

# Olds College Academic Council

## AGENDA



THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

Meeting 5:15 pm

Location: WATC 301/302

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	OCFA REPS	SAOC REPS	BOARD REPS
<b>Members:</b>	Andrea Mix Robert Spencer Dan Karran Laura Mills Mark Fournier Keith Friedlander	Sukhpreet Singh Jatinder Attwal Rachel Chater Brooklyn Niznik Sukhwinder Singh	Dennis Beaudoin Dalin Bullock Lori Kemp Tanya McDonald Jay Steeves Paul Blankestijn - <b>voting on behalf of D. Thompson</b> Nicole Zukiwsky (alt)
<b>Chair:</b>	Sukhpreet Singh	<b>Recorder:</b>	Bronwyn Petersen
<b>Regrets:</b>	Dan Reaman, David Prins (alt), David Johnson (alt), Kyle Puchala (alt), Whitney Moore (alt), Simranpreet Kaur, Daniel Schafer, Debbie Thompson		

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### CALL TO ORDER

S.Singh called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion AC031226.1 by B.Niznik to approve the agenda as presented*

**CARRIED**

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE [FEBRUARY 12, 2026](#) MINUTES

*Motion AC031226.2 by N.Zukiwsky to approve the February 12th meeting minutes as presented*

**CARRIED**

#### 3. NEW BUSINESS - CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW REVISIONS

3.1. Third and final reading of the revised [Academic Council Constitution and By-Laws](#) (A.Mix)

*Motion AC031226.3 by A.Mix to approve the Academic Council Constitution and By-laws third and final reading as presented*

**CARRIED**

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS - CURRICULUM APPROVAL

**Please note** - In the proposals attached:

- The items that require Academic Council approval are highlighted in yellow.
- The items that are for FIO only are highlighted in green.

- You are welcome to reach out to the individual dean if you have any questions
- These items are not included in the Academic Council discussion

#### 4.1. School of Life Science & Business (*T.McDonald*)

##### 4.1.1. [New Program: ITANLYST - Information Technology Analyst](#)

- This proposal resulted in a tie at the previous Academic Council, which was a defeated vote.
- This vote indicated that more consultation and clarity was needed among Academic Council members.
- The proposed Information Technology Analyst Diploma prepares students for entry-level IT roles across sectors by focusing on systems and hardware fundamentals, including networking, database environments, and cloud computing.
- The program strengthens Olds College's presence in the technology sector. As technology continues to advance, the demand for IT professionals who can support these systems across sectors, including agriculture, will continue to grow.
- The proposed diploma is intended as a foundational IT program that is not exclusively focused on agriculture. While the learning outcomes apply broadly to any industry utilizing technology, their applicability to agriculture ensures the program fits our institutional focus. This broad approach is also intended to improve enrolment success.

***Motion AC031226.4 by T.McDonald to approve the New Program: TANLYST - Information Technology Analyst to move forward to the Board of Governors as presented*** ***Carried***

#### 4.2. Werklund School of Agriculture Technology (*J.Steeves*)

##### 4.2.1. [New Course - MDL 1010 - Introduction to Digital Video Storytelling](#)

- This is a new course in the Agriculture Communications Certificate program. This course was designed by drawing on competencies from two courses previously offered in the program: MDL 1040 and MDL 1050, and restructuring the competency statements to ensure the content provides students with a foundational level of knowledge and skills.
- This course better aligns with the credential standards of a certificate program, and the skills graduates are expected to demonstrate upon completion of the program.

***Motion AC031226.5 by J.Steeves to approve the New Course - MDL 1010 - Introduction to Digital Video Storytelling as presented*** ***CARRIED***

##### 4.2.2. [New Course - MDL 1060 - Professional Voice and Public Communication](#)

- The original courses MDL 1040 - Composition and Writing Skills in Business, Journalism and Marketing and MDL 1030 - Developing Your Professional Voice in Media and Business have been integrated to reflect contemporary industry expectations. Agriculture and industry professionals are now required to communicate effectively contemporary industry expectations. Agricultural and industry professionals are now required to communicate effectively across written, spoken and digital environments using a consistent and authentic professional voice.

- **Friendly amendment:** on the second course, it is supposed to state COM 1030, not MDL 1030.
- This new course emphasizes the development of a unified professional communication skillset that includes writing, public speaking, media interaction, listening and ethical communication practices. By integrating these previously separate course competencies, students will develop a coherent communication identity and the ability to adapt messages across multiple formats and audiences. This approach reduces redundancy, strengthens applied learning and better reflects real-world communication demands in agriculture and related industries.

***Motion AC031226.6 by J.Steeves to approve the New Course - MDL 1060 - Professional Voice and Public Communication as amended***

**CARRIED**

**4.2.3. [COM 1520 - Public Relations, Issues Management, and Crisis Communications](#)**

- The proposal changes are to indicate that this course is a “course-based community engagement project” as stipulated in College Policy A21 Work Integrated Learning Procedure.
- COM 1520 is a good fit for Work Integrated Learning due to an already existing course model that encourages simulation of public relations and crisis scenarios based on real or hypothetical crises in agriculture. Especially relevant in the project component of the course, the mock scenario (which is detailed in the course description: students “will analyze past crises in agriculture and apply public relations, issues management, and crisis communications strategies to ethical development and implement a crisis communications plan for a mock scenario.”
- Industry partners could be brought in to assist with roleplaying in media or stakeholders during the final mock scenario, which is essentially a media scrum in which students need to answer hard questions.
- This would allow students to get immediate feedback from people who work in industry as well as allowing industry partners to identify students who may possess the key soft skills needed to be successful in agricultural communications.

***Motion AC031226.7 by J.Steeves to approve the revisions to COM 1520 - Public Relations, Issues Management, and Crisis Communications as presented***

**CARRIED**

**5. STATUS UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

- 5.1.** New Program - AIT Electrician Apprenticeship - approved by BoG, pending AIT approval

**6. [NEXT MEETING](#)**

**Date:** April 9, 2026

**Meeting time:** 5:15 pm

**Location:** TBD

**Deadline for agenda item submission is **March 26**; the Quali workflow must be completed by that date.**

**S.Singh adjourns meeting at 5:53pm**

**Links & Documents**

[Academic Council Website](#)

[Curriculum Change Process and Approvals](#)