



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Remote Meeting by Zoom
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Chris Andersen
Chris Beasley
Sandeep Agrawal
Peter Berg
Heather Bruce
Shannon Erichsen
Todd Gilchrist
Vadim Kravchinsky

Rowan Ley
Jelena Holovati
Jacqueline Leighton
Runjuan Liu
Melissa Padfield
Sanhita Pal
Aminah Robinson
Yan Yuan

non-voting:

Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Anas Fassih
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/Leighton

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 observed that the winter term was wrapping up and thanked members for their hard work throughout what had been a challenging semester. He went on to thank student members finishing their mandate on APC including Rowan Ley, Chris Beasley and Sanhita Pal. Finally, he noted that the proposed changes to the Academic Planning Committee's terms of reference had been recommended by the GFC Executive Committee. If approved

by GFC, APC would take on additional authority to approve general space plans and the Facilities Development Committee would be disbanded.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Andersen/Padfield

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 23, 2022

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of March 23, 2022

CARRIED

4. Proposed Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in the Faculty of Education.

CARRIED

5. Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) Annual Report

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the 2020 Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) Annual Report to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

ACTION ITEMS

6. Proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to create the Canadian Underground Infrastructure Innovation Centre (CUIIC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Walter Dixon, Associate Vice-President (Research and Priority Initiatives); Ali Bayat, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering; Ania Ulrich, Professor, Environmental/Geotechnical Engineering

Purpose of the Proposal: To bring forward the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to create the Canadian Underground Infrastructure Innovation Centre (CUIIC) for discussion and approval by APC under the authority of the UAPPOL Academic Centres and Institutes Establishment Procedure.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that APC holds delegated authority to approve the creation of new centres and institutes that are governed according to the UAPPOL Centres and Institutes Policy. This authority intersects with APC's authority over budget and research policy. He invited the presenters to provide a high level overview of the proposal. The Proponents provided a presentation outlining the rationale for the proposal, the background for the creation of the CUIIC, and the goals for research, education and innovation.

Committee members asked questions and made comments about:

- The number of individuals who would be involved in the centre from different organisations;
- The high quality of the proposal and materials provided;
- Research priorities for the centre and considerations for setting them, including risk management, quality and innovation;
- Collaboration with international partners and the possibility of advancing these relationships through CUIIC; and

- How the new centre will be positioned in Canada and internationally as a flagship organisation able to provide leadership to the private sector.

Motion: Leighton/Erichson

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the establishment of the Canadian Underground Infrastructure Innovation Centre (CUIIC) as an academic institute at the University of Alberta.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Janice Causgrove-Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC Programs Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree Program.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the proposed dual degree was coming to APC because of the committee's delegated authority over new programs with resource impacts, and because of the oversight role for international initiatives. He explained that typically, APC approves the memorandum of understanding that articulates changes to existing programs to be offered in shared credentials but in this case, the program is being created to support the international collaboration. The Chair clarified the approval pathway which includes GFC and the Board because this is a new credential for the University, and reminded members that transnationally delivered programs are not subject to the tuition fee regulation. He invited the Chair of the GFC Programs Committee (PC) to speak to the approval of the program. J Causgrove Dunn provided context on the approval of the program by PC where the proposal had been well-received. She emphasized that this collaboration was innovative and represents a first for the University and for the Ministry. T Hiller provided background information and explained the rationale and goals for the program. She articulated the program structure as a 2+2 program with students meeting the requirements of both schools to graduate using the MD program curriculum.

Members asked about the eligibility of domestic students to participate in the program and heard that because the Wenzhou program requirements must be met before they began at the University of Alberta, there would be no domestic enrolment. Members asked for confirmation that the graduands would not receive a Canadian MD Degree.

The Committee discussed the relationship with the Chinese university and the current freeze in place on research collaborations. It was explained that the Government had made a request of the University to enumerate research initiatives with China and to freeze the creation of new collaborations that may involve new or sensitive technology. It was reported that there had been no further direction from the Ministry.

The support of the proposal was discussed, and it was noted that the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) Council vote had been close. The proponents spoke to the willingness of faculty to teach in the program as a possible proxy to gauge the support within FoMD.

The presence of students from China participating in the Global Summer Program was discussed and members asked whether the introduction of this program would signify the suspension of that program or changes to the MD program and heard there would be careful efforts to ensure that the introduction of this program would not negatively impact the existing programs.

Members asked about FoMD's plans for spending the resources that this collaboration would produce and proponents noted that these questions are under decanal authority but all spending would align with the Faculty's strategic spending priorities.

The dates for enrolment were discussed and members heard that students would begin the third year of this program in September because the program will exist independent of the University of Alberta approved program. Members also discussed the required screening for tuberculosis for clinical students coming to Canada.

Motion: Padfield/Ley

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree as set forth in attachments 1, 2, and 3, and for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Upcoming Changes to the Faculty of Extension's Status

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Interim Dean, Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss growth priorities and upcoming changes to the administrative structure of Continuing Education, including removing the current Faculty status of the Faculty of Extension.

