

General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 06, 2024  
SAB 2-31  
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Verna Yiu (Chair)  
Heather Bruce (Vice Chair)  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Bishoi Aziz  
Zengtao Chen  
Chetan Dave  
Christian Fotang  
Todd Gilchrist  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Ola Mabrouk

Heather Seyl Miyashita  
Norma Rodenburg  
Chris Sprysak

Non-Voting Members:

Kate Peters  
John Lemieux

Regrets

Tammy Hopper  
Aminah Robinson Fayek  
Adrian Lam

Staff

Keri-Anne Chevalier  
(scribe)  
Carley Roth  
Faiza Billo

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:* The Chair began by acknowledging the territory.

A member asked for clarification on the Consolidated Budget item.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.
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**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:* The Chair commented on the following:

- the "What We Heard Document - People Strategy";
- new Indigenous Resources;
- Canvas being selected as the University of Alberta's next learning management system;
- the Dean of Augustana announcement; and
- the APC terms of reference discussion at GFC.

There were no questions.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 31, 2023

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Chair requested an amendment to the January 31, 2024 meeting minutes.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the open session minutes of January 31, 2024 be amended by deleting the following:  
"The Provost noted that the proposal would be brought back to APC for decision and thanked members for their engagement with the item."

**CARRIED**

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of January 31, 2024

**CARRIED**

***H Bruce stepped into the Chair for Items 4 - 6***

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

4. Consolidated Budget Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

*Discussion:* The Chair noted the item was for informational purposes and to provide more detailed information on each action item than was received at the February 15 budget briefing. She advised members that they would be asked to work through motions in the items following the presentation.

The Consolidated Budget for 2024-25 was reviewed with an explanation of the total deficit. Proponents highlighted the:

- capital budget;
- operating Budget;
- provincial grants; and
- Targeted Enrolment Expansion.

Regarding tuition, an overview of domestic and new international students tuition proposals was presented. The following points were presented:

- the legislated tuition cap presents a challenge;
- reasoning behind the proposed 5% increase in new international student tuition;
- the purpose of the tuition offset; and
- how the Fall 2024 Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees was different from previous years.

The key components of growth planning were discussed and the University of Alberta research budget was reviewed.

The Ancillary budget was discussed emphasizing the need for revenue from consumers to cover all expenses and the 2024-45 rate increases. Finally, the capital budget was presented with a review of 2024-2025 investments and an overall decrease of 4.9% for the coming year.

Members asked questions and made comments including:

- concerns from students, especially international students, on the impacts of tuition increases;
- the possibility of putting pressure on the government given the students are suffering;
- revenues generated from the properties trust;
- highlights of significant changes in the consolidated budget information;
- regarding salaries, whether ongoing labour negotiations had been considered;
- the ability to access carry forward funds;
- whether the university pays fees for investment funds, whether funds are actively or passively managed; and whether there were possible cost-savings in fund management; and
- engagement of the University of Alberta Students' Union on financial aid increases for the Fall 2025 cohort (especially international students).

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 5. Athletics and Recreation Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee New Allocation Structure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment),

*Discussion:* There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve a new fee assessment structure for the Athletics and Recreation MNIF, as described in the following table, to be effective Fall 2024.

**CARRIED**

#### 6. Tuition Proposals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

*Discussion:* Members asked for more details on the 2024-25 international tuition proposals and specifically, whether they were based on the Consumer Price Index calculated in 2023.

The four motions were moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve a 2% increase to domestic tuition for undergraduate and graduate students for Fall 2024, and that 15% of tuition revenue from this tuition increase be set aside for student financial support .

**CARRIED**  
**(3 opposed, 1 abstention)**

There were three opposed and one abstention to this motion.

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs to take effect for the Fall 2025 intake, as set forth in attachment 1.

**CARRIED**  
**(3 opposed, 1 abstention)**

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve an increase to the student financial offset for international students from 7.55% to 8.55% of total international tuition revenue, beginning in Fall 2025.

**CARRIED**

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors increase the current \$4000 price adjustment for international graduate students in thesis-based programs to \$5000, understanding that this amount will continue to be offset by an equal amount of financial support and will continue to be revenue and cost neutral, effective Fall Term, 2025.

**CARRIED**

#### 7. University of Alberta 2024-2025 Consolidated Budget

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

*Discussion:* Nothing further to present.

The motion was moved and seconded.

There were four abstentions to this motion.

That General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Consolidated Budget as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**  
**(4 abstentions)**

***V Yiu resumed the Chair.***

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### 8. 2025/25 - 2026/27 Capital Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC; Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations);

*Discussion:* The Chair noted that APC does not recommend on the Capital Plan but the information is important context for the committee's work. A Sharman reminded members the Capital Plan would be presented to the Board Finance and Property Committee. He presented the Plan noting similarities to what was submitted in 2023 as none of the capital projects had been funded. He emphasized alignment with the University's Strategic Plan and the Government of Alberta's criteria.

9. Question Period

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

*Discussion:* Members asked how the University should interpret the Premier's pre-budget speech on expenditures as it relates to the impact on the University's growth.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- Meeting Materials Now Available: University Governance Budget Briefing with APC

**CLOSING SESSION**

Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: March 20, 2024

- Next Meeting of GFC: March 18, 2024