



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 27, 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)
Philip Stack (Delegate)	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Ashlyn Bernier	President, Graduate Students' Association
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
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	Undergraduate at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Cross Representative from the GFC Executive Committee

Presenter(s):

Walter Archer	Professor and Former Associate Dean (Engaged Learning), Faculty of Extension
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lise Gotell	Chair, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Catherine Swindlehurst	Special Advisor to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Corey Wentzell	Executive Director, Professional Programs and Government Studies, Faculty of Extension
Lihong Yang	Assistant Registrar (International Admissions), Office of the Registrar

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/Sehgal

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 13, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rodgers/Nilson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 13, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

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

ACTION ITEMS

4. Faculty of Arts – Proposed Revisions to the Existing Names of Undergraduate Programs Offered by the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lise Gotell, Chair, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

Purpose of the Proposal: Is the approval of proposed revisions to the existing names for undergraduate programs offered by the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies. The changes are meant to ensure that the names of the Department’s undergraduate programs are consistent with the new name of this teaching Department and the name of the new Master of Arts (MA) program. In addition, students of all genders are attracted by the unit’s excellent courses in such important and popular areas of the field as masculinities studies and sexuality studies. Yet, some of these students see the designation of this Department’s programs (Honors Women’s Studies, BA Major/Minor Women’s Studies) as a barrier to applying to the Honors program or to declaring majors or minors. The re-designation of programs (and courses) as Women’s and Gender Studies is tremendously important in attracting future honors students and students to the majors and minors.

Discussion:

Dr Gotell explained that the proposal before members dovetails with newly-approved course designators in relation to the recent name change for the Department.

A member enquired about the governance route as well as clarification about the effective date within the proposal. Mr Yamagishi emphasized his support of this proposal.

Motion: Kline/Rinaldi

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposal submitted by the Faculty of Arts to revise the names of the Faculty's Department of Women's and Gender Studies' undergraduate degree programs from Bachelor of Arts (BA) (Honors) in Women's Studies to BA (Honors) in Women's and Gender Studies and from BA Major/Minor in Women's Studies to BA Major/Minor in Women's and Gender Studies, as set forth in Attachment 1, effective Fall Term, 2013.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Extension – Proposal for a (New) Freestanding For-Credit Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sexual Health

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Walter Archer, Professor and former Associate Dean (Engaged Learning), Faculty of Extension; Corey Wentzell, Executive Director, Professional Programs and Government Studies, Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: The Department of Occupational Therapy in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine first identified a need for educational programming in sexual health through the inquiries they received from allied health students and practitioners in Alberta and other provinces. Initially, a series of workshops was sufficient to address the need. However, as interest continued over the years, practitioners and prospective students requested credit courses in the area. The goal of this program is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to succeed in the emerging field of sexual health. Drawing on theory and the best field practices through case studies, simulations, and group projects, participants will critically apply the conceptual, theoretical, and practical frameworks necessary to address the common challenges associated with comprehensive sexual health education. The impact of personal bias will be explored with respect to different cultures, lifestyles, and values. The proposal for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Sexual Health was developed by the Faculty of Extension in collaboration with the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Discussion:

Mr Wentzell provided context for the proposal before members, adding that the idea for this certificate originated from clinicians and social services professionals within the community who expressed a need for additional education in the area of sexual health. He emphasized that this is a true community collaboration.

In the absence of Dr Connor (Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)), Dr Blackburn stated that this proposal was widely supported by members of GFC ASC at their meeting of February 21, 2013.

During the ensuing discussion of this item, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: costs and fees related to this certificate, with a request that there be clarity in the proposal regarding the fees to be paid by registrants for this program's supporting credit course offerings; the credit and credentials associated with this certificate; whether or not the proposal could be approved without the courses existing first; what methods of delivery were being planned; the level of difficulty within the course work; whether or not the proposal would be ready for September, 2013, as

stated in the Motion; and the nature of Provincial Government approval of this proposed program and other similar programs.

Motion: Sehgal/Bernier

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposed (new) freestanding for-credit Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sexual Health, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Extension and as set forth in Attachment 1 (as amended), to take effect in September, 2013.

CARRIED

6. Admission from Countries That Follow the British Education System – Proposed Changes to Section 17.2.1 of the University Calendar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar (International Admissions), Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To clarify requirements for admission from countries that follow the British Education System, as set out in the University Calendar.

