NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
EDUCATION COUNCIL
Meeting of June 24, 2026
Dawson Creek Regional Boardroom
Fort St John Room 1810
Microsoft Teams

Participants:
Sylvia Fraser (Faculty) *Chair
Rod Cork (Administration)
Cary Di Pietro (Administration)
Tara Hyland-Russell (Administration)
Robyn Mallia (Staff)
Colleen Matheson (Faculty)
Stephen M. Osoro (Student)
Faisal Rashid (Faculty)
Marissa Thola (Faculty)
Jash P. Viradiya (Student)
Audra Holloway (Recording)

Absent:	Todd Bondaroff	Rob-Roy Douglas	Karen Bravo	Salli Carter
	Brandon Mackinnon	Skyler Dayus	Marcie Lundin	Coline Casey
	Paola Rodriguez	Stephanie Goudie	Jashanpreet Singh	

Guest(s): Issoufou Soumaila

Territorial Acknowledgement:
Northern Lights College serves the communities of Northern British Columbia that are located on the territories of the Tsaa Che Ne Dene, Dene-Zaa, Saulteau, Tse'khene, Tlinget, Tahltan and Kaska Dena. We also acknowledge the Cree and the Metis for their guardianship of the land on which we live, work and play. We acknowledge our hosts and honour their gracious welcome to those seeking knowledge.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adopted as amended.
Agenda Item #7 (Draft Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures) added.

2. Adoption of Minutes, May 27, 2026

26.06.01 M/S –CORK/RASHID
Motion: *THAT the minutes of May 27, 2026 be adopted as circulated.*

CARRIED

3. Action List – reviewed.

Decision Item(s)
Education Council exclusive authority:

4. Business Management Diploma and Accounting Diploma Guides

I. Soumaila presented the submission:

Update the elective course lists for the Business Management Diploma and Accounting Diploma programs by replacing discontinued courses with their approved replacements and adding newly approved courses.

26.06.02 M/S –MALLIA/THOLA

Motion: *THAT the Education Council approves the revised Program Completion Guides for Business Management Diploma and Accounting Diploma, effective September 2026 as presented.*

CARRIED

5. PDD-IT Guide

I. Soumaila presented the submission:

There was an error in Semester Three of the course schedule in the Program Completion Guide. The number of required Electives should be 3 (135 hours), not 2. A new course, ITEC 100 had also been added to the Closed Electives list, as it would be offered for the first time in 2026/7.

26.06.03 M/S –CORK/RASHID

Motion: *THAT the Education Council approves the revised Program Completion Guide for the Post Degree Diploma in Information Technology Management, effective September 2026 as presented.*

CARRIED

6. Education Council Bylaws Update

A. Holloway explained that the wording update from the May 25th Education Council meeting had been completed. (page 8)

4.1 Meeting Schedule

The Council is normally scheduled to meet ~~regularly on the fourth Wednesday of the~~ once a month~~, during the afternoon~~. There are no meetings scheduled for July, August or December.

Other meeting times are at the call of the Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair.

A. Holloway presented the possible Meeting Dates and Times to the committee. Decision by committee to have possible dates/times emailed to members with a response deadline of July 9th to allow for September 2026 to June 2027 booking.

26.06.04 M/S –RASHID/MALLIA

Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the revised Education Council Bylaws, effective September 1, 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

7. Draft Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures

T. Hyland-Russell explained to the committee that the Draft Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures would be having a final review at the Educational Policies committee meeting on June 26th. To allow the policy to be in place for September 2026, she asked Education Council members if the submission could go to members as an Email motion/vote. Decision by Education Council members to have the submission go to an email motion/vote.

Standing Reports

9. Vice-President Academics & Research

T. Hyland-Russell submitted her report:

Staffing Updates

We are pleased to announce a number of staffing and organisational updates that reflect and support the growth and stability of programming across NLC.

University Arts & Sciences, Upgrading, and Education formerly University Arts & Sciences (UNAS)

Cary DiPietro is the new Dean, Academics, to lead the division.

