



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 23, 2012
3-15, UHALL
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Bill Connor	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Nathan Andrews (Delegate)	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	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
Susan Barker	Department Chair at-large

Presenters:

Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Bill Connor	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lesley Cormack	Dean, Faculty of Arts
Lise Gotell	Chair, Women's Studies Program
Joanne McKinnon	Assistant Chair (Administration), Women's Studies Program
Mary Persson	Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator and Scribe, GFC Academic Planning Committee
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OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 9, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rinaldi/Yamagishi

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of May 9, 2012.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

The Acting Chair commented on a number of items of interest for members.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal to Establish a Department of Women's and Gender Studies (Faculty of Arts) (and Concurrent Termination of the Faculty's Women's Studies Program)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Lesley Cormack, Dean, Faculty of Arts; Lise Gotell, Chair, Women's Studies Program; Joanne McKinnon, Assistant Chair (Administration), Women's Studies Program

Purpose of the Proposal: To transform the existing Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts into a Department of Women's and Gender Studies. The Program currently operates much like a Department, with a Chair who sits on the Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC), pre-tenured and tenured faculty, and the responsibility for managing its own budget and teaching plan. The proposal is also a response to the recommendation of the 2008 Academic Unit Review that the Program become a Department.

Discussion:

Dean Cormack introduced the item by providing background to the proposal before members and speaking to the history of the existing Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts. She noted that a recommendation out of the unit review performed on the Program, along with the Program's ongoing enrolment growth, made establishment of a Department of Women's and Gender Studies a strong and logical 'next step'. Without this move, there is the danger of the Program losing some of its momentum and, potentially, running the risk of falling behind its (post-secondary) peers in Canada. Dr Cormack commented that the establishment of a Department of Women's and Gender Studies is a resource-neutral move that both formalizes the *status quo* and allows the unit to respond to scholarly developments in the academic field. It will also create effective governance structures without requiring additional costs. Dr Gotell reiterated the points of this proposal being revenue neutral in nature and that only minor administrative changes would be necessary to provide for the establishment of the new Department. This move to Department status, she indicated, was consistent with trends in this discipline, both nationally and internationally.

The Dean noted that, based on discussion with the Provost, it was now clear that the proposal would not go forward now to General Faculties Council (GFC) (if recommended by GFC APC) until the Fall of 2012;

consequently, she stated it was necessary to request the formal establishment of the new Department not take place until January 1, 2013.

The presenters addressed questions and comments, including, but not limited to, the following: clarification on some apparent anomalies in the proposed Department's budget (as set out in the proposal); clarification with regard to funding for assistantships for graduate student in the Department; clarification on the respective roles of and relationship between the Department's Associate Chair and Undergraduate Advisor (and the need to update the organizational chart to reflect clearly their respective roles, a point on which the proposers agreed); and general expressions of support for the inclusiveness of the unit's proposed name.

Motion: Williamson/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the formal establishment of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, as submitted by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and as set forth in Attachment 1 (as amended), and the concurrent termination of the Faculty of Arts' Women Studies Program, all to take effect January 1, 2013.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Draft University of Alberta 2011-2012 Annual Report to the Government of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Mary Persson, Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor

Purpose of the Proposal: To comply with Enterprise and Advanced Education legislation and guidelines.

Discussion:

Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Clark introduced the item to members, noting this item simply provides for the submission of an annual report for the University of Alberta, as required by the Provincial Government, and is not meant as an institutional communicative device for consumption by the wider community. Ms Persson continued by commenting that the report, which in this instance is four to five months earlier in its presentation to GFC APC than was the case in past years, conforms to a strict government template with standard formatting and metric requirements. The language used in this document is similar to that employed in the University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) in order to provide some concurrence in the University's messaging to the Provincial Government.

The presenters addressed questions and comments, including, but not limited to, the following: the suggestion that there be comparative data from other Canadian post-secondary institutions on page 21 of the document before members (ie, Figure 9/Completion Rates, University of Alberta); the suggestion that programs that work to bolster student enrolment be included on page 9 of the document before members; and a series of suggested minor text amendments throughout the document which Ms Persson accepted and said she would work into the final report.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.