



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2015  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Olive Yonge	Chair, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nathan Andrews	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Erasmus Okine	Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Research)
Philip Stack	Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Nadir Erbilgin	Member, Academic (A1.0) Staff-at-large
Lise Gotell	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Member, Academic (A1.0) Staff-at-large
William Lau	Member, President of the Students' Union
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Jeremy Richards	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Pamela Sewers	Member, NASA Member-at-large

#### Non-Voting Members:

Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Robert Luth	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

#### Presenter(s):

JC Cahill	Special Advisor, Faculty of Science (and Professor, Department of Biological Sciences)
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Gerda de Vries	Professor, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
Edith Finczak	Director, Academic Budget and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Brenda Leskiw	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Olive Yonge	Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee

#### 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:* Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Kline/Lau

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 26, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Kline/Erbilgin

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of November 26, 2014.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant issues to members.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Faculty of Science's Proposed Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Honors in Mathematics and Finance Degree Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); JC Cahill, Special Advisor, Faculty of Science (and Professor, Department of Biological Sciences); Gerda de Vries, Professor, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The purpose of this proposal is to offer a Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Honors in Mathematics and Finance. The Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences currently offers a Specialization in Mathematics and Finance, and the offering of an Honors program in Mathematics and Finance is in response to the growing demands of students wanting more training in this specific field. The new degree program will provide students with the opportunity to pursue a more challenging and advanced program in Mathematics and Finance. In addition, students graduating from the proposed Honors in Mathematics and Finance degree program form a pool of potential applicants to the Department's graduate program in Mathematical Finance.

*Discussion:*

Dr Leskiw, in her capacity as Chair of GFC ASC, introduced the item to members—she stated GFC ASC, in enacting its legislative responsibility with regard to the review of the proposed program's admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation criteria, had been very supportive of this initiative. In turn, Dr de Vries summarized the proposal for members, noting that there is a current specialization degree program in Mathematics and Finance, which currently has in place a 19-student quota. She explained that

they want to better prepare students for advanced study, as well as for attaining appropriate professional designations. She added that there has been increased demand from students requesting an Honors program in this area and that this advanced undergraduate degree program requires four additional Mathematics courses and another four Finance courses. She noted that there would be no cost increase as a result of enrolment within this program.

The Chair thanked the proposers for their presentation and commended them on the proposal.

Motion: Kline/Erbilgin

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Honors in Mathematics and Finance degree program, as submitted by the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect in September, 2015.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. University of Alberta 2015-2016 Market Modifiers Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC); Edith Finczak, Director, Academic Budget and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The recommendation before GFC APC is to approve new Market Modifiers in select Faculties and programs and proposed increases to existing Market Modifiers, as outlined in the material before members. (The affected Faculties include Arts, Business, Law, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Rehabilitation Medicine.) The primary goal will be to maintain and add to the suite of services expected by students in the programs which serve to enhance the students' education. The Market Modifier increase requests are primarily directed toward enhancing student development and instruction in communication skills, leadership, internship support, technical competencies, and career support, as well as financial aid, student clubs, and activities.

*Discussion:*

Dr Yonge handed the role of Chair to Dr Okine (delegate for Vice-President (Research) Babiuk, at today's Committee meeting) so that she could co-present this item with Ms Finczak.

Dr Yonge explained that one of the primary reasons for this overall proposal relates to providing a range of quality experiences for students. She provided members with the history of both the introduction of and increases to Market Modifiers at the University of Alberta. She noted, as well, that budgetary constraints have also resulted in the need to increase Market Modifiers accordingly.

Ms Finczak reported that the Provincial Government invited the institution to review the issue of Market Modifiers in July, 2014, and that the University of Alberta subsequently submitted five such proposals. She provided members with an overview of the overall proposal. Dr Yonge explained that the Government had previously set a three-proposal limit, but that, at the appeal of the University of Alberta's Administration, they were allowed to submit five.

Members, during the discussion in relation to this item, expressed a number of questions and comments, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding the methods utilized in determining the specific amounts of the proposed increases; that the manner in which the increases were determined seemed, on

the surface, subjective; clarification regarding the exact specifications being considered by the Province of Alberta in relation to these proposals; clarification regarding the proposed increases within the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the use of the monies thereof; clarification regarding the proposed increases within the Faculty of Arts and the use of the monies thereof; that there was inadequate time for appropriate consultation with impacted students within the Faculty of Arts; whether Administration plans to continually increase Market Modifiers, dependent on trends at other universities; that each Province in Canada regulates tuition fees differently and that Modifiers were created to allow universities in Alberta to address market anomalies, with the Minister calling for them only when they are viewed as necessary; whether the Market Modifiers are being used to supplement faculty salaries; that it is important to stress that some of the increases are going toward the support of bursaries and scholarships and that Faculty revenue is also being generated from a range of other sources; commentary that the last time the Faculty of Law proposed an Market Modifier increase, it was to address a teacher-to-student ratio viewed as inadequate; that almost every technological upgrade within the Faculty of Law has been financed by non-government-generated revenue; whether this proposal, presented as an omnibus item, is the standard process for approving multiple proposals; clarification regarding, overall, student consultation with respect to these proposals and that there was, in the member's view, a lack of extensive consultation with respect to some of the individual increases proposed; that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) was consulted on some of the proposals, but not supportive of all, as it is currently stated within the proposal; commentary that there was not extensive consultation on certain proposals with the Students' Union (SU); that some students within the Faculty of Engineering had expressed confusion about how the 2010 Market Modifier increases were utilized; and commentary that continuous discussions with all relevant stakeholders on these matters, even outside of governance forums, would be beneficial.

Motion: Gotell/Stack

Opposed: Lau/Andrews

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to the Board Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Governors approve the proposal from the University Administration for the establishment of proposed new Market Modifiers and proposed increases to existing Market Modifiers, as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 (as amended), with all changes regarding these Market Modifiers to be implemented as noted in these attachments, subject to the final approval of the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE).

**CARRIED**

[Attachment 4 also incorporates a 'friendly amendment' to which the proposers and members of GFC APC agreed, based on the preceding discussion.]

At this point in the meeting, Dr Yonge re-assumed the chair.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2014/15

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss the 2014/15 annual report on undergraduate enrolment.

*Discussion:*

Ms Collins stated that this Report incorporates in its presentation feedback gathered from the review of last year's Annual Report on Enrolment and that the data focuses primarily on undergraduate students rather than on graduate student enrolment.

She provided members with a highlight of some of the data within the Report, including how the University of Alberta is faring with Albertan high school students. She noted that University's application rates overall are up 9%. She spoke to comparisons between the University of Alberta numbers and those of universities in Ontario. She stated that she has been reviewing carefully international applicant and student enrolment numbers; as well, she provided commentary on how international applications from China have decreased overall over the past reporting period.

During the discussion regarding this item, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether the decreases in completion rates were normal; clarification regarding whether the data indicates when students are dropping out and whether they are dropping out early in their careers or later; whether there is any socio-economic data available regarding the University's undergraduate students, including parental income and student debt load; whether a graduate student report could be drafted at some point in the future; whether the report includes data from 2015; whether there should be any action taken on the declining Chinese applicant rates; clarification regarding the current diversification plan for students applying to and enrolling at the University of Alberta; and commentary that there is evidence that Chinese universities are now recruiting North American professors for employment at high-calibre Chinese post-secondary institutions.

The Chair thanked Ms Collins for her presentation.

#### 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 3:30 pm.