



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
3-15, UHALL
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Emerson Csorba (Delegate)	President, Students' Union
Roy Coulthard	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Ernie Ingles	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Keith McKinnon	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Marc Arnal	Dean
Susan Barker	Department Chair at-large
Jessica Zvonkovic	Undergraduate Student-at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Ada Schmude (Delegate)	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

Presenters:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Marc Arnal	Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Bart Becker	Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Ed Blackburn	Associate Dean (Academic), Faculté Saint-Jean
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Emily Paulsen	Scribe, GFC Academic Planning Committee

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Members agreed to the agenda as circulated.

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 22, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Coulthard

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 22, 2012.
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CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

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

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal to Change Collège Saint-Jean's Official Name to Centre collégial de l'Alberta, University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Marc Arnal, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean; Ed Blackburn, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculté Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: This (proposed) name change is important for Collège Saint-Jean in order for it to better create its own identity. The name Centre collégial de l'Alberta is advantageous in that it distinguishes the Collège Saint-Jean from the current Faculté Saint-Jean and the historical Collège Saint-Jean. Centre collégial de l'Alberta represents more accurately the French language college-level postsecondary education programming offered as part of the University of Alberta, a mandate that is province wide.

Discussion:

Dr Arnal explained to members that the current title of College Saint-Jean was implemented for administrative expediency and not with the intention of becoming permanent nomenclature. He added that the new name has been approved by the Centre's own committees, that there are no expenses associated with the change, and that the new name of Centre collégial de l'Alberta will align itself with Francophones across Alberta.

Dr Amrhein noted that while the change is administratively minor, it represents great progress in the visibility and profile of the academic unit. He added the change is in accordance with Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) and that the ramifications of this name change for systems administered by the Office of the Registrar have been examined and resolved.

Motion: Rinaldi/Coulthard

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) recommend to General Faculties Council the proposal submitted by the Dean of Faculté Saint-Jean (FSJ) for the change of Collège Saint-Jean's official name to Centre collégial de l'Alberta, University of Alberta, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) Learning Spaces Subcommittee (FDC LSS) Draft Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Bart Becker, Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

Purpose of the Proposal: "Over the past 20 years, Facilities and Operations has been a leader in Canada in the development and identification of best practices and principles around how the institution constructs, repurposes and renovates facilities and spaces. As the campus has changed and evolved, principles and practices for the design and development of learning spaces have been periodically reviewed and refreshed by both the institution and government. These reviews involve a variety of processes like design charettes, peer reviews and literature reviews. However, despite the excellent work, the wider academic community has not been aware, for the most part, of the processes that were used in designing new spaces. There was increasing interest expressed within the wider campus community about the quality of institutional learning spaces and about the design processes used in the development of these spaces. Two standing committees of GFC, the Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) and the Facilities Development Committee (FDC), agreed that the process for development of learning spaces should be reviewed. In 2010, the Chairs of FDC and CLE agreed that a subcommittee be created (the Learning Spaces Subcommittee) that would identify and enhance current processes to aid in the planning and design of formal and informal learning spaces across all campuses." (Excerpted from the FDC Learning Spaces Subcommittee Report)

Discussion:

Dr Skidmore informed members that this focused subcommittee of GFC FDC concentrated on four different types of spaces in particular but understood and acknowledged that learning occurs everywhere on the University's campuses. Mr Becker noted that the Subcommittee took an overarching look at the development of space, including its design and function, with the hope to bring harmonization to the process. He added that they focused on design intended to inspire. He also stated that the goal of the group was to review current processes, identify any gaps, and to identify barriers to guiding principles and vision statement.

Mr Ingles, a member of the Subcommittee, voiced his support for the work undertaken by this group and explained to members that there have been discussions regarding the disparate environments that are evolving on campus, particularly the differing attention paid to older *versus* newer buildings.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: the environmental focus of South Campus and the priority issues unique to each campus of the University; the possibility of presenting this item to General Faculties Council (GFC); the differentiation between locally-controlled learning spaces and non-locally-controlled learning

spaces and the corresponding accountability; the control of space by Faculties and Departments; and focusing institutional attention on spaces that are heavily booked and heavily used.

6. Response to the Three-Year Provincial Budget

There were no documents.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein discussed the Provincial Government's commitment to an investment increase in post-secondary education of 2% for the next three years. He noted that this increase is not enough to avoid a gap in the University's budget if current practices are maintained. As an alternative to complacency, Dr Amrhein introduced to members the creation of The Umbrella Committee (TUC), which contains an unusual mix of members, including but not limited to: Deans, academic and non-academic staff members, members from the Office of the Provost, Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) members, and representatives from the Office of the Registrar. The group will address various issues and topics including: the Province-wide University pension plan; better application of technology; the University's use of Moodle; allowing the professoriate the best options for deploying their energies; and teaching-intensive initiatives.

During the ensuing discussion, Dr Amrhein addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: the efficiency of administrative services; exploiting the payroll efficiency project; budgeting expenses; the challenge of timing the TUC initiative; allowing professors and other instructors flexibility with regard to their workloads; maintaining the quality of learning; the operation of graduate programs that may free up money for other ventures and encourage a return in revenue; increasing efficiency and productivity to save costs; the importance of the University of Alberta's libraries as a provincial resource; the necessity of taking action; and managing graduate funding to yield the highest rewards.

Dr Amrhein noted that a call for volunteer members would take place soon. He encouraged members to e-mail any ideas for improvements.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

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 3:30 pm.