



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
Room 2-31, South Academic Building  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	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
Ashlyn Bernier	President, Graduate Students' Association
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Geeta Sehgal	NASA Member at-large
Larry Prochner	Department Chair at-large
Anna Nilson	Undergraduate at-large

#### Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

#### Presenter(s):

Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
David Lynch	Dean, Faculty of Engineering
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic), Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

#### Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Andrea Patrick	Scribe

### **OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Sehgal

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 27, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Harrington/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 27, 2013.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

Dr Ferguson-Pell commented on a number of relevant items to members.

Members were invited to express comments and questions in relation the recently-announced Provincial Budget, and these included: the format of institutional feedback to the "Letter of Expectation" just received from Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education Lukaszuk; student frustration in relation to the impact of the funding cuts on academic quality and possible unit-specific changes as well as media misrepresentation on commentary made by the Students' Union (SU); the timeline and specificity of possible changes; consultation with other post-secondary institutions within Alberta; updates about the University's transfer policy; clarification on how to avoid duplication but ensure geographic availability of programming within the Province of Alberta; and the possibility of adding a third category of 'students in professional programs' within the Alberta *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Unit Reviews: Summary of Academic Unit Review for Faculty of Engineering

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); David Lynch, Dean, Faculty of Engineering

*Purpose of the Discussion:* The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), following the procedures in *Academic Unit Reviews Guidelines, January 2007*, reports to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) on completed unit reviews, for their information and discussion. Please see the attached "Purpose of Academic Unit Reviews" for a further explanation. Unit Reviews are to ensure high-quality programs and administrative procedures and policies on campus. Recommendations received from the Unit Review Team will be considered and operationalized by units as possible, thus ensuring quality sustainability and enhancement.

*Discussion:*

Dr Skidmore introduced Dean David Lynch to members and explained that an Academic Unit Review of the Faculty of Engineering was conducted in November, 2012. She added that Academic Unit Reviews are

conducted through the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

Dean Lynch highlighted results from the Academic Unit Review for members, adding that it was conducted simultaneously with an accreditation review of the Faculty of Engineering. He reported that the Academic Unit Review was focussed on the Faculty's administration, research, and undergraduate, professional, and graduate academic programs and that the Faculty of Engineering was found to be productive and efficient. He stated that the Faculty of Engineering has responded to all recommendations stemming from the Academic Unit Review.

Members expressed several comments and questions in relation to this item, including, but not limited to: compliance issues with the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Collective Agreement; issues that may have been raised within the accreditation process not included within the Academic Unit Review; update on the graduate student employment initiative; the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering rankings within North America; and clarification about the national and international examinations written by students of the University's Faculty of Engineering and how these students fare.

Dr Ferguson-Pell thanked Dean Lynch for attending the meeting and congratulated him on an excellent Unit Review.

#### 5. University of Alberta Budget - Update

There were no documents.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Discussion:* For information.

*Discussion:*

Vice-President Clark briefed members on the details of the reduced Campus Alberta grant to the University of Alberta and how it has resulted in a 10% approximate loss to institutional operating budget. She reported that a special dispensation has been granted by the Provincial Government to update the 2013-2014 budget, and that an amended Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) will be circulating through the appropriate GFC and Board of Governors committees early this Spring. She noted that the new budget submission deadline set by the Government of Alberta is June 3, 2013.

She briefly outlined plans for the University's budget for the next three years. She noted that there was anxiety surrounding the fate of certain specialized programs as a result of the constrained Provincial Budget. She added that there was no inclination whatsoever to re-address negotiated salary increases previously settled by the Governors of the University of Alberta with both the Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) and the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA).

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed the following questions and comments, including, but not limited to: the need for possible planning for further reduced funding in future years; and clarification about the issue of transferability with 'Campus Alberta' as an identified concerning priority for students.

#### 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 3:35 pm.