Health Sciences and Human Services (HSHS)

Dennis Stavrou is the new Associate Dean, Health Sciences and Human Services and Quality Assurance (QA)

- The .5 QA role is for the whole College, not just HSHS and includes supervising the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the Education Technologist Specialist

The following Human Services programs have been moved from University Arts & Sciences, Upgrading, and Education to Health Sciences and Human Services:

- **Social Services Worker Diploma**
- **Indigenous Human Service Worker Certificate**
- **Interprofessional Mental Heath & Addictions Advanced Certificate**

A Chair, Applied Health, position has been created to support these programs

Workforce Training & Continuing Education

Chante Patterson-Elden, Dean WTCE, retired June 12th. A search is underway to fill the role, supported by Leaders International. Until a new Dean is in place, Stefanie Chymko is the Acting Dean WTCE

Strategic Initiatives Updates

3.2 Increase access to learning and education opportunities for Indigenous students

OBJ 1 Work in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations to offer access to learning

WTCE is strengthening partnerships with Indigenous communities through collaborative, hands-on programming. In partnership with Shell Canada, WTCE will deliver a **Mobile Summer Camp** from August 24–28, featuring a three-day carpentry camp for Grade 8–12 students. The camp will be hosted at **Saulteau First Nations** and will include participants from both Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nation Youth, supporting early exposure to skilled trades and career pathways. This initiative is made possible through industry support from Bannister GM and ConocoPhillips, whose contributions to the Mobile Carpentry Truck and Trailer enable training to be delivered directly within communities. This work reflects WTCE's commitment to accessible, community-based learning and meaningful engagement with Indigenous youth

4.3 Cultivate an organization where everyone feels they belong

OBJ 1 Improve the employee journey

Health Sciences and Human Services submitted a proposal to the Ministry and received funding for a **Health Sciences Mentor program** x 2 years (2026 – 2028) to
strengthen recruitment, onboarding, and retention of nursing faculty in rural and northern contexts through structured mentorship and targeted teaching environment.

5.1 Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with the communities NLC serves

OBJ 1 Collaborate with community partners on projects that support our region

The YMCA has reached out about an exclusive WIL infant toddler ECE cohort for their employees who have registry certification, but not a diploma or Infant Toddler designation. Their focus is especially on rural and remote communities. The agreement will be signed shortly.

Events

- attended all the NLC convocations and represented NLC at the University of Northern British Columbia's Fort St. John convocation. While in Fort Nelson June 16-18 for the NLC convocation, I participated in the Board's Ownershiplink community consultations and met with SD81 to discuss expanded dual credit opportunities.

May 25th: was part of the NLC delegation to Tumbler Ridge Mayor and Council and provided an overview of current programming and the plans for the new Access Centre in Tumbler Ridge. The Access Centre is currently being renovated. There will be an official opening in the fall. Mayor and Council and community members are grateful that NLC will remain located in Tumbler Ridge and supporting in person access and distance learning.

10. Board of Governors – no report

11. Education Council Chair

S. Fraser submitted her report:

Board of Governors Meeting May 20, 2026

Items discussed are as follows:

- **Sexual Violence and Misconduct Annual Report**
  * The policy is reviewed every 3 years
  * Students have had many information sessions during new term orientations, workshops, and training options throughout the academic year.
  * NLC has experienced very limited complaints in this area from our student body.
- **Board Budget**
  * The budget for the Board us under ($30K) then what was originally forecast.
- **Ownership Linkage Committee**
  * The Community Engagement sessions (originally planned for February) will be happening in Fort Nelson on June 17 &18.
  * There will be Community Engagements planned for October.
- **President's Report**
  * NLC is the 2025-2026 Canadian College Rodeo Association National Varsity Champions.
  * NLC is actively recruiting for both the Rodeo and Speedskating teams for Fall 2026.
  * The Cultural Arbor is under construction and will be completed in Fall 2026.
  * NLC FSJ Campus is starting phase 2 of construction.
  * NLC has hired a consultant to review the college's Emergency Response Plan—to ensure the continued safety of staff and students on our campuses.
  * NLC Awards Gala will be held on May 7 in DC.
  * NLC World Café events will be held on June 8 (FSJ) and June 9 (DC) and online for all employees to participate.
  * The 'Term 2' offering of ABT, Administrative Assistant program is happening in Fort Nelson and will complete in June 2026.
  * Carpentry and Automotive Service Technician apprentice training was held in DC and FSJ.
- **Board Chair Report**
  * Jennifer will be the Chair of the BC College Chairs group.
  * The current Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills of BC will be taking a maternity leave, and Minister Lisa Beare will be covering this position.

