



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Amlan Bose
Todd Gilchrist
Randy Goebel, delegate
Jelena Holovati
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula

Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt
Kisha Supernant
Marc Waddingham
Sheena Wilson
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Walter Dixon
Shannon Erichsen
Brad Hamdon

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

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: Luhmann/Agarwal

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 asked Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) and executive lead of the university's COVID-19 response to provide an update. Mr Sharman spoke about the current public health measures, evidence of new variants of COVID in Alberta, contact tracing on positive cases on campus, the AHS alternate care centre in the Butterdome, international travel restrictions, restrictions and measures on university properties, vaccine rollout in Canada, and the impact on research on campus.

In his comments, the Chair noted:

- sixteen University of Alberta researchers had been named in the Government of Canada's 2020 cycle of Canada Research Chairs;
- all new calls for nominations for teaching awards under the Awards for Faculty Excellence and Awards for Teaching Excellence had been paused for a review process to address a longstanding diversity gap across the suite of awards:

- an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) review of the Faculty Excellence and Teaching Award procedures, led by John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) would be undertaken and GFC would be consulted in the process; and
- the awards on pause would be added to the next adjudication period;
- the establishment of the 2020 University of Alberta COVID-19 Remote Teaching Award with details available on the Office of the Provost website;
- the ongoing discussion on remote teaching and learning and concerns related to synchronous learning and assessment; and
- the December 7 GFC and December 11 Board of Governors meetings and decisions on Academic Restructuring (AR).

During the discussion about the GFC and Board motions on AR members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- the impact and implications of the Board of Governors approving a motion that was not the same as the GFC recommendation;
- the process of amending the motion on the floor of the Board meeting;
- the damage to the relationships between GFC, Administration, and the Board;
- how to work towards repairing trust and communicating next steps for AR;
- tension across the university community; and
- APC and GFC's continuing responsibility regarding AR.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Andersen/Padfield

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 4, 2020
4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 16, 2020
5. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 25, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of November 4, 16 and 25, 2020.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2020-21

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment.

Discussion:

Ms Padfield presented an overview of the report and spoke about:

- demand, offer rates, and yield;
- demographic information based on available information and the limits to that information;
- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic and international applications, admissions, and retention;
- high retention and admissibility of self-declared indigenous students; and
- exceeding the goals of the National Recruitment Strategy.

Members asked questions and expressed comments related to:

- enrolment by full load equivalent (FLE) numbers and programs that were under or over target;
- mean average versus competitive average;
- the number of students coming from the Edmonton area: and
- change in revocation rates due to changes in procedure implemented in 2016-2017.

7. Budget Update (no documents)

Presentation before members is contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Chad Schulz, Director, Integrated Finance Services

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members of the upcoming APC and Board of Governors budget briefing that was scheduled for February 5.

Mr Gilchrist presented an overview of the evolution for the budget strategy and the budget timeline. He noted the unprecedented cuts to the university's operating budget, potential revenue sources, the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the forecast economic outlook in the province.

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

- estimated goals for University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) with scenario planning of \$127 million in savings over two years;
- concerns about the impact of tuition increases and unpredictability on students;
- the current context of regulated tuition for domestic students and predictable tuition for international students;
- how academic efficiencies would affect programs with low enrolment;
- how budget constraints are encouraging Faculties to economize with regard to courses with low enrolment;
- whether the university could expect changes to the budget model;
- that once the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) reductions were applied a review would be made and the budget targets would be identified;
- that the basic revenue unit (BRU) in the budget model was based on historical data and a grant and tuition ration of 2:1 and that the was current ration would be closer to 1:1 and that a recalibration would likely be needed;
- whether the budget model would be affected by the implementation of the college model;
- that the drivers of tuition and research were at the Faculty level so not likely to be affected by the college model;
- whether performance metrics would be used to identify low enrolment courses and programs for elimination; and
- that decisions about courses and programs would be decided first at the Department and Faculty level.

8. Academic Restructuring (no documents)

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 provided an outline of the next steps in AR including:

- looking to Faculties and discussions about Departments;
- a review of Centres and Institutes;
- implementation of the college model;
- selecting College Deans and interim Faculty Deans; and
- College role development including specific vision and mission.

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

- the selection process for College Deans and interim Faculty Deans;
- what was required through the implementation to meet budget targets;
- which elements of the academic alignment of the colleges would be approved by APC;
- the process for creating the vision and mission for the Colleges;
- how to ensure that EDI is considered when determining the new leadership structure; and
- lessons that could be learned from the experience of the Health Sciences Council disbanding and the impact on student programs and expectations.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

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

- Next Meeting of APC: February 10, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: January 25, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.