



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 5, 2022
SAB 2-31
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Verna Yiu, Chair
Sandeep Agrawal
Heather Bruce
Shannon Erichsen
Anas Fassih
Todd Gilchrist
Tammy Hopper
Vadim Kravchinsky
Jacqueline Leighton

Abner Monteiro
Kent Rondeau
Chris Sprysak

Regrets:
Peter Berg
Milan Regmi
Aminah Robinson Fayek
Brad Hamdon

non-voting:

Kate Peters

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Associate
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): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

Discussion: V Yiu noted that the University Strategic planning process will begin with a launch set for November 2, 2022 and that the process will include consultation with GFC. The Chair noted that there would be members of APC who would be asked to participate in a steering committee chaired by the Interim Provost. She shared that the College Dean Selection Processes had begun and members were invited to consider nominating academic staff to sit on the committees. The appointment of an Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of

Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) was announced. Roger Epp will begin a one-year term effective November 1, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The consent agenda was moved and seconded.

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 19, 2022

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of September 19, 2022

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Election of a Vice-Chair

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

Discussion: The Chair noted that as discussed in the previous meeting, the committee was asked to approve the nomination of Heather Bruce in the role of Vice-Chair. No further nominations were received and the Committee declared H Bruce acclaimed in the role. The Chair thanked H Bruce for agreeing to serve.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Update on the College Dean's progress and plans (no documents)

Presenter(s): Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Interim College Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS), Greta Cummings, Interim College Dean, College of Health Sciences (CHS); Joseph Doucet, Interim College Dean, College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH).

Discussion: M Kalcounis-Rueppell presented on the work to implement the College model to present, including the impact of the One University Operating Model; the changes to the roles of Faculty Deans; the creation of Associate Dean roles; and the creation of Offices of Education and Research.

Members asked about the successes to present and the challenges that the Interim College Deans have observed. They asked for an update on the demonstrated savings from the implementation of the College Model, and on the impact on bringing academic administrators back into the classroom. Members asked about the process to set priorities for moving services from the Faculties to Colleges, such as student support services.

A suggestion was made to highlight the importance of interdisciplinarity in the College Model. The Interim College Deans noted several early wins. The Committee suggested that GFC would benefit from hearing about some of the successes in the presentation at the October 17th meeting.

7. Online and Continuing Education

Presenter(s): Jessica Butts Scott, Associate Vice-President, Online and Continuing Education .

Discussion: J Butts Scott shared her goal of supporting purpose-built, high-quality, online and non-credit programs and pathways to serve non-traditional students. She outlined next steps including collaboration, relationship-building, and capacity-building which will be articulated in an integrated action plan.

The Chair reminded APC members of their responsibilities over enrolment planning, academic programs with resource impacts, and quality assurance.

Members discussed the opportunities for growth in online offerings among existing programs and high-demand courses. Members asked about the ability of the hub to support high quality course development and the costs of that work; the market for online learning and what learners are willing to spend; transitioning high demand courses and flagship programs to online offerings; the need for program expansion to meet the needs of learners, and the public. The Chair emphasized the need for expertise and a coordinated approach that supports faculty and adds value to the student experience.

Members offered advice for presenting at GFC and signaled the general change fatigue in the university, as well as the tension between in-person and online offerings.

8. Review of the APC Terms of Reference

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, Secretary to General Faculties Council; Heather Richholt, Associate Secretary to General Faculties Council.

Discussion: H Richholt presented on the work of the GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (Exec GPO) and K Peters invited the committee to ask questions about the APC Terms of Reference.

Members asked about:

- Including the Deputy Provosts;
- Board-delegated authority;
- Votes of resource members;
- The broad range of responsibilities and delegated authority held by the committee and whether such breadth was advisable;
- Why teaching is absent from the committee responsibilities;
- Whether equity, diversity and inclusivity policy should be included in committee responsibilities; and
- What perspectives were missing from the composition and if Academic Teaching Staff members should be added.

7. Question Period

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

Discussion: Members asked how the Freedom of Expression policy aligns with our Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Strategic Plan in terms of creating inclusive spaces in classrooms. The Chair committed to bringing a discussion on Freedom of Expression to APC when the new Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity) was named. Members asked about the Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring Report and whether metrics on the Student Services Centre were available. The Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar committed to sharing the information with APC.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- . Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring
- B. Revisions to the University of Alberta Engineering Research Chairs Proposal

CLOSING SESSION

Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: October 19, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 17, 2022