Discussion:

Mr Bodnar explained that GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) had made some minor grammatical changes to the document at the time it considered this proposal at its meeting of February 21, 2013—the revised changes recommended by GFC ASC were set out in the material laid out on the tables at the start of this GFC APC meeting.

Ms Yang explained that the proposed changes clarify requirements for admission from countries that follow the British education system and serve to make things clearer for students about existing practices at the University of Alberta.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the existence of O-Level courses within the proposal; concerns about punctuation within the proposal; concern with the usage of acronyms within the proposal; the nature of the changes made to the proposal at the February 21 GFC ASC meeting; the need to ensure the text set out in this section of the University Calendar was consistent with the current status of the British education system; and that providing more clarity around admissions issues is advantageous from an institutional risk management perspective.

The Chair suggested that, given the issues, concerns, and suggestions raised by members during discussion on this proposal, the item be tabled in order for representatives of the Office of the Registrar to make the necessary changes to the proposal for clarity's sake, with the proposal to return to GFC APC at its next scheduled meeting.

Motion: Kline/Bernier

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee table proposed changes to Section 17.2.1 (Admission from Countries that follow [sic] the British Education System) of the University Calendar, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to allow for further revisions to be made by the

Office of the Registrar to these changes, as recommended by Committee members.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Graduate Education at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Catherine Swindlehurst, Special Advisor to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Discussion: To update the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC), the GFC Executive Committee, and General Faculties Council (GFC) on progress made to date on the graduate education initiative at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that as part of the initiative to improve graduate education, Ms Swindlehurst had been asked to conduct interviews and focus groups across the University of Alberta to gather information in the Fall of 2012 about the current status of graduate education at this institution. He stated that the so-called 'Swindlehurst Report', now that it has been completed, is being disseminated across the academy for review and feedback. He added that the attached 'Action Plan', which is separate from the Report, is Administration's current thinking on necessary changes and that it will be developed and altered over the next few months as feedback from the wider University community is received.

Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that this is a top priority for President Samarasekera and that she expects real progress to be made on this initiative by the Summer of 2013.

Ms Swindlehurst explained that her efforts led her to meet with over 200 individuals across the campuses of the University of Alberta, including most Departments and all Faculties and many graduate students. She reported that, during the consultations, she received excellent feedback on a wide variety of related issues, noting, specifically, the topic of information technology (IT) with regard to graduate student admissions and the administration of graduate programming as well as ways that the University of Alberta prepares graduate students for careers outside of academia.

Dr Shirvani reported that, as part of this initiative, he, along with other University of Alberta representatives, had visited the University of Toronto and Waterloo University to explore graduate education funding models and administration. He explained that the first part of the Plan before members contains information about administration, and the second part is about Faculty Graduate Strategic Management Plans. He added that efforts are currently underway to address the IT and administrative concerns.

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that the first step in further planning will be to identify the vision of what graduate education will be, including how the University of Alberta could educate and prepare highly-marketable, experienced, and competitive individuals for leadership positions from graduation onward. He added that since the various programs possess different requirements, the best way forward is to engage each Faculty in preparing its own strategic plans according to their individual needs and vision. He stated that the next part would be to identify and alleviate graduate education administration issues, clarify the role of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and identify how the new IT system would function. He stated that the final part of the plan to move forward would be a renewed focus on finance and

recruitment.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several comments and questions in relation to these matters, including, but not limited to: a suggestion to focus on change management and communication strategies as this project progresses; that collaboration and consultation with the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) will continue to be an integral element of the project; whether there are plans for additional external reviews; that there is a lack of clarity surrounding supervisory duties in relation to faculty members' annual reporting and within Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) processes; the idea, consistent with other Canadian universities, of introducing an "approved graduate faculty" status to supervisors; that supervisory status could be renewed periodically; that various committees and working groups across the University of Alberta should share information amongst themselves to avoid redundancy in efforts; there needs to be faster Governmental approval of new graduate programs; and that the existing metrics with regard to graduate programming gathered in previous unit reviews should be utilized.

Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that this will be an ongoing endeavor and that there will be future updates about the progress of the project.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

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

- 2013 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) [Latest Version] [E-Mailed to Members on February 14, 2013]

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.