



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### **ATTENDEES:**

Steven Dew, Chair  
Chris Andersen  
Akanksha Bhatnagar  
Fahed Elian  
Shannon Erichsen  
Gitta Kulczycki  
Susanne Luhmann  
Pirkko Markula

Melissa Padfield  
Jerine Pegg  
Matthias Ruth  
Samantha Tse  
Ding Xu  
*non-voting:*  
Marion Haggarty-France  
Yimmie Sonuga

### **REGRETS:**

Jason Acker  
Jelena Holovati  
Christopher Mackay  
Susan Sommerfeldt  
Yan Yuan

### Staff:

Heather Richholt, scribe

### **OPENING SESSION**

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

#### *Discussion:*

The Chair proposed to amend the agenda and move Item 8, Budget Update, into closed session in order to continue the conversation that began at the joint Board of Governors and APC briefing the previous week.

Motion: Padfield/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda as amended.

**CARRIED**

#### 2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

#### *Discussion:*

The Chair spoke about the Board/GFC/Senate Summit and noted that he was not able to attend but that he had reviewed the feedback and understood that it was a productive session.

Members expressed thoughts related to the Summit's presentations and the government's decisions about performance based funding.

The Chair spoke about the coronavirus outbreak and noted that there were currently 5 confirmed cases in Canada but none in Alberta. He noted that the university had a pandemic plan that was put in place during the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2002 and 2003, and that the plan would be updated so that it was available if needed. For now, all non-essential travel to China had been deferred and the university was asking for a voluntary quarantine for those returning from China, as per Health Canada's recommendations.

The Chair noted an update to Centres and Institutes, that after several reviews, the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) had recommended termination of the Integrated Health Institute to the Provost. The Provost had accepted the recommendation and the institute would be closing as of June 30, 2020.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 15, 2020

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Elian/Luhmann

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of January 15, 2020.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

4. University of Alberta Mandate Statement

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee because the Ministry of Advanced Education has asked all institutions to review their mandates and reformat them according to a provided template. The approved mandate will be a component of the new Investment Management Agreement.

*Discussion:*

The Chair explained that the content of the mandate statement was not changing at this time but was being adapted to fit the new format as required by the provincial government. He noted that the attachments in the materials showed how the current pieces would move into the government's template.

Ms Sonuga pointed to the two motions before members, one to recommend approval of the reformatted mandate statement, and one to recommend the rescinding of the current mandate statement.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Padfield/Bhatnagar

THAT the General Faculties Council (GFC) Academic Planning Committee recommend that GFC recommend that the Board of Governors approve the reformatted University Mandate Statement, as set out in Attachment 2, for submission to the Minister of Advanced Education for final approval.

**CARRIED**

Motion: Erichsen/Pegg

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that GFC recommend that the Board of Governors rescind the previous University Mandate Statement, approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology on July 17, 2009, following ministerial approval of the new statement.

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed New Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees, Proposed Change to Existing Non-Regulated

Exclusion to Program Fees (Previously Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To establish new Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees and Change to Existing Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees.

*Discussion*:

Ms Padfield gave a brief introduction to the proposed new fees and changes to existing fees, and noted that the Registrar's Advisory Committee on Fees (RACF) had completed a technical review of each to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. She also noted that thorough student consultation had been undertaken by the proposing Department or Faculty for each item, and that representatives from Faculties and Departments were in attendance to answer specific questions.

During the discussion members expressed opinions and asked questions including, but not limited to: the different requirements and regulations for tuition fees, mandatory non-instructional fees, and non-regulated exclusion to program fees; EDFX 498 and 499 and the additional administrative costs necessary to support these courses; striking the right balance between where the students want to go, the availability of instructors, and the travel costs; whether or not some of these courses could be made available to graduate students; that the university does not encourage required courses with high fees; the supports available to offset costs and encourage students with limited means to participate in these types of experiences; the method of communicating non-regulated exclusion to program fees to students; the method of communicating the funding available for these courses to students; and the authority of the Board of Governors to determine non-regulated exclusion to program fees.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, that the Board of Governors approve:

- the proposed New Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees (set forth in Attachment 1),
  - the proposed Change to Existing Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees (set forth in Attachment 2),
- as submitted on behalf of the relevant Faculties/Departments by the Registrar's Advisory Committee on Fees (RACF), to take effect as noted in each respective attachment.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (no documents)

*Presenter(s)*: Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost

*Discussion*:

The Chair noted that there had been questions about Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the context of the work of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and that the Deputy Provost was here to speak to this and to the status of the EDI Strategic Plan implementation.

Dr. Rodgers explained that it was important for APC to be consistent and appropriate in its approach to EDI. She noted that implementation was underway with a focus on communication, advocacy, awareness, and capacity building. She mentioned the potential for training opportunities for APC, including Bias Awareness, Decolonizing the Classroom, and Creating an Inclusive Classroom. Dr. Rodgers also pointed out that there were significant budget challenges related to administrative costs at present, and that a full report on the EDI Strategic Plan Implementation would be available in the next few months.

Members asked questions and expressed comments related to: resource limitations; the guide on best practices for research grant applications and the requirement of diversity statements; Quality Assurance self-studies that include indigenous and EDI questions; being mindful of the potential for tokenism and isolation; the culture of the campus and of the province; the dangers of over-promising and under-delivering on EDI; and creating and implementing tools and training with a mind to increasing awareness and building capacity across all levels of the university, including at GFC, as a means to changing the culture of the community.

7. Performance-Based Funding Model and Metrics

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The item is before the committee in order to ensure understanding of the current state of the Ministry of Advanced Education's transition to a new performance-based funding model, including the metrics against which the University is likely to be measured.

*Discussion*:

The Chair gave an overview of the information currently available regarding the government's new performance-based funding model and metrics. He spoke about the questions the university has regarding clarity and potentially problematic measures.

Members discussed the targets that had already been decided for the current year, and the feedback that the university had submitted to government.

8. Budget Update (no documents)

*Presenter(s)*: Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Discussion*:

The committee moved into closed session for the item.

9. Question Period (no documents)

*Presenter(s)*: Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

*Discussion*:

A member asked about the reasons behind the recommendation to terminate the Integrated Health Institute. The Chair replied that the institute was no longer meeting the standards and expectations of a centre or institute at the University, including those related to fiscal sustainability.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

10. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.