



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, January 16, 2013
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
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Emerson Csorba (Delegate)	President, Students' Union
Colin More (Delegate)	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
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Geeta Sehgal	NASA Member at-large
Larry Prochner	Department Chair at-large
Anna Nilson	Undergraduate at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee

Presenter(s):

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Murray Gray	Vice-Provost (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research) and Chair, Centres and Institutes Committee
Lory Laing	Interim Dean, School of Public Health

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Andrea Patrick	Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 28, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of November 28, 2012.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

Dr Ferguson-Pell commented on a number of relevant topics to members.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal for Non-Departmentalized Status for the University of Alberta's School of Public Health

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lory Laing, Interim Dean, School of Public Health

Purpose of the Proposal: To change the School (Faculty) of Public Health from a Faculty organized around two academic units (the Department of Public Health Sciences and the Centre for Health Promotion Studies) to a non-departmentalized structure and to promote a culture of a collaborative Faculty from a variety of academic disciplines with a common focus on graduate education and research in public health.

Discussion:

Dr Laing introduced her proposal by explaining that the School of Public Health is the newest Faculty at the University of Alberta, consisting of two previous units, the Department of Public Health Sciences (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry) and the freestanding Centre for Health Promotions Studies. The two units combined in 2006, officially becoming the School (Faculty) of Public Health. The School went through an extensive accreditation process that resulted in it becoming the first accredited school of public health in Canada. In 2012, the School underwent an academic unit review, and it was recommended that it become non-departmentalized at that time. She noted that the School is highly collaborative and that the separation of the two units was stifling research and education collaboration. In the summer of 2012, Dr Laing struck a task force to review this issue further, and this group consulted widely across all members of the School. This process included focus groups, interviews, online participation, and a town hall meeting. She assured members that the process was open and transparent. In November, 2012, the Task Force recommended non-departmentalization. She added that the proposal was presented at Faculty Council

and, subsequently, by means of an e-vote conducted amongst all Council members, was passed by a majority. She noted that students as well as alumni are supportive of the proposal.

Members expressed several comments and questions regarding this matter, including, but not limited to: whether the accreditation team mentioned non-departmentalization during their review; how non-departmentalization might impact the close working relationship between the School of Public Health and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; whether the members of the School of Public Health Council who voted to oppose non-departmentalization were centred in the same unit; how non-departmentalization could impact students; that non-departmentalization for the School of Public Health, coupled with the introduction of a new Dean at the School, will benefit the academic programs offered by this unit; and how non-departmentalization might impact the two Chairs of the units (ie, the Department and the Centre) within the School of Public Health.

Motion: Rodgers/Nilson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the proposal for a non-departmentalized structure for the University of Alberta's School of Public Health, as submitted by the Interim Dean of the School of Public Health (on behalf of the School) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) – Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic): 2011-2012 Annual Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Murray Gray, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research) and Chair, Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the 2011-2012 Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) Annual Report for information to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Discussion:

Dr Gray highlighted the findings contained within the report before members. He noted that the document indicates the changes in the status of the University's centres and institutes, as well as changes to the Centres and Institutes Committee (CID) Mandate and membership. He stated that, although the current report does not reflect the efforts of the Deans to annually evaluate centres and institutes, this data will be included in the report next year.

Dr Gray emphasized the importance of the report, stating that the University needs to monitor centres and institutes carefully given that they reflect upon the reputation of the University of Alberta, and he added that he is currently working with Deans to ensure the review of each centre and institute on a recurring basis. He reported that another factor currently being discussed is sources of funding for centres and institutes. He continued by stating that there may be an opportunity in the future for centres and institutes to become involved in the delivery of education, perhaps in collaboration with Deans. Dr Gray added that this issue will be approached with caution, to avoid the appearance that centres and institutes are in competition with the Faculties.

Dr Gray reported that there are currently two workshops planned by his Office, both aimed towards the directors of the centres and institutes to ensure they have the necessary tools in place to adequately support their units and, at the same time, conform appropriately to University rules, regulations, and expectations.

Members expressed several comments and questions in relation to this report, including, but not limited to: many people within the University community are unaware of the UAPPOL policy regarding centres and institutes; the possibility of creating a forum for the directors of the centres and institutes to discuss common issues; and that the University of Alberta has been informed by the Auditor General that the University cannot hold or administer the funds of affiliated centres and institutes.

6. Question Period

Mr Csorba enquired about the approval timeline of the University of Alberta's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP). Mr Bodnar replied that, as he understands it, it will be presented by the Administration at the February 6, 2013 meeting of GFC APC and will be voted on, in turn, by members at the February 13, 2013 meeting, a process that is consistent with past years.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.