



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2014
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Colin More (Delegate)	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Lise Gotell	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Kathryn Orydzuk (Delegate)	Member, President of the Students' Union
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Keith McKinnon	Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Larry Prochner	Member, Department Chair-at-large
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Alexander Schlacht	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large

Non-Voting Members:

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

Presenter(s):

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
David Evans	Vice-Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
John Greer	Director, Centre for Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Sanjay Kalra	Associate Professor, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Xin-min Li	Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Mary Persson	Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor

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.

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

Motion: Law/McKinnon

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 23, 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: Rodgers/Clark

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of April 23, 2014.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

There were no comments.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal for the Rescoping and Renaming of the Centre for Neuroscience as the Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute (NMHI) (to be Housed in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: David Evans, Vice-Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; John Greer, Director, Centre for Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Xin-min Li, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Sanjay Kalra, Associate Professor, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: This proposal is a request to increase the research, training and governance scope of the existing 'Centre for Neuroscience' and to re-name the Centre the 'Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute' (NMHI) to reflect this broader mandate.

The strategic purpose of the proposed NMHI at the University of Alberta is two-fold: to provide the organizational framework and support necessary to pursue advances in translational science in the overlapping interdisciplinary areas of neuroscience and mental health; and to solidify and brand the identity of the University's strong research and educational programs in neuroscience and mental health and markedly improve philanthropic support, large-scale group funding, and 'presence' within the national and international neuroscience and mental health research community. The proposed NMHI will capitalize on the University of Alberta's established and emerging excellence in neuroscience and mental health (including addiction) across the four pillars of activity identified by the Canadian Institutes of Health

Research (CIHR): biomedical; clinical; research respecting health systems and services; and the social, cultural and environmental factors that affect the health of populations.

Discussion:

Dr Evans provided a brief introduction of the proposal and added that this translational research institute would consolidate and connect existing research endeavors and professionals within the fields of neuroscience and mental health to improve training opportunities and lay the groundwork for more research capacity.

Dr Greer provided historical background surrounding the various administrative structures the proposed institute had once been, as a division to a centre currently to the (proposed) inter-Faculty institute. He stated that the Faculty of Science has been the largest partner to date, including financially.

During the discussion surrounding this proposal, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the impact of the proposal on the existing undergraduate program supported by the Centre; clarification about why the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry is the hosting Faculty; clarification regarding funding streams; expressions of support for this proposal; that this proposal provides valuable interdisciplinary experience for students; that this proposal allows the University of Alberta to become a significant competitor for grant funding in the field of neuroscience; and clarification relating to the mandatory attendance of courses as outlined within the proposal.

Motion: Law/McKinnon

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal submitted by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry for the rescoping and renaming of the Centre for Neuroscience as the Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute (NMHI), to be housed in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as set forth in Attachments 1 – 4, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Draft University of Alberta 2013-2014 Annual Report to the Government of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Mary Persson, Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor

Purpose of the Proposal: The Annual Report contains goals, objectives, and targets, as set out in the University of Alberta 2013 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) by highlighting University accomplishments during the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. This report also allows the University to comply with Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE) legislation and guidelines.

Discussion:

Ms Clark explained to members that the Annual Report is a follow-up document to the University of Alberta Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) and added that it is intended to include financial data. Ms Persson stated that the current draft before members does not contain this financial data due to time constraints. She noted that this information, as well as formatting of the document, would be done at a later time.

During the extensive discussion surrounding this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification about missing tables from the document; a suggestion to revise the statements with regard to the University of Alberta becoming a Top 20 institution by 2020 and commentary relating to this; clarification regarding the usage of the word “jurisdictions” within the document; a suggestion for a revision on page 13 of the document in relation to details surrounding the Faculty of Law Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) student; clarification with regard to the data presentation in relation to institutional fundraising; clarification surrounding the table on page 29 and the University of Alberta’s correct placement on the list; whether this document will come before GFC APC again; commentary that this draft Report is better than previous ones; clarification relating to the usage of the term “highly skilled work force”; a suggestion to amend the title on page five; the evolution of the definition of the word “skilled” in post-secondary and other contexts; clarification about missing data for 2013; and clarification surrounding the placement of highlights within the document.

Ms Clark and Ms Persson thanked members for their careful consideration of this document and noted that their recommended amendments would very likely be incorporated into the final version of this report.

6. Budget Update

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein reported that the Deans are heavily engaged in discussions surrounding revenue generation at the University of Alberta. He also reported on the themes of his recent meetings while in India, including institutional support and international student enrolment, as well as changing student demographics and the demand of workforce requirements in India.

He provided updates to members regarding upcoming changes to the provision of funding from Central Administration to individual Faculties in relation to cost of living adjustments and merit costs.

Ms Clark noted that the Provincial Government has been consulting about tuition. She also reported that her Office is currently reviewing unused balances in endowment accounts and developing a plan to address these under-expenditures, including educating Department Chairs and other administrators on how these monies can be deployed. Dr Amrhein added that the original endowment documents should be reviewed, as many of them allow broad use of the funds to which they speak.

Members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: best practices with regard to addressing endowment under-expenditures; clarification regarding the date by which Faculties will assume cost of living and merit expenses; and whether or not Faculties will then be involved in negotiations with the staff associations.

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 Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.