* The student representatives for the Board have completed their studies; therefore, will no longer serve on the Board. No elections will be held to fill the seats until Fall 2026.

- **Program items discussed were:**
  * Expand the trades training space on the Fort St John Campus. This will include new automotive and heavy-duty labs.
  * A review of the electrical labs will also be conducted and assessed for potential relocation. • Transfer Programs Held off Campus o Heavy Duty Mechanical, Auto Service Technician, Esthetics and Hairdressing are currently delivered off campus at the South Peace Campus (High School) in Dawson Creek. NOTE: A priority for NLC is to create space on the Dawson Creek campus for these programs. The Heavy Duty Mechanical shop is ready to begin shortly.
- **Additional Items of Interest**
  * CICan Conference was attended by Board members (Sarah Canning and Misty Waldorf) and NLC representatives Todd Bondaroff, Tara Hyland-Russel, Kathleen Lewis and Holly Larden—NLC participated in two presentations and was mentioned during the conference four times by keynote speakers. An item of interest which came up at the conference was possible opportunities to expand on training possibilities with regards to the current relationship NLC has with the Canadian Armed Forces.
  * A new Recreation Fee was approved—a fee of $100 per student, per term will be mandatory for Fall 2026. This will allow student to access items such as swimming passes, discounted gym memberships, etc.. based on student feed back sessions and input provided from information sessions held this past year.
- **Education Plan:** completed and the final copy was presented
- Next Board meeting will be held August 12, 2026 in Dawson Creek

Convocation Events

- I attended the convocation ceremonies for DC (May 28), FSJ (June 4), FN (June 17).

World Café Event, June 8, 2026

On June 8 (FSJ) and June 9 (DC) campuses held the World Café Events—I attended the June 8 session. There was a good turnout of both staff, leadership, and faculty. It was a good opportunity to continue to build on the previous sessions and see the progress NLC is making as we move forward into the upcoming Fall 2026 academic year and the next strategic plan. Overall, the day was quite positive and everyone felt 'heard'.

12. Education Policy Committee

A. Holloway reported that the committee met on May 22nd to review the Educational policies on the Action List. They will meet next on June 26th to hopefully finalize the Academic Integrity draft. (see Agenda Item #7)

13. Curriculum Committee

A. Holloway reported that the committee met on June 5th to review items for the meeting. The group meets next in September.

14. Admissions and Standards Committee

A. Holloway reported that the group would not be meeting in June and that the committee meets next in September.

Information/Discussion

16. Education Council Survey

S. Fraser explained that she created a few questions to hold an informal survey for EDCO members, as a 'year-end' piece to help bring forward some feedback from members and include their voices as we continue to grow and shape how EDCO moves into the new academic year.

The questions are similar to those utilized for the BOG survey completed this past spring. These are open questions, not just 'yes/no' so that individual thoughts and input can be explained. This will go out to members in an Email.

Notes:

- Welcome to new member: Dean Cary Di Pietro.
- T. Hyland noted that it would be S. Fraser's last meeting as Chair. She thanked Sylvia for her kind and generous leadership and for bringing governance training and for clarifying processes throughout her time as Chair.

Adjournment – 1:57 p.m.

Next Meeting – TBD

These notes are not officially approved until initialed by the Chairperson. They could be subject to amendment.