

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, November 23, 2011
3-15, UHALL
2:00 pm – 3:40 pm

ATTENDEES:

Carl Amrhein (Chair), Lorne Babiuk, Phyllis Clark, Rory Tighe, Roy Coulthard, Deanna Williamson, Ernie Ingles, Joanna Harrington, Christina Rinaldi, Keith McKinnon, Marc Arnal, Susan Barker, Nathan Andrews, Jessica Zvonkovic, Gerry Kendal, Ed Blackburn, Bill Connor, Garry Bodnar (Coordinator), Emily Paulsen (Scribe)

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Renée Elio, Associate Vice-President (Research)
John Kennelly, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Ellen Macdonald, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC)

OBSERVER:

Martin Ferguson-Pell, Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Williamson/Arnal

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 26, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Tighe/Zvonkovic

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of October 26, 2011.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members. Dr Amrhein also took this opportunity to welcome Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell to the meeting, currently Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, noting that he would be serving as Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (and Acting Chair of GFC APC) during Dr Amrhein's administrative leave in the 2013-2014 Academic Year.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal for the Establishment of the Rangelands Research Institute (RRI) (Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: John Kennelly, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Ellen Macdonald, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: The Rangeland Research Institute (RRI) will provide the University with an opportunity to establish a long-term program of research and teaching focusing on issues relating to environmental sustainability in rangelands throughout the province. The RRI will link undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and other Faculties with post-secondary institutions, government and provincial agencies, and visiting scientists from around the world so as to stimulate original ways of thinking, initiate new lines of inquiry, and incubate innovative ideas. The RRI proposes to establish itself as a globally-recognized institute of excellent interdisciplinary and comparative research in rangeland ecology and management within five years of being fully operational.

Discussion:

Dean Kennelly, along with his colleague, Dr Macdonald, introduced the proposal to members, noting that this interdisciplinary facility would be able to generate income to run the institute as well as being important for biodiversity research and programming.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: financing of the RRI, which includes active energy-producing resources; the flow of income to support research; and the University's commitment to and demonstration of, through the RRI, environmental sustainability to the wider community.

Motion: Arnal/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal submitted by the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences for the formal establishment of the Rangelands Research Institute (RRI), to be housed in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta, as set forth in Attachment 1, effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. University of Alberta 2012-2013 General Tuition Fee Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: To set tuition fees for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein surrendered the chair to Dr Babiuk in order to present the General Tuition Fee Proposal to members. Vice President (Finance and Administration) Clark began the presentation by discussing the current state of the University's budget. The largest expenses were those incurred by salary and benefits, with much instability being attributed to interest rates and a lack of investment income. It was stated that tuition fees are integral to the institution's Operating Budget.

Dr Amrhein continued the presentation by discussing how Provincial regulations changed in 2006 to limit the yearly increase of tuition according to the Canadian Price Index (CPI). The University was clearly an intensely public institution with a large amount of government funding, especially in comparison to other major publicly-funded post-secondary institutions in the United States. He stated that support for bursaries and awards has remained the same in spite of budget pressures. Dr Amrhein reinforced that the University of Alberta provides high-quality education at a comparatively low 'price'.

Rory Tighe, President of the Student's Union, told members that he would be voting against the proposal, not because he thinks that inflationary increases are unjustifiable on a principled basis, but because the current tuition levels are too high as it is. He noted that the high cost of tuition keeps people out of post-secondary institutions and puts considerable strain on the well-being of those who do attend. He also regarded the recent use of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) as a pseudo-tuition increase.

Roy Coulthard, President of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), said that he, too, could not vote in favour of a tuition increase. He stated that students cannot afford their degrees; this limits their opportunities to contribute to the economy. He spoke strongly in support of the existing Provincial tuition regulation limiting increases according to the CPI, which provides a fair and predictable basis for students who have few resources upon which to draw. To support the belief that a university is a place to nourish professional thinkers, Mr Coulthard encouraged members to write to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and to participate in the Province's online budget dialogue surveys so that the Government understands the priorities of its citizens.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the adverse effects of current interest rates; job losses that would arise if tuition was not increased; whether or not there would be more support for students in the coming year; the status of Provincial funding grants which clearly are not increasing fast enough; and the effect the absence of mandatory retirement at the University of Alberta is now having on existing faculty complements and Faculty budgets.

