

General Faculties Council
Committee on the Learning Environment
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, October 05, 2011
3-15, UHALL
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Bill Connor – Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, Renée Elio (Delegate), Emerson Csorba, Nima Yousefi Moghaddam (Delegate), Ernie Ingles, Scott Delinger (Delegate), Ada Schmude (Delegate), Rachel Milner, Trevor Woods, Anne McIntosh, Eren Cervantes-Altamirano, Brock Richardson, Fern Snart, Deanna Williamson, Janet Scott Hoyt, Garry Bodnar (Coordinator and Scribe)

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)
Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Bill Connor, Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC))
Emerson Csorba, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies
Scott Delinger, IT Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Chris Hackett, Discipline Officer, Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA)
Nima Yousefi Moghaddam, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies
Deborah Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA)
Yves Sauvé, Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Deanna Williamson, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Moghaddam/Csorba

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) approve the Agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of September 7, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Scott Delinger asked that, in Minute 10, his title be amended from “Mr” to “Dr.”

Motion: Moghaddam/Schmude

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) approve the Minutes of September 7, 2011, as amended.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Co-Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

4. Access to Universal Student Ratings of Instruction

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To clarify which members of the University community have access to the paper summaries of USRI data and the on-line summaries of USRI data.

Discussion:

Dr Skidmore presented the proposal to members on behalf of the GFC CLE Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Subcommittee. She reminded members of the concerns raised by the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA) earlier this year that the University was not complying with its own policy/procedures regarding the distribution and availability of USRI results. She spoke, as well, to the genesis of the subcommittee she had overseen, noting that the work undertaken by this group had been at the initial request of the GFC Executive Committee; to the consultative path through which the policy revisions now before members of GFC CLE had moved throughout the Summer and early Fall; and stated that the proposed revisions to be considered were in line with the intent of the USRI policy, as originally established by General Faculties Council (GFC), and were in compliance with Section 42 of the Provincial *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: clarification was sought on whether instructors who were also students of the University of Alberta were students or instructors first; and, for instructors who teach in more than one academic unit (eg, a Department), clarity was sought on which unit head would have access to those individuals' USRI results.

Dr Skidmore indicated that, although Deans were to have online access to USRI results, this was currently taking longer than had been expected. As her request, Trevor Woods (Executive Director, Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) and GFC CLE Member) explained to members the nature of the interim and final solutions in PeopleSoft employed to provide individuals with access to USRI results.

Motion: Moghaddam/Cervantes-Altamirano

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment recommend to the GFC Executive Committee proposed revisions to Section 111.3 (Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation/Universal Student Ratings of Instruction) of the GFC Policy Manual, as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Terms of Reference and Membership

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Emerson Csorba, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies; Nima Yousefi Moghaddam, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies

Purpose of the Proposal: To update GFC CLE on the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies' progress over the month of September, 2011, and to seek the Committee's approval of the Subcommittee's revised (proposed) Terms of Reference and Membership.

Discussion:

Mr Csorba spoke to the changes that had been incorporated into the proposed Terms of Reference and Membership listing for the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies based on members' suggestions at the last meeting of GFC CLE. Mr Moghaddam clarified that the issues concerning attributes to be discussed by this subcommittee would encompass those for both undergraduate and graduate students.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Delinger/Cervantes-Altamirano

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Terms of Reference and Membership for the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.
CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Academic Integrity Task Force Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Chris Hackett, Discipline Officer, Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA); Yves Sauvé, Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Deborah Eerkes, Director, OSJA

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the report and recommendations made by the Academic Integrity Task Force, based on responses to the academic integrity survey of October/November, 2010. The hope is to begin a discussion on the various recommendations made by the Task Force, as contained in their report.

Discussion:

Mr Hackett introduced the Report to members. He spoke to the background that had led to the work undertaken by the Academic Integrity Task Force; the logistics associated with conducting the Academic Integrity Survey over the past year; the process of gathering data to support both the Survey and the resulting report; the final results attained, based on the Survey; and the recommendations, as set out in the Report, that grew out of the Survey results. He noted that three major institutional risks had been identified

by the Task Force, based on the Survey findings: the alienation students and staff felt from the University's discipline system and the fundamental lack of understanding they had of what was involved in this system; the need for better educative processes on discipline-related matters for both students and staff; and the considerable impact of technology on academic integrity issues.

Professor Sauvé clarified for members the Task Force's intention behind Recommendation #9. He indicated that a recent article in *The Gateway* had suggested the Task Force was recommending the University adopt the electronic detection resource 'turnitin.com'—this was not the case, he said, but instead members felt that careful, systematic review of these types of resources should be carried out before any decisions were made to either employ or not employ them. He noted, as well, that Survey results indicated that very few people were aware of the annual publication of institutional discipline statistics that appeared in *The Gateway*, thereby undermining their usefulness; and he spoke strongly in favour of Recommendation #3 which calls for the establishment by the University of an Academic Integrity Council.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: clarification was sought on the rationale underpinning Recommendation #10, how this recommendation would be implemented, and whether or not its deployment would vary from Faculty to Faculty; support was expressed for the creation of a University Academic Integrity Council that could be responsible for carrying forward the recommendations contained in the Survey; a member strongly advocated for the involvement of students in any decision-making that potentially could lead to the use of on-line resources such as 'turnitin.com'; the Chair stated that there was a need to ensure that something concrete came out of the recommendations contained within the Report and sought clarification on the Task Force's plans for implementation of said recommendations and who would oversee the progress made towards accomplishing these goals and ambitions; there was a need for greater detail on the programs that could be used to better educate the University community on institutional discipline matters and how both students and staff could be engaged in meaningful discussion on the range of academic integrity issues confronting the University; the need to convey to all members of the University community their accountability for familiarizing themselves with appropriate disciplinary processes and for understanding what can and should not be done in this arena; and how to handle students who will engage in academic dishonesty, regardless of what is done to better educate them on issues of academic integrity.

Mr Hackett thanked members for their comments and indicated he would welcome any additional feedback they may have on the Task Force's findings.

7. Joint Subcommittee on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)/Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology Report: Update (no documents)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Scott Delinger, IT Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Delinger updated members on the recent work undertaken by the Joint Subcommittee on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)/Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology. He stated that, in November, 2011, the Subcommittee would report to both GFC CLE and TLAT Council on an overview of campus-wide initiatives that deal directly with the

influence of technology on pedagogy and would provide suggestions on evaluating both the effectiveness of and satisfaction with these initiatives.

STANDING ITEMS

8. GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Deanna Williamson, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Member Cross-Appointed from the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Williamson provided a brief report on the September 14 and September 28, 2011 meetings of GFC APC.

9. GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Bill Connor, Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC))

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Connor provided a brief report on the September 15, 2011 meeting of GFC ASC.

10. GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Mr Bodnar provided a brief report on the September 22, 2011 meeting of GFC FDC.

11. Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Scott Delinger, IT Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Delinger provided a brief report on the September 13, 2011 meeting of TLAT Council.

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.