



POLICY 9.12

POSITION POLICY

Course and Program Development and Maintenance

POLICY INTENT

To outline the position of AUSU regarding the need for continual course and program development and review.

POLICY RESEARCH

A robust academic environment requires continual course and program review and development. New courses and programs, such as interdisciplinary cross-faculty undergraduate program credentials, will help to attract new students to Athabasca University (AU) and will provide additional value and flexibility for current students. Additionally, up-to-date course content will help to ensure that students receive the best education possible. This includes material that is relevant to students' future careers, as well as material that is inclusive, accessible, and representative of equity-seeking students. In recognition of this, the university has undergone a course and program review and has implemented program review requirements in conjunction with university resource planning. While students appreciate this work, there needs to be a continuation that ensures that courses are regularly and uniformly reviewed across all faculties, in a timely manner.

Some courses are required for programs at AU but are consistently under review when students try to enroll in them. Some of these courses are core program requirements, and they may be under revision for years. AU must develop a strategy to ensure that all courses are reviewed, especially courses that are required for a program.

AU is embarking on a course review process as part of their development of a new Integrated Learning Environment (ILE), as per the Learning Framework. When these programs and courses are reviewed, the university must ensure that there is a breadth of course and program offerings to choose from. Athabasca University should also consider the pacing of all courses and ensure they are paced appropriately for those enrolled in three credit (four months for funded students and six months for self-funded students) or six credit (eight months for funded students and 12 months for self-funded students) course contract periods. Further, AU needs to ensure that their own standards are met when it comes to course hours, ensuring that all courses that are awarded three credits remain within their standard of 45 teaching hours. AU should also look into possibilities for embedded certificates and similar opportunities as demand for such learning pathways is increasing among learners.

Be it resolved that the Athabasca University Students' Union will advocate that Athabasca University maintain a wide range of courses across all faculties, including embedded certificates and similar opportunities, and that a review process be developed so that every course is regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

Be it further resolved that the Athabasca University Students' Union calls on Athabasca University to do audits of their course content, ensuring courses that go over the 45 teaching hours to complete have the appropriate amount of credits applied to them.