Motion: Rinaldi/Ingles

(Opposed: Tighe/Zvonkovic; Abstentions: Coulthard/Andrews)

Motion: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to the Board Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Governors approve a proposal from the University Administration for a general tuition fee increase of 1.45%, effective September 1, 2012, as illustrated in the table below:

Undergraduate ^{a, b, c}	2011-12	2012-13	Change
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(Arts and Science)			(\$)	(%)
Domestic	\$5,194.80	\$5,269.20	\$74.40	1.43%
International, Base	\$5,194.80	\$5,269.20	\$74.40	
International, Differential	<u>\$12,862.80</u>	<u>\$13,048.80</u>	<u>\$186.00</u>	
Total, International	\$18,057.60	\$18,318.00	\$260.40	1.44%
Business Administration Diploma^{a, b}	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(%)
Domestic	\$2,760.00	\$2,799.60	\$39.60	1.43%
International, Base	\$2,760.00	\$2,799.60	\$39.60	
International, Differential	<u>\$6,844.80</u>	<u>\$6,943.20</u>	<u>\$98.40</u>	
Total, International	\$9,604.80	\$9,742.80	\$138.00	1.44%
Graduate Course Based^{a, b}	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(%)
Domestic	\$3,655.44	\$3,708.00	\$52.56	1.44%
International, Base Tuition	\$3,655.44	\$3,708.00	\$52.56	
International, Differential	<u>\$3,655.44</u>	<u>\$3,708.00</u>	<u>\$52.56</u>	
Total International	\$7,310.88	\$7,416.00	\$105.12	1.44%
Graduate Thesis 919^{a, b, d} (admitted prior to September 2011)	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(%)
Domestic	\$2,279.76	\$2,312.80	\$33.04	1.45%
International, Base	\$2,279.76	\$2,312.80	\$33.04	
International, Differential	<u>\$2,279.76</u>	<u>\$2,312.80</u>	<u>\$33.04</u>	
Total, International	\$4,559.52	\$4,625.60	\$66.08	1.45%
Graduate Thesis Based^{a, b, c, d, e} (admitted September 2011 or after)	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(%)
Domestic, Thesis Based	\$2,738.40	\$2,778.00	\$39.60	1.45%
International, Base Tuition	\$2,738.40	\$2,778.00	\$39.60	
International, Differential	<u>\$2,730.00</u>	<u>\$2,769.48</u>	<u>\$39.48</u>	
Total International	\$5,468.40	\$5,547.48	\$79.08	1.45%

Notes:

- (a) Values are based on a full-time per term and full-time per year.
- (b) Figures may be rounded downwards at fee index level for administrative purposes, thus lowering the effective year over year percentage increase below 1.45 percent.
- (c) Excludes applicable market modifier and/or program differentials.
- (d) Tuition applies to thesis students who were admitted to the program of study prior to September, 2011 and are assessed the reduced thesis rate.
- (e) Tuition applies to thesis students who were admitted to the program of study beginning in September, 2011 or later; this is based on an annual fee assessment (including spring/summer).

CARRIED

6. University of Alberta 2012-2013 Program/Course Differential Fee and Market Modifier Fee Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning

Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: To set differential/market modifier fees for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Discussion:

For this item, Dr Babiuk remained in the chair. Dr Amrhein presented the proposal before members. In the brief ensuing discussion, Professor Harrington noted that the references in the proposal to the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree were incorrect as this program had been renamed some time ago to the Juris Doctor (JD) degree. The proposers noted they would ensure this was corrected prior to this proposal being submitted to the Board of Governors for its consideration.

