UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)
APPROVED Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 2022
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31 and remote option by Zoom
2:00 PM - 4:05 PM

ATTENDEES:
John Nychka, Chair
Hollis Lai
Angela Bayduza
Christine Hughes
Pierre Lemelin
Al Meldrum
Norma Rodenburg
Gregory Thomas
Shauna Wilton

Connie Winther
non-voting:
Mike MacGregor
Tommy Mayberry
Lara McClelland
Kate Peters

REGRETS:
Ashmeen Aneja
Benjamin Cheung

Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon
Bora Kim
Angie Mandeville
Abner Monteiro
Mary Olukotun
Ali Shiri

Staff:
Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Motion: Lai/Thomas

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning environment approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 30, 2022

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Motion: Lemelin/Hughes

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the open session minutes of March 30, 2022.
CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair CLE

Discussion:
In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:
- Thanks to outgoing staff and student committee members for their work over the past year;
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Review of Awards and the report that would be available soon;

- The University was working on an Online and Continuing Education Strategy that would include the creation of a hub model to support the development of online programming across the institution; and
- A request for a member of CLE to serve on the Advisory Selection Committee for Faculty Excellence Awards.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Underline University of Alberta Technology Strategy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer

Discussion:
M MacGregor presented an overview of the University of Alberta Technology Strategy including key themes, draft goals, and workstreams that would be established to deliver the strategy.

Members discussed:
- challenges regarding communication around information technology;
- transparency related to evergreening the university's technology and systems;
- the technology governance approach related to infrastructure and media;
- the role of the Colleges in the Technology Strategy; and
- the changes under the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) restructuring to centralize the University's information technology support.

5. Updates

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Presenter(s): Tommy Mayberry, Executive Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Discussion:
T Mayberry provided the following updates:
- The Festival of Teaching and Learning scheduled for May 2 - 4, 2022 with great sessions by UofA instructors and teachers, and two student keynote conversations on Accommodation and Proactive Design; and
- CTL's new Lead Educational Developer with an Indigenizing Pedagogies focused portfolio would join the unit on May 2, 2022.

B. Library and Museums

Presenter(s): Connie Winther, Head for Faculty Engagement (Health Sciences), Library and Museums

Discussion:
C Winther updated members on the Health Sciences Library and noted that the design had moved to the tender phase. She also spoke about the principles that would be used to decide Library hours for the fall.

C. General Faculties Council

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Discussion:
K Peters spoke about the items on the agenda for the GFC meeting scheduled for the May 2 meeting which would be held in person in Council Chamber for the first time since spring 2020. She also noted that there would be a remote meeting option on Zoom.

6.   Pursuing Equitable Access Textbook Approach

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Katherine Huising, Associate Vice-President, Campus Services; Kevin Moffitt, Director Retail Operations Campus Services

Discussion:
K Huisung and K Moffitt explained that the university was considering a digital first platform for textbooks and course content that could create opportunity for savings far beyond the traditional print model. They noted that the university was currently investigating the feasibility of this program.

Members discussed:
- Open Educational Resources (OER), and the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) initiative and Campus Solutions indicator;
- academic freedom and innovation;
- student consultation;
- the importance of preserving library resources;
- that students would not be required to participate and could choose to opt out of the program; and
- financial supports available for students to help with fees.

7.   Space Optimization Strategy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Lara McClelland, Associate Vice-President, Integrated Planning, Development & Partnerships; Shannon Loughran, Associate Director, Space Optimization

Discussion:
L McClelland and S Loughran provided an overview of the Space Optimization Strategy and spoke about the need to reduce the university's physical footprint, optimize existing spaces, reduce the growing deferred maintenance liability, and re-invest in the buildings best positioned for future growth in academic and research excellence.

Members discussed:
- The goal to remove 15% of the university's space from inventory;
- Sensitivities around space;
- Investment and repair needs at Augustana Campus;
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and community building aspects of space optimization;
- Scheduling classes outside the peak hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and
- Shared space, including labs.

8.   Question Period

There were no questions.

CLOSING SESSION

9.   Adjournment
       - Next meeting of CLE: September 28, 2022
       - Next meeting of GFC: May 2, 2022