



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Friday, June 15, 2012
3-15, UHALL
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Brenda Cameron	Academic Staff Member and Chair, GFC Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee
Uwe Hacke	Academic Staff Member
Elisabeth Le	Academic Staff Member
Melissa Hartley	Academic Staff Member, Staff Category A2.1
Jenna Lee	Undergraduate Student-at-large
Nicholas Monfries	Undergraduate Student-at-large

Presenters:

Brenda Cameron	Chair, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)
Bobbi Schiestel	Acting Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Laura Connell	Acting Faculty Awards Facilitator, Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office, Office of the Registrar

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee
Emily Paulsen	Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Le/Hartley

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee approve the Agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 27, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

An editorial error was noted for correction.

Motion: Le/Monfries

THAT the GFC Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee approve the Minutes of April 27, 2012, as amended.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair invited members to introduce themselves as there were two new undergraduate representatives now serving on the Committee. Guests to the meeting, Ms Bobbi Schiestel and Ms Laura Connell, were also introduced, with the Chair explaining that they had worked or were currently working on communicating to the wider University community information with respect to the teaching awards and processes associated with these awards. Dr Cameron concluded her remarks by noting that this would be her last meeting as Chair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Review of GFC UTAC Awards Procedures and Pre-Adjudication/Adjudication Processes

There were no documents

Presenter: Brenda Cameron, Chair, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To review, after the 2012 teaching awards adjudication process was completed, the current awards procedures (set out in UAPPOL) and the recent adjudication process, itself, to determine whether or not any changes are warranted.

Discussion:

A member queried to what extent, if at all, the research work of an instructor should be taken into account for a teaching award, suggesting that it may be necessary to create a set of guidelines or recommendations for future award adjudications. Members discussed that, in some instances, research becomes an intrinsic part of learning, which can enhance and help to inform an academic's teaching methodology, while, in other cases, research does not significantly impact teaching. A member also suggested that in cases where nominees for an award all appear to be at the same level of excellence, an individual's research record could possibly be used as a means of breaking the potential tie. After further discussion, members agreed that it was necessary to focus on teaching, considering that they are responsible for the adjudication of teaching awards and that there are research-specific awards available. Members were informed that the University is considering the possibility of a teaching-intensive stream, in which professors would focus on teaching without any research responsibilities. In response to the points raised, Professors Cameron and Le volunteered to work on a set of adjudication guidelines to be presented at the Fall meeting of GFC UTAC.

Ms Schiestel and Ms Connell, at this point in the discussion, made several recommendations for editorial revisions to the existing teaching awards procedures set out in UAPPOL, including: clarifying the language of the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching since many do not understand that it is for the first five years of employment at any post-secondary institution (and not exclusively the University of Alberta); improving the Executive Summary for nominations; a lack of consistency with the philosophy of teaching set out in nominations for the Award for Excellence in

Graduate Teaching and the other awards; the process of submitting electronic materials and the corresponding signatures; and the University community's request for an award that focuses on citizenship. Members also discussed the effectiveness of the Executive Summary, which most found beneficial.

The Chair thanked members and the guests for their thoughtful comments and observations and noted that she and Professor Le would consider the issues raised at the time they worked on possible adjudication guidelines for the Committee.

ACTION ITEM

5. Appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair: Discussion

There were no documents

Presenter: Brenda Cameron, Chair, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)

Purpose of the Proposal:

Discussion:

Members thanked Dr Cameron for her excellent leadership over the past year. Dr Cameron, in turn, recommended Dr Elisabeth Le as the new Chair of GFC UTAC; Professor Le accepted, with general agreement from members. Dr Cameron agreed that she would be happy to serve as the Committee's Vice-Chair; this met with the general agreement of members.

Motion I: Hartley/Lee

THAT the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee approve the appointment of Professor Elisabeth Le as the Committee's Chair, for a term beginning July 1, 2012 and extending to the end of Professor Le's term on GFC UTAC.

CARRIED

Motion II: Le/Hacke

THAT the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee approve the appointment of Professor Brenda Cameron as the Committee's Vice-Chair, for a term beginning July 1, 2012 and extending to June 30, 2013.

CARRIED

6. Question Period

The Chair provided a brief summary of the upcoming processes for GFC UTAC in the Fall. There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

2012 University of Alberta Awards for Teaching Excellence Recipients (E-Mailed to Members on May 7, 2012)

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.