



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Room 2-31, South Academic Building
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Ashlyn Bernier	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Geeta Sehgal	NASA Member at-large
Marc Arnal	Dean, Campus Saint-Jean
Larry Prochner	Department Chair at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

Presenters:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Lory Laing	Interim Dean, School of Public Health
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

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

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Harrington/Arnal

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 27, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Williamson/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of June 27, 2012.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

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

4. Kick-off

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide new and continuing members of the GFC Academic Planning Committee with an annual orientation to the legislative and administrative framework in which this standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) will operate during the Academic Year 2012-2013.

Discussion:

Ms Haggarty-France welcomed members to the new academic year and provided a general overview of the orientation process undertaken by University Governance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Unit Reviews: Summary of the Academic Unit Review Report for the School of Public Health

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Lory Laing, Acting Dean, School of Public Health

Purpose of the Proposal:

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), following the procedures in *Academic Unit Reviews Guidelines, January 2007* (see <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 introduced the item to members, noting that unit reviews are conducted every five to seven years. These reviews often result in recommendations from an external committee with regard to the unit under review that are then brought to both GFC APC and to BLDC for discussion/information, all with the purpose of quality assessment. With respect to the unit review conducted for the School of Public Health, Dr Skidmore announced the results to be very laudatory, identifying strengths such as the faculty, the practicum opportunities, and the range and level of research. She also noted that the School had recently undergone accreditation, making it the first accredited School of Public Health in Canada.

Dr Laing continued, explaining that the unit review helped to identify elements for strategic planning for the future, which included enhancing student experiences, strengthening research, raising awareness about the School of Public Health, and improving its administrative structure. Dr Laing noted that, over the next four to six weeks, there will be sessions to analyze these strategies and to make them operational.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments, including, but not limited to, the following: opportunities for Teaching Assistant (TA) work that could include venues outside the School of Public Health; reference to both mandatory and optional professional development for faculty; exploring the potential for undergraduate courses to be offered by the School; and the healthy demand for the graduate programming that allows the School to select excellent students.

6. Information Session on the University Budget 2011/2012 Preliminary Forecast

There were no documents.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: To update members of the GFC Academic Planning Committee of the status of the budget.

Discussion:

Vice-President Clark began the discussion by explaining the composition of the University's Operating Budget, its Capital Budget, its Research Budget, and the institutional Ancillary Budget all of which, when combined, are collectively referred to as the Consolidated Budget. By Provincial law, the budget must be balanced or the University must seek dispensation from the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), as it did last year, to carry a deficit. Ms Clark made note of several factors which are complicating the balancing of the budget, such as the cessation of large capital inflows, extremely low interest rates, a pension plan deficit, funding tied to copyright issues, and the increased need for mental health services.

Dr Ferguson-Pell added that the University is interested in evaluating the value of the modern campus-based University and the University's online presence. He noted that the Renaissance Committee will pursue these initiatives.

Members shared comments, ideas, and concerns, which included a member's recommendation to consider the existing Academic Plan as a launching point for plans for the future of the University and an explanation by Ms Clark of the manner in which deferred maintenance was handled at the University of Alberta.

7. The Umbrella Committee – Update

There were no documents.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Colleen Skidmore, Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To update members of GFC APC about the recent activities of The Umbrella Committee (TUC).

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that there will be a report produced by The Umbrella Committee (TUC) in October, 2012. TUC will re-evaluate its future scope and existence once the Renaissance Committee has established its priorities. It was noted that the experience of TUC has been very positive and that the University wishes to continue the momentum achieved by this entity.

Questions and comments from members included but were not limited to the following: clarification regarding the Academic Working Group (a subcommittee of TUC) and its focus on a permanent teaching-intensive stream; the organic nature of TUC; and discussion about the nature of the report to be generated by TUC.

8. Question Period

A member commented that the GFC Policy Manual still has within it the now-defunct institutional discrimination and harassment policy suite. Mr Bodnar indicated he would look into this further.

Mr Bernier invited members to attend the upcoming TEDx event to be held on October 13, 2012 to ensure good representation from the University of Alberta community.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.