



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2013  
Room 2-31, South Academic Building  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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### **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)
Colten Yamagishi	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
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Keith McKinnon	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Geeta Sehgal	NASA Member at-large
Marc Arnal	Dean, Campus Saint-Jean
Larry Prochner	Department Chair at-large
Anna Nilson	Graduate Student at-large

#### Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
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#### Presenter(s):

Bart Becker	Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Renée Elio	Associate Vice-President (Research)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Douglas Goss	Chair, University of Alberta Board of Governors
Shenaz Jeraj	Public Member, University of Alberta Board of Governors
Debra Pozega Osburn	Vice-President (University Relations)
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Philip Stack	Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services)
Dick Wilson	Public Member, University of Alberta Board of Governors

#### Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
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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.

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that the Agenda would be reordered to move Item 5, "Board Strategic Planning Session – Discussion," as the first item on the Agenda. Members introduced themselves to the Board members present at the meeting.

Motion: Kline/Yamagishi

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda, as reordered.	<b>CARRIED</b>
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2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 6, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Arnal/Rinaldi

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 6, 2013.	<b>CARRIED</b>
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3. Comments from the Acting Chair

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. University of Alberta's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Research); Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations); Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Bart Becker, Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); Philip Stack, Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services); Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Renée Elio, Associate Vice-President (Research)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Under guidelines from Advanced Education and Technology (AET), the University of Alberta has prepared the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) that incorporates the University's access plan, research plan, capital plan, and budgets into one comprehensive document. The CIP is for final approval by the Board of Governors and is then filed with the appropriate Ministries of the Provincial Government.

*Discussion:*

Dr Pozega Osburn thanked members for their previous suggestions and commentary relating to the draft of the 2013 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), as discussed at the GFC APC meeting of February 6, 2013, and added that the document has undergone minor revision within certain sections including the Executive Summary, the "Academic Chapter," and information regarding the budget, risks, and resources. She noted that more data about the University's Centre for Teaching and Learning and Augustana Faculty have been added and that a series of additional charts have been included, as well.

She stated that the Board of Governors reviewed the draft 2013 CIP at a budget briefing session held on February 8 and expressed strong support of the key messages contained within it.

Mr Stack updated members about changes to the budget presentation since the last meeting of GFC APC.

During the ensuing discussion, Mr Yamagishi brought up the following issues: a query whether or not an updated 2013 CIP, reflecting edits, could be distributed to members when it was available; and commentary that he would be abstaining from the vote on the Motion associated with GFC APC's recommendation of the CIP to the Board of Governors due to undergraduate students' concerns surrounding fees and, in particular, the Common Student Space, Sustainability and Services (CoSSS) Fee. On the latter point, the Acting Chair sought clarification from Mr Yamagishi on his stance with respect to the CIP before members, indicating he was unclear why the member would be abstaining from the vote given the level of thorough consultation that had taken place with the student representatives prior to the document coming forward to GFC APC for formal consideration. Mr Yamagishi restated his view that students continued to have ongoing concerns with the CoSSS Fee and the means by which the funds raised by the collection of this fee were deployed by the University.

Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that there may be additional amendments to the 2013 CIP, especially in relation to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the upcoming Provincial Budget announcement. Mr Bodnar clarified that while editorial changes could be made to the document following the formal approval by GFC APC, the Administration, by precedent, has brought back to GFC APC any substantive amendments made to the CIP subsequent to GFC APC recommending the item forward to the Board.

Dr Ferguson-Pell thanked his colleagues for their hard work on the 2013 CIP and members for their careful and thoughtful consideration of this important document.

Motion: Clark/Babiuk

Abstained: Yamagishi

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Governors the 2013 University of Alberta Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), as provided by the President's Executive Committee and as set forth in Attachment 1, with the exception of information pertinent to Ancillary Services' budgets which is not within the purview of GFC APC to consider and/or recommend, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 5. Board Strategic Planning Session - Discussion

*Presenters:* Douglas Goss, Chair, Board of Governors; Shenaz Jeraj, Member, Board of Governors; Dick Wilson, Member, Board of Governors

*Purpose of the Discussion:* The Board of Governors will hold a strategic planning session in April, 2013.

The Board is seeking input regarding future directions for the University. The Board has developed a set of questions that are intended to guide discussion on this important topic. The Board is very interested in the views of the campus community.

*Discussion:*

Mr Goss explained that, due to several factors, the strategic importance of convening a Board of Governors planning retreat has become increasingly evident, adding that there is great opportunity to shape the future of the University of Alberta as the flagship institution within the Province of Alberta. He reported that in order to shape the agenda for this strategic planning retreat, scheduled for April, 2013, he is currently consulting with key groups across the University of Alberta, including Deans. He stated that he is also organizing focus groups to gather information.

Mr Wilson reported on an engaged focus group discussion he, the Board Chair, and Ms Jeraj had had this morning with members of the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), and Ms Jeraj added that the group expressed several innovative ideas during the session.

Members were invited to make suggestions and, in the ensuing discussion, expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the relationship between *Dare to Discover* and the upcoming strategic planning retreat; that the words “innovative/innovation” are often over-used and, through their overuse, tend to lose meaning and significance; that there is a difference between being ‘cutting edge’ and being reactive to external pressures and demands; that some of the older administrative and other systems in place do not necessarily allow for agility and nimbleness for change; that the University of Alberta should be examining and clarifying its own identity; that the academy should focus on areas at which it excels rather than attempting to be ‘all things to all people’; the importance of creating revenue generation within and around programs; the importance of maintaining frequent, open dialogue between the Administration, the Board of Governors, and the student body; that the University should focus only on select programs, increasing the chances of success and excellence; the importance of identifying institutional values, including excellence, humanity, and flexibility; that the University should not waste money on things it cannot do well; the wider University community requires a cultural shift to encourage collaborative teams instead of lone geniuses; that the University should continue to aim to be an institution known on the global stage; that the focus of the institution should be to create innovative thinkers and creative and courageous leaders and not just to prepare students to become wage earners; that the University needs to be nimble and to adapt to changes and to have the courage to make changes when they are necessary; that the University of Alberta stands out from other Campus Alberta institutions in terms of its stature and its excellence; that the strategic planning retreat could build consensus and cohesion between groups at the University of Alberta; that great ideas should be encouraged and fostered and supported; that support staff could initiate a cross-training endeavor to build more connectedness and capacity across the University; that the University should focus on its academic staff; that the University should examine the approach to online learning carefully; that the institution needs to focus on outcomes; that the University should work to enhance its partnerships with other institutions; and that there needs to be a stronger focus on the student experience and the needs of students.

Mr Goss thanked members for their suggestions and comments and emphasized that the upcoming Board retreat would only be successful if all institutional stakeholders were willing to contribute their thoughts and ideas to this important endeavour.

6. Question Period

Members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the progress of the student competencies and attributes project; that quality within graduate education is a separate issue from

the administrative processes within graduate education; that administrative processes can interfere with the recruitment of superior graduate students; and the possible impacts of upcoming Provincial budget changes on the University's 2013 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP).

### **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 3:40 pm.