



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2011
3-15 University Hall
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Carl Amrhein (Chair), Renée Elio, Phyllis Clark, Rory Tighe, Roy Coulthard, Deanna Williamson, Ernie Ingles, Christina Rinaldi, Loren Kline, Bob Luth, Marc Arnal, Susan Barker, Nathan Andrews, Jessica Zvonkovic, Gerry Kendal, Fay Fletcher, Marion Haggarty-France, Garry Bodnar (Coordinator), Lindsey Hornland (Scribe)

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Verna Yiu, Interim Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Brad Hamdon, General Counsel
Clive Hickson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education
Dru Marshall, Deputy Provost
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Fern Snart, Dean, Faculty of Education

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of June 8, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of June 8, 2011.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair acknowledged and thanked Dr Loren Kline and Dr Bob Luth for their service and commitment to GFC APC for the length of their terms on the Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI): Proposed Strategic Direction for WCHRI

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Dru Marshall, Deputy Provost; Verna Yiu, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide clarification of the roles, responsibilities, and funding commitments of the parties participant in the existing Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) and related governance matters, as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Alberta Health Services, the Governors of the University of Alberta, the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation (SHF), and the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. (RAF). This MOU clarifies the respective roles of these parties in connection with WCHRI, an approved University of Alberta academic institute.

Discussion:

The Chair introduced the item, noting the history of WCHRI and the many changes it has undergone to arrive at its current form. Dr Marshall added to the discussion by noting the amount time that has been invested into the proposal (ie, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)) before members. Dr Yiu explained the importance of signing the document; mentioning the document's tie to the monies that will be provided by the relevant participating entities in ongoing financial support for the Institute.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments expressed by members concerning the following matters: the importance of support for WCHRI from Faculties other than the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; the ongoing review process of the Institute and future reviews; organization of the Advisory Committee and the members that would serve on this body; document confidentiality; and financial concerns should Alberta Health Services (AHS) funding not be received.

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed agreement renewal submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as set forth in the attached Memorandum of Understanding between Alberta Health Services, the Governors of the University of Alberta, the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation dated April 20, 2011, to take effect retroactively to May 1, 2006 through to April 30, 2016.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Education's Proposed First Year in the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Fern Snart, Dean, Faculty of Education; Clive Hickson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: The Faculty of Education is proposing a return of year one to the four-year Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree program. The primary reason for return of year one is to increase the pedagogical strength and comprehensiveness of our four-year undergraduate degree, and the secondary reason is to maintain and increase our recruitment success. Over the past several years, the inability to admit students directly into year one has become an impediment to recruitment in the Faculty, particularly

as more post-secondary institutions in Alberta gain teacher education programs. Students wanting a four year BEd express confusion about the path to admission; as transfer students, they can only apply to the Faculty following 24 to 60 transferable credits, and they then must pay an additional application fee. The Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta is one of the top research-intensive Faculties of Education in Canada, and its professors consistently achieve success and acknowledgement through awards in both research and teaching. The University's BEd program is currently the largest in Canada, including after-degree and combined degree options in addition to the four-year degree. The proposers feel strongly that this program will maintain its prominence in terms of attracting students, but they have concerns about their ability to continue to recruit quality students to a 1+3 program. The Faculty of Education has seen a concerning drop in applicant numbers to the 1+3 route.

Discussion:

Dr Snart introduced the item, noting pedagogy and program improvements as key reasons for the proposed program change. She clarified that the two-year BEd after-degree program would remain unaffected. Dr Snart gave great detail about the proposed program changes including: the positive effects the change would have on advisors in the Faculty of Education; recognition of the support from the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards for the proposal and for changes to the admissions process for BEd students; and the ability for students to take Education-specific introductory courses immediately upon starting their degrees.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments expressed by members concerning the following matters: acknowledgment of the support given for this proposal by many of the other Faculties at the University; expected enrolment and job opportunities for Education students over the next five years; the ability for students to have flexibility within their degree programs; and how the changes will not affect the range of combined degree programs as well as the IPT and APT.

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed introduction of a first year for the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Education and as set out in the Outline of Issue and in Attachment 1, to take effect in 2012-13.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Revised Membership of the Faculty's Virtual Schools

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Verna Yiu, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide members of GFC APC with information on the recent changes made to the "Virtual" School membership in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Discussion:

The Chair introduced the item, noting there have not been any changes to the authority of the school structure; instead, the changes presented are organizational in nature. Dr Yiu outlined for members the changes of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's school structure and noted the re-grouping was made in

an effort to increase communications and community engagement amongst the Faculty.

Clarification was sought on the difference between Schools and Centres in the Faculty, which Dr Yiu addressed to the members' satisfaction.

The Chair recommended members consider this matter in a formal manner by considering a Motion to approve the proposal before them. Members and Dr Yiu concurred with this recommendation.

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed reorganization of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's 'virtual Schools', as submitted by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in the material before members, to take effect immediately.

CARRIED

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items to date.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.