



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 09, 2022
Remote Meeting by Zoom
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Chris Andersen
Jelena Holovati, Vice-Chair
Steven Dew, Chair
Sandeep Agrawal
Peter Berg
Heather Bruce
Martin Coutts (delegate)
Shannon Erichsen
Anas Fassih

Todd Gilchrist
Vadim Kravchinsky
Rowan Ley
Jacqueline Leighton
Runjuan Liu
Melissa Padfield
Sanhita Pal
Aminah Robinson
Yan Yuan

non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Chris Beasley
Brad Hamdon

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Assistant
Secretary to GFC

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory:

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that the University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work.

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: Padfield/Bruce

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 noted that the provincial budget had been submitted and that there were some additional funds for student financial supports, microcredentials and Indigenous enrolment. In addition, a \$171 million dollar envelope is being made available for 7,000 additional seats in the system targeting specific program areas in business,

physical sciences, technology, and engineering. The University will be looking at how it can position itself for the funding given the tight timelines.

The Chair informed members that the province gave the University draft data for the Investment Management Agreements (IMAs). They have indicated they would like to see a draft for three performance indicators which put a total of 15% of funding at risk for the University. The Work-Integrated Learning metric will continue and new indicators have been identified related to domestic enrolment, and proportion of employed graduates in jobs related to their programs. In addition, international enrolment, Indigenous enrolment, government revenue dependency, and proportion of graduates employed will be tracked but without any funding at risk.

The Chair also noted that the University received notice of approval of the Exceptional Tuition Proposals from the Ministry and that the Faculty of Education restructuring proposals had been approved at the February 28th meeting of GFC.

Finally, the Chair noted that the City of Edmonton had repealed the City bylaw imposing a mask mandate and that the University would be evaluating its own policies as a result.

Members asked whether students would need to comply with the University or their instructor should the University remove the mask mandate and their instructors still required masking. It was noted that in the past, before the mask mandate was implemented, there had been complex situations for students and instructors to navigate and that the University would be considering how to communicate with instructors and students.

Members further inquired about the ability of Faculties to respond to the two-week time frame put in place by the province for the funding proposals, especially considerations for Faculty capacity to increase enrolment. The Chair noted that Faculties are working to assess their ability to respond to this opportunity, especially their student recruitment plans and capacity to increase enrolment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Bruce/Erichsen

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 9, 2022

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of February 9, 2022

CARRIED

4. Termination of the ALES Specialization in the Master of Engineering

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend the Board of Governors approve the termination of the ALES specialization in the Master of Engineering, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

Steven Dew stepped out of the chair and Vice-Chair Jelena Holovati assumed the role.

ACTION ITEMS

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

The Vice-Chair explained that the items were listed in the agenda separately but they were all budget related so the presentation would go over everything and then the committee would move through the motions.

T Gilchrist provided an overview of the University of Alberta consolidated budget including the impact of the reduction to the Government of Alberta grant. He noted that the University of Alberta for Tomorrow operating model had been used in the budget planning process and that the consolidated budget does include a small annual operating surplus that would be invested in strategic initiatives. He explained that the Capital Maintenance Renewal Grant had been received at close to historic levels, and that while it does not provide sufficient funding to meet the University deferred maintenance needs, the University was pleased to see it continued. He also provided an update on the special purpose budget that primarily consists of endowment funds.

S Dew provided an overview of the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) and tuition proposals. He reminded members that International tuition proposals for new students would come to APC at a later date. He also pointed out that APC had previously recommended approval on the Exceptional Tuition proposals. He noted that MNIFs were set to increase by an inflationary formula known as the academic price index, currently set at 1.38%. Concerning tuition, he explained that the proposed 7% increase for domestic undergraduate and graduate students continues to include a 15% offset for student financial supports. He further explained that the proposal includes an increase of 4% for those international students enrolled prior to the implementation of the new tuition model for international students in 2020. He noted that there would continue to be a financial support offset of 7.55% of total tuition for international students.

A Sharman provided an update on the ancillary budget including all retail operations, utilities, the bookstore, and parking. In addition, he presented the capital budget, which includes numerous government grant revenues and expenditures for ongoing capital projects. He also presented on several internally funded capital projects related to maintenance and repairs and an overview of ongoing projects. He concluded by noting the capital budget is looking to maintain and strengthen the University position through facilities optimization and reducing the overall footprint of the University. He noted that the currently funded capital projects were started several years ago, and shared some aspirational projects such as renewal of the Butterdome, the Education complex and consolidation of facilities in the Faculty of Arts.

5. 2022-2023 Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Proposal

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve that mandatory non-instructional fees for 2020-21 increase 1.38% in Fall 2022.

Discussion:

There was no discussion on the MNIF proposal.

