



General Faculties Council
Council on Student Affairs
Draft Open Session Minutes

Friday, June 12, 2020
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Chris Beasley
Dhir Bid
Karl Buchanon
André Costopoulos
Simran Dhillon
Anastasia Elias

Katie Kidd
Khandaker Shahriar
Chanpreet Singh
Marc Waddingham

non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga

REGRETS:

Katherine Belcourt
Sachiketha Reddy
Samantha Roan
Alan Underhill

Staff:
Ann Hodgson, Coordinator
Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Material before members is contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of Council on Student Affairs (COSA)

Motion: Waddingham/Elias

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the Agenda. **CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair gave a brief overview of the university's current financial challenges including unprecedented cuts to the university's operating budget. He updated members on the provincial government's recent decision, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to postpone the implementation of the Investment Management Agreement and Performance Based Funding Measures until 2021 as well as the suspension of the Expenditure Reduction Targets. The Chair also spoke to the recent budget related decisions to close the Winspear Business Library and the HT Coutts Library.

The Chair explained that the Evaluation and Grading Section of the University Calendar was in need of revision to reflect the current context of remote delivery of courses and online assessment. He noted that regulations around student conduct in online assessment situations were necessary and that the Office of the Provost would be working to develop guidelines for students and instructors, and communicating these on the Centre for Teaching and Learning website over the next months, in preparation for revisions to the calendar through GFC in the fall.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 30, 2020

Material before members is contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion: Padfield/Elias

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the Open Session Minutes of January 30, 2020.

CARRIED

EARLY CONSULTATION

4. Academic Governance Emergency Protocols (Standing Item)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of COSA; Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar; John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives); Jason Carey, Associate Dean (Programs & Planning), Faculty of Engineering; Katherine Husing, Associate Vice-President Ancillary Services

A. COVID-19 Governance Decision Tracker

Discussion:

The Chair noted that any changes made as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic would be recorded in the governance decision tracker and that the tracker was available via the link in the agenda.

B. Fall 2020 Winter 2021 Planning Overview Document

- a) Technology Specifications Documents
- b) Other

Discussion:

Ms Padfield, Dr Nychka, and Dr Carey spoke about the work of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Subcommittee on Academic Impacts related to technology in remote learning. They noted the following considerations in their efforts to create of a list of necessary technology:

- how to ensure student success in their programs during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;
- how best to communicate technology expectations and requirements to students;
- those who should be consulted;
- access to eClass;
- different ways for students and instructors to connect in a remote environment;
- student participation in online assessments and exams;
- considering costs and lifespan of technology;
- privacy and compliance with related legislation;
- program specific requirements; and
- accessibility, accommodation, and supports available to help student with the costs of required technology.

During the discussion, members offered the following feedback:

- the potential for lending of technology through the library or other office for a low or no-cost option for students who could not afford to purchase the needed technology;

- the challenges, for both instructors and students, of synchronous and asynchronous delivery;
- that faculty require the expertise to support the required technology in their programs;
- working with vendors to source better deals/packages on technology and internet connectivity for students; and
- the importance of clear communication of expectations to students before they register for their programs.

Mr Sharman gave an overview of the current state of the COVID-19 response in the province, the city, and the university. He noted that the university would continue to follow the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and that the government was expected to update post-secondary guidelines soon.

Mr Sharman indicated that the PHRT was currently working on fall planning including resuming on campus student services and on campus research, as well as applications for course exceptions to remote delivery. He noted that they hoped to be able to release communications regarding in person courses by June 22. Mr Sharman also noted the complications that were expected once influenza season arrived and all symptoms would have to be considered potentially COVID-19 related.

Ms Padfield explained that all in person course components would be identified in Bear Tracks and students registered in those courses would be notified by email.

Members asked about accommodations for students who were not able to attend in person course components for various reasons as well as communication of expectations for such courses.

Ms Huising noted that residence offers were being sent out for the fall 2020 term. She explained that the residence team was working to ensure compliance with CMOH regulations around shared living environments. She also noted that the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) residence would be used for self-isolation.

Members asked about jobs for the Resident Assistants who had been hired for the fall 2020 term and the cost involved with self-isolating at PLLC.

5. Academic Restructuring - Update (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair gave an overview of the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) restructuring initiative, which was being led by the President-elect Bill Flanagan. He explained that there were two parts to the initiative: Service Excellence Transition (SET) for the Administrative side and Academic Restructuring for the Academic side. The Chair noted that the current organization structure included 18 Faculties both large and small and that duplication of function across small Faculties was not efficient. The Chair noted that proposed changes would come to GFC and to COSA in the fall. He also gave some of the highlights of the draft principles for the restructuring to include: alignment with the Institutional Strategic Plan *For the Public Good* including Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), collegiality and transparency in the process, student focus, and positioning the university for future success as well as reducing costs.

Members discussed: the potential for consultations with the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association, and the Faculty Students' Associations, and the importance of EDI.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Business Arising from Last Meeting [Verbal Updates from Ex-Officio Members (no documents)]

- Red Tape for Students: What Bugs You? (This is a standing item on the COSA agenda to receive student input and concerns.)

There were no items brought forward.

- GSA Update

Presenter(s): Marc Waddingham, GSA President

Discussion:

Mr Waddingham highlighted the following items of concern to the GSA:

- the graduate supervisory initiative for FGSR led by Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR, Brooke Milne;
- the predictability of tuition and fees for international students;
- supporting Indigenous and black graduate students and a focus on EDI;
- graduate student mental health;
- the effects of COVID-19 on students; and
- the UAT restructuring initiative.

- SU Update
- Protection and Recourse for Students in Experiential Learning

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joel Agarwal, SU President

Discussion:

Mr Agarwal noted the following items under consideration by the Students' Union (SU):

- SU goals may be readjusted due to impact of COVID-19;
- UAT and ensuring student perspective is considered;
- concern about the Campus Saint-Jean cuts;
- UPASS and health and dental benefits;
- SU business operations hit hard by the COVID-19 shut down; and
- online peer support.

Mr Agarwal announced that Rowen Ley, the SU's Vice-President (External), would be serving as Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

David Draper, SU's Vice-President (Academic), explained that he was looking into Protection and Recourse for Students in Experiential Learning and would be bringing this to COSA in the fall for a more fulsome discussion.

- Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Update

Presenter(s): André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

Discussion:

Dr Costopoulos noted that combatting racism was top of mind for the Dean of Students and that his office was working on communications regarding community standards and a reminder of the supports available to those affected by racism.

- Vice-Provost and University Registrar Update

There was no update.

7. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by the Committee by email Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.