



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 2012  
3-15, UHALL  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Rory Tighe	President, Students' Union
Roy Coulthard	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Ernie Ingles	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Keith McKinnon	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Marc Arnal	Dean
Susan Barker	Department Chair at-large
Nathan Andrews	Graduate Student-at-large
Jessica Zvonkovic	Undergraduate Student-at-large

#### Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Murray Gray	Vice-Provost (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research)

#### Presenters:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Ken Cadien	Graduate Coordinator, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering
Fraser Forbes	Chair, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering
Deborah Gougeon	Assistant Registrar (National Admissions), Office of the Registrar
Hani Henein	Professor, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering
Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Harry Prest	Associate Dean (Academic Programs), Augustana Faculty
Wayne Renke	Professor, Faculty of Law
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Fern Snart	Dean, Faculty of Education

Staff:

Garry Bodnar                      Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee  
Marion Haggarty-France        University Secretary  
Emily Paulsen                      Scribe, GFC Academic Planning Committee

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Arnal/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.	<b>CARRIED</b>
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2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 14, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rinaldi/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of March 14, 2012.	<b>CARRIED</b>
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3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Augustana Faculty's Proposed Termination of Augustana University College (AUC) Three-Year Bachelor of Arts (BA) (General) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) (General) Degrees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Harry Prest, Associate Dean (Academic Programs), Augustana Faculty

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To terminate the existing three-year Augustana University College (AUC) Bachelor of Arts (General) and Bachelor of Science (General) degrees. As part of the official merger agreement between the University of Alberta and Augustana University College (AUC), dated July 1, 2004, all baccalaureate degree programs offered by AUC that were not approved by General Faculties Council (GFC) would be phased out over a period of seven years from the effective date of the agreement. The two degrees noted here were the only two programs that came under these criteria. As such, these programs were maintained for the possibility of student completion until June 30, 2011. Effectively, this meant that any student desiring to obtain one of these degrees was required to graduate no later than the Fall, 2011, University of Alberta Convocation ceremonies. Current enrollment is 0.

*Discussion:*

Dr Prest explained to members that as part of the merger with the University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty

would cease admitting new students into the three-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree programs after the 2004-2005 academic year. He noted that students registered in these programs were required to complete their degrees by the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. Dr Prest added that, to the knowledge of Augustana Faculty, all students registered had completed their respective programs.

There were no questions or comments.

Motion: Arnal/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the proposal submitted by Augustana Faculty for the termination of the existing three-year Augustana University College (AUC) Bachelor of Arts (General) and Bachelor of Science (General) degrees, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

5. University of Alberta (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Engineering) and Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL) Dual Degree Graduate Program Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Fraser Forbes, Chair, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering; Hani Henein, Professor, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering; Ken Cadien, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering; Wayne Renke, Professor, Faculty of Law

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering to offer a Dual Degree Graduate Program through an agreement with Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL); this serves to contribute to the internationalization of graduate degree programs in Engineering through collaboration with INPL and to recruit strong graduate students.

*Discussion:*

The presenters informed members that there are several excellent Materials and Chemical Engineering students who have visited the University of Alberta from INPL. The presenters explained that they wished to formalize this visit and offer the students the opportunity to earn a Master's degree from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering. It was noted that these would be exceptional students who would diversify the student body (few of whom are from Europe) and that, likely, a small number of them would stay at the University of Alberta to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: clarification that the students must meet all requirements of the University of Alberta; clarification as to whether or not the proposal technically speaks to a dual degree program since there will be no reference to INPL on the University of Alberta parchments; the long-term possibility of sending University of Alberta students to INPL; the added workload for the student due to INPL's requirement to present his/her thesis in both English and French; and clarification regarding the differences in French and Canadian undergraduate engineering programs.

Motion: Harrington /Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for a Dual Degree Graduate Program between the Faculty of Graduate Studies and

Research and the Faculty of Engineering, University of Alberta, and Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL), as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6. Office of the Registrar's Fall 2011 High School Early Final Admission (EFA) Pilot – Update and Recommendation to Terminate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Deborah Gougeon, Assistant Registrar (National Admissions), Office of the Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To present the Office of the Registrar's recommendation to terminate the High School Early Final (EFA) Admission Pilot based on results from the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 admission cycles. The Pilot, for applicants to Fall 2010 and Fall 2011, allowed for earlier final admission decisions to be made for high-achieving students with the goal of improving the conversion rate of top students from admitted to registered. The Office of the Registrar provided on this occasion a final report and recommendation for discussion.

