

Ms. Nancy Lair  
Chair of the Board of Governors  
Athabasca University  
Office of the University Secretariat  
#1 University Drive  
Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3  
Fax: 780.675.6450

August 27, 2020

**Re: Proposed Athabasca University De-Designation Policy**

Dear Ms. Nancy Lair,

On behalf of the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association (ULFA), I am writing to express our concern about the proposed new designation policy currently being considered by Athabasca University Board of Governors.

We understand both that the University management is refusing to confirm which job categories are affected by this proposal and that some indications are that as many as 62% of the members of the Athabasca University Faculty Association (AUFA) could be de-designated despite their overwhelming desire to remain a part of it.

It is remarkably irresponsible to propose and “consult” on such a significant policy change without specifying which employee groups will be affected. But by any measure, this policy could significantly diminish the bargaining power of AUFA and undermine the collective voices of the university’s employees. We see this move, and the University’s apparent lack of meaningful consultation with AUFA, as anti-labor. We stand in solidarity with AUFA and request that the Board of Governors reject this anti-labour policy.

Should the proposed de-designation go forward, we will be advising our members to recommend Thompson Rivers University and similar institutions over Athabasca University as the most appropriate venue for students to complete credits as visiting students. These are universities that value their academic staff and understand that a quality academic staff is what makes a quality university. Our members will not assist in promoting a university that has lost sight of this fundamental and distinguishing feature.

Sincerely,



Claudia Steinke  
President  
University of Lethbridge Faculty Association