 2025. The University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge will have their cyclical audits in Fall 2025 (dates TBD). MacEwan University and Mount Royal University will observe in preparation for their first cyclical audits. MacEwan will observe the University of Alberta's audit and Mount Royal will observe one of the audits in fall of 2025. Council discussed audit scheduling issues to avoid any potential conflicts with institutional academic calendars.

3.1.2 CAQC Code of Conduct

Changes to the CAQC Code of Conduct required by the Office of the Ethics Commissioner were presented and discussed. The changes include clarification of the roles of the Co-Chairs in the event of a Conflict of Interest. Following a discussion,

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the changes to the CAQC Code of Conduct be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3.1.3 Co-Chairs Letters to Minister of Advanced Education

The Co-Chairs presented on the practice of sending updates to the Minister following Council meetings. This has resulted in four letters to the Minister in 2024-25. Council endorsed the continuation of this practice moving forward.

3.2 Standing Committees – Reports from PRSC and MSC

3.2.1 Chair of PRSC presented an overview of the work undertaken by Council's Program Review Standing Committee. This work has focused on the review of Northwestern Polytechnic's Bachelor of Education (review of pre-implementation reporting for Elementary Education and continuing work on review of the application for Secondary Education specialization), The King's University's implementation of the Bachelor of Kinesiology and its proposal for an Expedited Evaluation of a Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy and Theology).

3.2.2 Chair of MSC provided an overview of the work undertaken by Council's Monitoring Standing Committee. This work has included the Organizational Evaluations of Aurora College, Keyano College, Portage College, and the Alberta College of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine, the first Comprehensive Evaluation of Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts), Cyclical Program Reviews of AUArts' Master of Fine Arts in Craft Media, Ambrose University's Business programs, and the University of Portland's Doctor of Education in Learning and Leading.

3.2.3 Accreditation Processes: in relation to Program Evaluations and the work of MSC and PRSC, Council discussed the process for reviewing programs that also have external accreditation bodies and the need for clarity between Council's role and accrediting bodies' roles.

3.3 Council Discussion and Preparation for Council Review

Executive Director of Program Innovation and Digital Transformation provided a brief overview of the upcoming review of Council under legislation. Council discussed the challenges in their work with system transformation related to degree offerings in Alberta and welcomed the opportunity to review processes and functions of Council.

3.4 Council Membership

The Co-Chairs requested that Council Members suggest new members. Council will have six vacancies in 2025-26.

4:30pm: Day 1 Adjourned

27 May 2025 (Day 2)

Members were welcomed to the second day of the one-hundred and eleventh meeting of the Campus Alberta Quality Council on site at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta.

4 Alberta University of the Arts – Comprehensive Evaluation

AUArts is undergoing their first Comprehensive Evaluation by Council. AUArts is approved to offer undergraduate and graduate degrees.

4.1 Dr. Aoife Mac Namara, Chair of the Review Team joins Council for Discussion

Dr. Mac Namara joined the meeting via videoconference to answer questions of clarification on the Review Team's report and AUArts response to it. At the end of the videoconference, Council's Co-Chair thanked Dr. Mac Namara for her insights into the process and the report.

4.2 Council Discussion with AUArts

Council welcomed the AUArts representatives to the meeting including Dr. Janis Goldie, President; Scott Powell, Vice-President Finance; Cherie Tutt, University Secretary; Carissa Matthews, Director, Academic Resources; Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Dean of Students. The discussion focused on AUArts' response to the Review Team's report and their action plan from the evaluation. At the end of the videoconference, Council's Co-Chair thanked AUArts for attending the meeting and their responsiveness to the Review Team's report.

4.3 AUArts Comprehensive Evaluation Outcomes

Following discussion of the Review Team's report and AUArts' repose,

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council confirm the continuation of approval of the existing baccalaureate and graduate programs at Alberta University of the Arts

- 4-year Bachelor of Fine Arts (Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery and Metals, Media Arts, Painting, Print Media, Sculpture)
- 4-year Bachelor of Fine Arts (Studio Art)
- 4-year Bachelor of Design (Photography, Visual Communication Design)
- Master of Fine Arts in Craft Media

CARRIED

Members AGREED to the expectations to be included in the letter to AUArts conveying the outcomes of the comprehensive evaluation.

5 Meeting with Ambrose University (and Tour)

Council Co-Chair welcomed Ambrose University's representatives to the meeting including Dr. Pam Nordstrom, Provost & Senior Vice President, Academic; Patricia Neufeldt, University Librarian; Dr. Kyle Jantzen, Dean of Arts and Science; Dr. Murray MacTavish, Dean of School of Business; Dr. Christy Thomas, Dean of School of Education; Dr. Kenneth Draper, Professor of History and Director of Planning and Assessment; Helen Thiessen, Executive Director, Enrolment Management

& Registrar. The discussion focused on the new draft CAQC Handbook and updates on degree programming at Ambrose. At the end of the discussion, Council's Co-Chair thanked Ambrose for their updates and hospitality. Council then toured Ambrose University.

6 Review of CAQC

Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand and Monte Kruger, Executive Director, Program Innovation and Digital Transformation, joined the meeting virtually to discuss the upcoming review of CAQC under APAGA legislation. This review will be conducted by an external contractor with the results available in September 2025. The contractor will engage stakeholders including Council members and representatives of Alberta's Post-Secondary Institutions, who have been informed of the review.

Deputy Minister affirmed the Ministry's commitment to the pan-Canadian standards for degrees (Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework) and noted that the CAQC review will support two primary goals: 1) meeting the vision of Alberta 2030 and 2) maintaining quality standards for degree programs.

Council Co-Chairs welcomed the review and affirmed Council's commitment to engaging with the contractor fully. They thanked the Deputy Minister for attending the meeting.

7 CAQC Handbooks

Secretariat provided an overview of the feedback from Alberta Post-Secondary Institutions on the draft Handbooks and the resulting changes to them. After Council discussion of the changes,

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the CAQC Handbooks for Organizations and Degree Programs, along with all associated documents be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8 Future Meetings

Council discussed the fall 2025 meeting. This meeting is scheduled for October 30-31, 2025, and will take place at one of the institutions (location TBD). This meeting will involve review of the results of the APAGA review.

Council will call ad hoc meetings in June – August 2025 as required by the work of Council or the APAGA review. Following consultation with Council members, Secretariat will schedule other virtual Council meetings for 2025-26 (December, February, March, and April) and an in-person spring meeting in May 2026.

9 Debrief and Adjournment

Council debriefed on the format of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.