General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (until 3:00 pm)
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research) (and Acting Chair, from 3:00 pm)
Philip Stack (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Michael Deyholos	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Monty Bal (Delegate)	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Lise Gotell	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Member, Academic Staff-at-large, Cross-Representative from GFC FDC
Dustin Chelen (Delegate)	Member, President of the Students' Union
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Academic staff elected by and from GFC
Alexander Schlacht	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large

Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member, Faculty Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Bill Connor	Member, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

Presenter(s):

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dustin Chelen	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Philip Stack (Delegate)	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)
Steven Dew	Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering
Colin More	Vice-President Academic, Graduate Students' Association

Staff:
Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1.   Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:
Mr Bodnar proposed a reordering of items on the Agenda to accommodate the schedules of guest presenters.

Motion: Kline/Chelen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda, as reordered.
CARRIED

2.   Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 12, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion: Kline/Deyholos

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 12, 2014.
CARRIED

3.   Comments from the Chair

The Chair reported that he would need to excuse himself from the meeting at 3:00 pm to attend another engagement and that, in doing so, he would turn the chair over to Dr Babiuk.

The Chair updated members regarding the recent Provincial Budget 2014 announcement, adding that, as expected, there was no across-the-board increase to the institution's Campus Alberta grant. He pointed out the various other funding opportunities provided as part of the budget announcement, including the establishment of two new research endowments, the Social Innovation Endowment and the Agriculture and Food Innovation Endowment, as well as long-term funding for the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.   Annual Report for Undergraduate Enrolment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the governance committees with an updated annual report on undergraduate enrolment and to solicit feedback from members and to discuss the format and content of this annual report.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein excused himself from the meeting and passed the chair to Dr Babiuk. [Because of the Agenda's reordering, this item was discussed later in the meeting.]

Ms Collins began by making note of an error within an illustration on page 15 of the Report and then went on to explain that the Report contains enrolment and other data largely concerning undergraduate students, although it does contain some information related to graduate students. She provided members with a brief summary of the Report including information surrounding undergraduate full-load equivalent (FLE) forecasts, international enrolment, and student demographic data. She noted that an institutional policy and/or procedure regarding enrolment management are in the process of development for eventual inclusion in the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL) environment.

During the discussion surrounding the Report, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding retention rates; clarification regarding the number of full-load equivalents (FLEs) and related funding; clarification surrounding information within the Report regarding full-time status; commendation for the Report; clarification regarding First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students; and clarification surrounding an alleged delay in admission confirmations at the University of Alberta.

5. GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Final Report – Provision of Advice to the Office of the Provost

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction); Dustin Chelen, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union; Steven Dew, Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering; Colin More, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek advice from the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC), GFC Executive Committee, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC), General Faculties Council (GFC), and Deans' Council on how best to promote awareness of the list of graduate attributes set out in the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies' final Report approved by GFC CLE at its June 5, 2013 meeting and, in particular, to seek input on how these attributes might figure in the design of academic programming and courses.

Discussion:

Dr Connor provided a brief introduction of this item to members, noting that this Report originated from the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies. He noted that this report has been reviewed by various bodies and governance committees and that it represents several years of collaborative work by members.

Mr Chelen thanked Dr Dew for his leadership during the formulation of this report and during the Subcommittee activities. He provided a brief summary of the background of the project and of the Report. He noted that *Dare to Deliver* references attributes and competencies and emphasized that insitutional-wide implementation of attributes and competencies would allow students to graduate with more than academic experience. Mr Chelen commented that the establishment of attributes and competencies within post-secondary instutitions is occurring internationally and referenced specific models of implementation, as contained with the Report.

Mr More stated that, as approximately 70% of graduate students do not enter academia following graduation, the need for additional professional and skill-enhancing training is important. He noted that it

would benefit both students and the University of Alberta if there were associated institutional attributes and compentencies.

Dr Dew reported that the establishment of attributes and competencies is a requirement for certain Faculty accreditation processes. He stated that the list of attributes and competencies within the Report are meant to be applied across all Faculties and disciplines at the University of Alberta. He provided a brief overview of the specific attributes and competencies set out in the material before members.

Mr More added that possible next steps include implementation and additional consultation. He invited members to provide feedback regarding the Report.

During the discussion surrounding this report, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification regarding implementation in relation to larger classes; concerns regarding the use of certain words used within the list of attributes; that the lack of an attendance policy would hinder the assessment of attributes and competencies for all students; that certain individuals inherently lack interpersonal skills; concerns with the hybrid and program-responsible models suggested within the Report; that evaluating every student against every attribute would be too onerous; that student experiences outside of Faculties would not have a mechanism for attribution towards the attributes and competencies; possible disadvantages of not moving towards initiatives such as this; that although certain key programs already provide attributes and competencies, some students still struggle to identify what they have learned at the end of their educational experience; concern about implementation in relation to the various programs and courses offered at the University of Alberta; clarification surrounding whether other universitites which have instituted similar attributes and competencies possess proof of the benefits; that several Faculties at the University of Alberta already offer attributes and competencies as part of external accreditation requirements; and that there should be the appropriate mechanisms and processes in place prior to adopting institutional-wide attributes and competencies.

Mr Bodnar reminded members that the Subcommittee had concluded its work regarding this item and that members of GFC CLE had endorsed the Subcommittee's Final Report at its June, 2013 meeting. This report was subsequently forwarded by GFC CLE on to the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and is now being considered by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for possible further action.

The Chair discussed the options surrounding this item and the nature of discussion on the issue of attributes and competencies at the University of Alberta. He cautioned that, if the institution did not 'grab hold' of this discussion, it might find that the Provincial Government may choose to impose its own standards on the University.

6.   Budget Update

There were no documents.

Presenter: Philip Stack, Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services) (and Delegate of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration))

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:
Adding to comments made by Dr Amrhein during Item 3: Comments from the Chair, Mr Stack reported that, from an operating perspective, the recent Provincial Budget 2014 announcement could be viewed as positive news and that announced funding was well predicted by the University's Administration. He also

reported that that the annual infrastructure maintenance grant for the University was maintained at 2013-2014 levels.

A member asked for clarification surrounding the $4 million tuition back-fill, and another member enquired about the status of Faculty-specific budget letters.

7.   Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

9.   Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10.   Adjournment

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

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