



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 04, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Amlan Bose
Walter Dixon
Shannon Erichsen
Todd Gilchrist
Jelena Holovati

Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Kisha Supernant
Marc Waddingham
Sheena Wilson
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan

non-voting:

Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Susan Sommerfeldt

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 GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Agarwal/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair thanked everyone for making time in their schedules for the upcoming special APC meeting on November 16 to discuss the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) and welcomed Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance) to his first meeting of APC.

In his comments, the Chair noted:

- the recent town hall for the review of Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Andre Costopoulos and his vision for the next five years in his portfolio; and
- a new collaboration agreement between Yellowhead Tribal College and the Faculty of Extension to jointly deliver a continuing education non-credit certificate and citation aimed at enhancing understanding and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Erichsen/Supernant

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 21, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of October 21, 2020.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Rob Munro, Executive Lead, Service Excellence Transformation

Purpose of the Proposal: To receive an update on the academic restructuring process.

APC will receive updates on the following as a part of this discussion:

- Consultations to date
- Input received on the scenarios and additional scenarios
- Planning for the November 23 and December 7 GFC meetings

Discussion:

Mr Gilchrist and Mr Munro gave an update on the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative. They noted that they were making progress and would be communicating more details soon. They described how three major streams of procurement, space and facilities, and administration, were being transferred into the new operating model.

Members and presenters discussed:

- whether or not the university would contract any third party service partners;
- payroll systems and technology provisions as examples of transaction hubs;
- a human resources portfolio including talent management and recruiting as an example of a centre of excellence;
- the relationship between SET and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI);
- how shared services could be used to consolidate services into a common team to serve faculties;
- how a contact centre could serve the entire university;
- the creation of a centralized student service hub that would provide:
 - more consistent delivery and better service for students;
 - staff with robust EDI training;
 - a more collaborative approach to student services; and
 - a "front door" to connect students to the specialized services they need.

The Chair spoke about Academic Restructuring (AR) consultations and shared the suggestions of alternate scenarios that had been submitted to the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG). He noted that he was looking for advice from APC regarding the results of the consultation process and how to move forward to find consensus.

The Chair pointed to three themes that had emerged from the consultation process:

- The division model was preferred by health sciences and professional Faculties who needed to retain their Faculty structure for professional and accreditation reasons: the conversations in these Faculty round tables tended toward finding the right groupings of programs to create synergies;
- Concern by some Faculties that the division model's additional layer of leadership would add bureaucracy and hinder academic freedom; and
- The idea that some Faculties were already operating fairly efficiently, and because they were critical to the vision and mission of the university, they should be excluded from reorganization.

The Chair went over next steps and explained that the ARWG would meet and, using all the feedback received through the consultation process, bring back three scenarios for discussion. He noted that those scenarios would be discussed by APC at the special meeting of November 16 and then at GFC on November 23. He noted GFC would be asked to participate in a non-binding exercise to rank the scenarios at the November 23 meeting. The information collected would inform the decision on the proposal brought forward for recommendation by APC on November 25 and by GFC on December 7, in the hopes that it would be acceptable to GFC.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:

- the potential impact should GFC choose to table the motion to recommend on AR;
- how budget planning decisions depended upon decisions related to AR and government-set timelines;
- the overall \$127 million in cuts to the university's operating budget and how those reductions affected budget planning now and in the future;
- the relationship between budget cuts, SET, AR, and job losses;
- how SET and AR were meant to work together to create a strategic approach to meeting the university's budget;
- that creating efficiencies through restructuring was necessary so that remaining staff would not be overwhelmed;
- that accreditation must be protected in the new structure;
- that accrediting bodies required that the Faculty or School owned the program and curriculum and controlled the resources needed to ensure the delivery, and how this could be preserved in the division model;
- a request that the ARWG dig into the data more and find a compromise which would meet the needs of members of the community and the university as a whole;
- discussion around some of the alternate scenarios that had been suggested;
- a question as to whether or not Executive Deans would allow for a reduction of other central administration units such as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR);
- that administration numbers in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry were different and did not present in the same way as the other Faculties; and
- how the Faculty of Extension and FGSR would fit into the new structure.

5. Budget Update - Standing Item (no documents)

There was no update.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

7. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots (no items to date)

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
 - November 16th from 10AM - noon

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of APC: November 16, 2020
 - Next Meeting of GFC: November 23, 2020

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