Motion: Padfield/Dew

Motion: THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board Finance and Property Committee approve a 1.38%¹ increase to mandatory non-instructional fees for 2022-2023, equivalent to \$11.43 per full time student.

¹1.38% represents the increase in cost drivers for the University year over year (Academic Price Index (API)).

CARRIED

6. 2022-2023 Tuition Fee Proposal

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the tuition proposal for most domestic and international students for Fall 2022.

Discussion:

Members asked about the rationale for tuition increases given that the University is projecting an operating surplus of 2 million dollars and that from the perspective of academic planning, funds from tuition increases are not being reinvested in academic programs and research but into deferred maintenance and our overarching capital investments. Members were reminded that the total operations exceed a billion dollars and that the accounting on capital projects is quite distinct but that there would always be a portion of the funds that are invested in infrastructure.

Members asked about plans for future tuition increases given the projected reductions in the capital and research budgets for the institution. Members were informed that the University had not received rolling three-year projections from government but that with the best information available, there should be a modest increase in funding in the next fiscal year.

A question about comparators for international undergraduate and graduate tuition levels was posed related to the rationale for continuing to increase international student tuition rates. It was noted that comparator institutions were chosen based on ranking and reputation of the university rather than proximity and that the tuition was comparable to similarly ranked institutions in Canada.

Members questioned why the research budget was presented as a part of the operating budget and heard that this was required based on accounting standards.

Motion: Gilchrist/Bruce

Motion: THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Tuition Proposal for Fall 2022 as outlined in the following tables:

Category of Student	Proposed Increase for Fall 2022	Financial Support
Domestic Undergraduate (incoming and continuing students) ¹	7%	15% of net increase
International Undergraduate (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	4%	7.55% ²
Domestic Graduate Thesis (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	7% increase with rebate to 2.67% ³	15% of net increase
Domestic Graduate Thesis (2020 entry and beyond) ¹	7%	15% of net increase
Domestic Graduate Course-based (per *3) ¹	7%	15% of net increase
International Graduate Thesis (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	7% increase with rebate to 2.67% ³	7.55% ²
International Graduate Course-based (per *3, continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	4%	7.55% ²

¹ With the exception of incoming students in programs with approved exceptional tuition increases for Fall 2022. (As approved by the Board of Governors on October 15, 2021.)

² Existing model for International tuition financial aid.

³ 2.67% is consistent with the rebated increase from last year and is designed to ensure consistency and predictability for students in alignment with cost drivers. This is of net tuition and expires after 4 years after first introduction.

Exclusions:

The following programs will have their tuition rates held at the Fall 2021 rate.

Undergraduate Program Exclusions to Domestic Tuition Increases:

The following programs will be excluded from the 7% tuition increase:

- Certificate in Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs
- Certificate in Advanced Adolescent Literacy
- Certificate in Early Childhood Education

Graduate Program Exclusions to Domestic Tuition Increases:

The following programs will be excluded from the 7% tuition increase:

- Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership
- Master of Education in Educational Studies
- Master of Education in Health Science Education
- Master of Science Internetworking
- Master of Science in Multimedia Studies

CARRIED

2 opposed (R Ley, A Fassih)

7. University of Alberta 2022-2023 Budget

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To propose the University of Alberta 2022-23 Consolidated Budget for recommendation to the Board of Governors.

Discussion: Members sought clarification on:

- the management of land trust revenues in the University budget;
- the surplus and whether there were restrictions placed on the funds;
- whether there was an impact from the ratification of the collective agreement, and
- whether there were contingency plans in place for COVID related disruptions.

Motion: Dew/Bruce

THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Governors approve the 2022-23 Consolidated Budget as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

1 opposed (R Ley)

Jelena Holovati stepped out of the chair and Steven Dew resumed the role.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Investment Management Agreement (IMA)

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this item is to provide an update on preparation of the 2022-2023 Investment Management Agreement.

Discussion:

In addition to his remarks made under the Comments from the Chair portion of the agenda, it was noted that the Ministry is interested in providing incentives for institutions to be as efficient as possible and that it was expected that in the future, other indicators would be introduced such as research commercialisation.

There was no discussion.

9. Question Period

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

Members asked about the Exceptional Tuition Increases Ministerial Order and whether reporting requirements had been included.

The change to the John Scott Library was questioned and particularly why the Pediatrics library space had not been considered as a new home for the collections.

The situation in Ukraine was discussed and members asked whether there were plans to invite students from Ukraine to study at the University. The Chair noted that the university would fund tuition waivers and living costs out of institutional funds. In addition, there is ongoing work to find ways to support scholars currently working in the Ukraine. It was suggested that this information would be valuable for Chairs in particular.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- Additional background - Materials from 1991 GFC Approval of Merger of SLIS and FoE

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: March 23, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: March 21, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.