



August 24, 2020

Ms. Nancy Laird  
Chair, Board of Governors  
Athabasca University

**Re: Proposed Athabasca University Designation Policy**

Dear Ms. Laird,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Academic Staff at the University of Alberta (AASUA) to express our deep concern about the new designation policy currently being considered by Athabasca University's Board of Governors. This policy would de-designate a majority of current members from the Athabasca University Faculty Association (AUFA) despite their expressed and overwhelming desire to remain part of the union.

We at AASUA consider this policy, and the accompanying lack of meaningful consultation with AUFA, to constitute an attack on the union and its members. We stand in solidarity with AUFA and encourage you and the Board of Governors to reject this anti-labour policy.

Should the proposed de-designation go forward we will be advising our members no longer to recommend Athabasca University to their students as a place to go for credits as visiting students, pointing out instead that other institutions, like Thomson Rivers University, might be a more suitable venue.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Acuña  
President, AASUA