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members about their authority over academic units and their responsibility to recommend on the creation and dissolution of Faculties. The Proponent noted that the change to the Faculty status is a small part of a broader initiative to expand continuing education and continuing professional education (CPE) at the University and the vision of a centralized structure to support the creation of program offerings. The alignment with this change with the One-University strategy was explained, and the priority to scale up CPE across the University.

Members discussed how this framework would impact Campus Saint-Jean, Augustana and the Faculty of Native Studies, and heard that as a central hub unit, its work would support all of the University including programming in French. The hope is that this will better enable units to create sustainable revenue streams within units through shared services and expertise offered centrally. The creation of an Associate Vice-President position that is both academically oriented and externally facing to support the broad functions required for CPE such as liaising with the private sector and donors was also noted.

Members asked about the alignment with the Online strategy and heard about potential overlap because of online offerings. It was noted that the Faculty structure is currently a barrier to scaling out the work of CPE at the university, including online and other innovative programming.

The Chair explained that the purpose of the Hub was to ensure a single approach to CPE across the university so that anyone interested in accessing CPE through any learning mode would encounter consistent rules, registrarial functions, enrolment, and marketing. He also noted that the Hub will make it easier for any unit in the institution to engage in CPE, something that currently has a high barrier to entry.

The Hub's accessibility to academic units was discussed, especially the capacity to support work on CPE across the university, and members asked about the supports that would be available for recruitment, marketing, enrolment and documenting students.

It was noted that currently, the Faculty of Extension has no base budget and that this will continue to be the case for the Hub. The unit will need to be sustained through different strategies to ensure a positive revenue stream and this funding model will include that set-asides be used to ensure that the University can pursue its mission of education in diverse programming. It was confirmed that there is no intention to put in place a tax for the unit so that its growth is self-sustaining.

9. University of Alberta Information Technology Strategy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Mike MacGregor, Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer

Purpose of the Proposal: The item is before the committee to inform members of the project to develop an information technology (IT) strategy for the University of Alberta and request feedback on consultations and draft goals.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that the Academic Planning committee holds responsibility over IT strategy, the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative has led to consolidation of the IT services of the University, and the Board requested the development of a university-wide strategy. This initiative aligns with the priorities of SET but falls outside them. The contractor has led consultations with College and Faculty deans, Faculty members, students, administrative staff and other leadership. These discussions have resulted in broad themes guiding the strategy, notably accessibility and the need to focus on Indigenous Initiatives, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity. The report is anticipated to be available mid-May 2022. The plan will include principles, goals, work streams, and key initiatives.

Members expressed gratitude noting the importance of this work and appreciation for the careful consultations to present and asked questions, made comments, and expressed opinions, including:

- The value of an institution-led strategy to encourage buy-in, promote sustainability, and articulate academic principles for the role of IT and its accountability to the core mission of teaching and research;
- Use of the term "data informed" vs "data driven" and the need to ensure engagement with data that is led by the University;
- A question about whether cloud-based solutions were adequately addressed by the plan;
- The need to reduce barriers to underrepresented groups for teaching and learning and the potential that cloud-based solutions may provide new avenues for learners;
- A question about how to ensure that we are equipping our learners for their professional life and how we can ensure that we are at the cutting edge of industry standards;
- The reputation of our computing science program and the dissonance with our learning management system and whether it would be possible for the University to innovate in this area and market it;
- A perspective that instructors are closest to learners and can make informed decisions about what is best for their students if they have digital literacy;
- The need to consider strategic goals that impact the general public such as use of UAlberta services and a question about providing open data for industry and for the public;
- The need for consideration of what we may lose if we focus too much on online delivery and not on the in-person experience, especially the wellness of students;
- The ability of technology to promote an improved in-person experience and to support students who are in both in-person and enrolled in remote classes with online assessment;

- The importance of principles for online and in-person learning experiences for strategic decision making about what we want the student experience at the University to be; and that
- Online delivery can free up in-person resources and learning for more complex and difficult learning that is best done in person.

10. Budget Update (standing item) (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair informed APC that the budget package including tuition elements had been approved and that the program-based tuition model for international students starting in Fall, 2023 will be coming forward for recommendation by APC in May and for approval by the Board in June. The proposed increase to tuition levels has been carefully considered given the impact of inflation and takes into account the fact that tuition is guaranteed over four years. There are currently four scenarios that have been presented to students ranging from a 5% to a 6.8% increase.

The Chair also noted that Enrolment Growth proposals were submitted to the Minister and it is expected that the University will hear back in May 2022. The proposal included enrolment expansion in the Faculties of Engineering, Science, Business, Kinesiology, Sports and Recreation, Arts, and Nursing. If approved, this represents about 25 million in additional funding. Finally, the federal budget released last week includes a number of funding opportunities for the University.

There were no questions.

11 Question Period

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

Discussion:

Members asked about the possibility of decommissioning the Humanities Building and heard about the work on facilities optimization, especially for reducing our footprint, liability, and managing the University's deferred maintenance issues. It was explained that the Humanities Building is not being used effectively and the creation of the University Commons building may provide some opportunities for better space management. At this point, there are ongoing conversations about the possibility of collaboration with external partners and while there is no decisions yet, there are a number of possibilities.

There were no additional questions.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: May 4, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: May 2, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.