#### *Discussion:*

Mr Kendal informed members that the High School Early Final (EFA) Admission Pilot adopted two-and-a half years ago as an attempt to capture high-end students was, after review, deemed as an untenable project. Ms Gougeon further explained that the Pilot was limited to students within Alberta, most of who communicated that they already had had the intention of attending the University of Alberta. Several other problems with the Pilot were noted such as the confusing terminology ('early admission' versus 'early final admission'), access to final high school transcripts to support students' applications, and the very small number of students in the Pilot.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: concern that the University of Alberta is held back from confirming final admission for its applicants because of the Provincial Diploma exams; the possibility of reducing the required percentage for EFA in the Pilot from 90% to 85%; a possible discussion about this issue with the heads of the three largest Faculties; the possible repercussions from the University of Alberta no longer using as part of its admission processes the Diploma exam results; and the complicated diversity of admission requirements between Faculties.

### 7. Unit Reviews: Summary of the Administrative Unit Review Report for the Office of the Registrar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Though the review of Office of the Registrar is an administrative review, the unit's business directly impacts students and academic scholarship. For this reason, the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) chose to follow procedures set out in Academic Unit Review Guidelines, January 2007 (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~univhall/vp/vpa/AUR/AURGJan07.pdf>) for this review and, so, reports to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) on this completed unit review for information and discussion.

*Discussion:*

Dr Skidmore explained to members that the administrative review of the Office of the Registrar was performed by two external reviewers. The reviewers commented on the strength of the leadership in the Office, the collegiality, and the strong student focus. Mr Kendal added that he found the process to be valuable and noted that results from the review were already being seen.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: the specific rules behind the advising functions performed by the Office of the Registrar; the challenges that arise from reviewing complicated and large Faculties such as the Faculty of Arts; the over-complication of academic programming at the University of Alberta; the desire from students to have a centralized place for advisement; the role the Office of the Registrar currently plays and, in the future, could play in supporting graduate students; and the difficulty in connecting students to the appropriate available institutional resources.

8. Unit Reviews: Summary of the Academic Unit Review Report for the Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Fern Snart, Dean, Faculty of Education

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), following the procedures in Academic Unit Reviews Guidelines, January 2007 (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~univhall/vp/vpa/AUR/AURGJan07.pdf>), reports to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) on completed unit reviews for their information and discussion.

*Discussion:*

Dr Skidmore stated that the unit review for the Faculty of Education had identified, amongst other key elements, Dean Fern Snart's leadership as a central factor of the Faculty's success, the diversity of the Faculty, and its focus on students, both graduate and undergraduate. Dr Snart noted that the review team was surprised by the Faculty of Education's breadth and depth. She commented on several prestigious awards that faculty members have received and the positive focus of the Faculty's continuing efforts to both maintain and build upon its strengths.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: Dean Snart's current position as President of the Association of Canadian Deans of Education; concern that the unit review reports do not delve into the department level for more in-depth evaluations; and praise for the Faculty of Education for their mentorship and support of graduate students, including the Faculty's obvious concern with students' cultural and social needs.

9. The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and TUC Working Groups Draft Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Reporting to the President's Executive Committee-Strategic (PEC-S), the Umbrella Committee will provide oversight and coordination to the three working groups leading to the

preparation of a final report on options. The final report will outline strategies, plans, and recommendations that: provide greater flexibility to the academic community in support of their contributions to the University's cornerstone of learning, discovery, and citizenship; align models for the provision of benefits with the more flexible structures within the academic community; and lead to the delivery of administrative services in ways that provide greater flexibility to the academic community.

*Discussion:*

Dr Amrhein informed members that The Umbrella Committee (TUC) comprises a diverse membership, including representatives from the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) and the Association of Academic Staff - University of Alberta (AASUA). It was noted that one of the goals of TUC is to wade through a great deal of material to find the right set of reforms to increase efficiency at the University that would lead to a relief of budget pressures arising from costs that exceed the revenue forecast. It was noted that budget pressures have many negative effects, such as a shrinking employment base of the University.

During the ensuing discussion, the Chair addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to, the following: the nature of student representation on the Academic Activity Working Group; commentary on the fact that 72% of the academic staff of the University of Alberta have been hired since 2000; and the effect of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) on morale around campus.

10. Question Period

The Chair noted, for the information of members, that the GFC APC-approved Institute for Land Use Innovation (ILUI), supported financially by a prominent University donor who was concerned with prevailing views that Alberta land is a disposable commodity, had been moved from the Faculty of Science under the supervision of the Dean of Science to an interdisciplinary unit reporting to the Vice-President (Research). Dr Amrhein noted he had approved this move in reporting status; given that the strategic direction or structure of the ILUI was not changing in any major way, this move was viewed as administrative in nature and not deemed to be substantive. [A copy of the correspondence approving this revised reporting relationship, provided by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), has been placed on the official file for this meeting of GFC APC.]

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

11. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00p.m.