As most discussion had been resolved in the previous action item, the item moved to a Motion.

Motion: Ingles/McKinnon

(Opposed: Tighe/Zvonkovic; Abstentions: Coulthard/Andrews)

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to the Board Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Governors approve a proposal from the University Administration for an increase to program and course differential fees of 1.45%, as amended, effective September 1, 2012, for

- a) Faculty of Law, Juris Doctor (JD) program;
- b) Faculty of Business, Master of Business Administration (MBA) program;
- c) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Doctor of Medicine (MD) program;
- d) Faculty of Business, Undergraduate Business courses;
- e) Faculty of Engineering, Undergraduate Engineering courses;
- f) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacy program; and,
- g) Graduate Studies, Thesis Based.

as set out in the table below:

Program & Course Differential Fee Proposal ^{a, b}	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(%)
Juris Doctor (JD) Program	\$4,436.28	\$4,500.60	\$64.32	1.45%
Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program	\$583.56 per course	\$591.96 per course	\$8.40 per course	1.44%
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program	\$4,436.28	\$4,500.60	\$64.32	1.45%
Market Modifier Fee Proposal ^{a, b, c}	2011-12	2012-13	Change	
			(\$)	(\$)
Business	\$204.76 per course	\$207.72 per course	\$2.96 per course	1.45%
Engineering	\$173.16 per course	\$175.64 per course	\$2.48 per course	1.43%
Pharmacy	\$3,386.80	\$3,435.88	\$49.08	1.45%

Graduate, Thesis Based ^d (admitted September 2011 or after)	\$836.22	\$848.28	\$12.06	1.44%
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Notes:

- (a) Values are based on a full-time per term and full-time per year, unless they are stated to be 'per course'.
- (b) Figures may be rounded downwards at fee index level for administrative purposes, thus lowering the effective year over year percentage increase below 1.45 percent.
- (c) A grand-parenting structure applies in each case to allow for the exemption of these fees, under specific conditions, for students registered prior to September, 2011.
- (d) Graduate Market Modifier applies only to thesis students beginning their program of study in Fall, 2011 or later and is based on an annual fee assessment (including spring/summer).

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Academic Chapter of the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the approach to revising the Academic Chapter of the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) for the coming year. The Academic Chapter of the CIP contains the access plans and the research plans for the institution.

Discussion:

This item was introduced to members by Dr Skidmore. She provided a brief description of the CIP, the process associated with both preparing the initial Plan and ensuring its component parts were updated annually, and detail on the Academic Chapter contained therein. In particular, Dr Skidmore emphasized the importance of the CIP's Academic Chapter and the effect its content had had over the past year on the institutional budget; she recognized the success of the CIP last year as a tool for the Provincial Government to understand the diversity of the organization.

Dr Elio, in turn, spoke to the research-oriented content of the Academic Chapter and its impact on funding; she noted, as well, its strong message about the diversification of excellence across the institution, including the creation of strong research partnerships with high-calibre like-minded organizations. She stated that, as a result of the updates being planned for the Chapter this year, the messaging contained in the document would be sharpened, with important, central points being heightened and the issue of sustaining and appropriately supporting institutional core facilities made 'front and centre'. She noted the CIP's Academic Chapter would evolve without being "revolutionary." The Chair concluded the presentation of this item to members by speaking to the varying reactions of differing units and individuals within the Provincial Government to the University's CIP.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the means by which the University could appropriately showcase the leadership in and at this institution; the inclusion in the CIP of issues related to sustainability, as had been discussed last year with the previous President of the Students' Union; the concept of knowledge translation in research; scholarships as a way to entice students to attend the University of Alberta; and the

need for the University to be well known on the international stage.

8. Question Period

A member commented on the possibility of the University of Alberta working more closely with the City of Edmonton Council on seeking ways to provide and promote for better, on-going support for the University, particularly given the institution's considerable and wide-ranging impact on the municipality and the Capital Region.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items to date.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm.