



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 25, 2015
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:45 PM - 4:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Olive Yonge	Chair, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nathan Andrews	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research)
Nadir Erbilgin	Member, Academic (A1.0) Staff-at-large
Lise Gotell	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Member, Academic (A1.0) Staff-at-large
William Lau	Member, President of the Students' Union
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Jeremy Richards	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Pamela Sewers	Member, NASA Member-at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
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Presenter(s):

Joseph Doucet	Interim Dean and Professor, Alberta School of Business
Denis Fontaine	Assistant Dean, Faculte Saint-Jean
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Senior Advisor to the President
Nat Kav	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Brenda Leskiw	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)
Kerry Mummery	Dean, Physical Education and Recreation
Kate Peters	Director, Centre collégial de l'Alberta
Olive Yonge	Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Kline/Lau

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 11, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Erbilgin/Andrews

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of February 11, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant issues to members.

A member enquired about the status of the Provincial Budget, considering the rumors of a possible Provincial election.

ACTION ITEMS

4. University of Alberta (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Science) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Co-Tutelle (Dual) Doctoral Degree Graduate Program Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Nat Kav, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: For the University of Alberta's Faculty of Science to offer a Co-Tutelle (Dual) Doctoral Degree Graduate Program through an agreement with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Discussion:

Dr Kav reported that this proposal relates to a dual degree being offered by the University of Alberta and the Universiti Putra Malaysia. He noted that both the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council and the Faculty of Science Council have approved this proposal.

During the discussion in relation to this proposal, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the reasons behind this proposal, in relation to this specific institution; whether this dual degree program is open to other students, outside of the Faculty of Science and FGSR; clarification surrounding governance processes in relation to a broad application of this proposal; clarification about the benefits of this program to the University of Alberta; whether similar dual degree programs have demonstrated tangible benefits to the University of Alberta; a suggestion to Table this item, pending the availability of the original presenters; a request for more specificity within the

proposal; concern with the provision within the proposal mandating that supervisors would be required to pay for additional courses at the University of Alberta; clarification surrounding how research support is determined within this program; whether there are English language proficiency requirements as part of this program; that there were several, similar questions about this proposal raised at FGSR Council and that adequate answers were not provided at that time.

The Chair, referencing the comments provided by members, suggested that this item could be tabled and brought back once the original proposers were available to attend the meeting to address specific questions in relation to this proposal.

Motion to Table: Andrews/Richards

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee TABLE the proposal for a Co-Tutelle (Dual) Doctoral Degree Graduate Program between the University of Alberta's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Science and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

CARRIED

5. Centre collégial de l'Alberta's Proposed French-Language Tourism Management Diploma Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Kate Peters, Director, Centre collégial de l'Alberta; Denis Fontaine, Assistant Dean, Faculte Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to offer a French-language Tourism Management Diploma program at Centre collégial de l'Alberta and online (in cooperation with Faculté Saint-Jean).

Discussion:

Dr Leskiw provided members with a summary of the evolution of this proposal as well as the history behind changes to the governance process resulting in these types of proposals being approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Ms Peters introduced herself to members and thanked them for their consideration of this proposal. She explained that it has been in development for some time, and that funding and the program development, as well as extensive consultation with the community, have subsequently taken place. She noted that the proposal reflects the current market demands. She also provided members with details in relation to enrolment, potential for collaboration within Campus Alberta, the promotion of bilingualism through this initiative, steady student demand, widespread community and Ministerial support, alignment with *Dare to Deliver*, admission criteria and academic standing considerations.

She provided members with additional information in relation to the budget.

Mr Fontaine added that there is strong support from the French community in Alberta for this program and provided additional commentary in relation to student support.

Members, during the discussion of this proposal, expressed a number of comments and questions including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding the lasting benefit of this program; whether French-speaking tourists make up a large majority of tourists visiting Alberta; whether a course specific to Mandarin might be more appropriate; whether this program is intended to generate revenue; clarification regarding the source of funding for this program; concern that the majority of courses being proposed for

this program do not yet exist; whether individuals under contract to develop the courses will also deliver them.

Motion: Kline/Babiuk

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed French-language Tourism Management Diploma Program, as submitted by the Centre collégial de l'Alberta (in cooperation with Faculté Saint-Jean) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect in September, 2015.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. President's Visiting Committees (PVC): Summary of Reviews for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and the Alberta School of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Senior Advisor to the President; Joseph Doucet, Dean, Alberta School of Business; Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation

Purpose of the Proposal: The Office of the President, following the procedures in the President's Visiting Committee (PVC) Procedures and Guidelines reports to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) on completed PVC, for their information and discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell briefed members on the purposes behind the President's Visiting Committee (PVC), adding that this endeavor focuses on such areas as strategy, space, research and the business model of each Faculty being reviewed. He reported, as well, that as per other established models within the post-secondary environment, members of the PVC maintain contact with members of individual Faculties, post-review.

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that Dean Mummery (Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation) and Dean Doucet (Alberta School of Business) volunteered to be part of the pilot project, but that they had cautioned against the additional burden of resulting administrative work related to the PVC. As a result of this concern, Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that there has been an attempt to utilize institutional sources of data, including the Acorn Institutional Data Warehouse. In regards to the membership of these Committees, he noted that Faculties were involved in the member selection process, although the official process is still being established.

Dr Doucet noted that the experience was positive overall, and that the Alberta School of Business gained extensive insight from the PVC, as well as the relationship with the Committee. He added that the benefits of maintaining contact with the Committee have proven fruitful. He reported that members of his team did put in extra work as a result of the PVC. He stated that ultimately, the review of the Alberta School of Business focused on areas which were not fully expected. He noted that instead of research, the focus became more about the reputation of the Alberta School of Business. He stated that this information was not ultimately useful and that despite efforts to reduce the associated work by utilizing centralized data, that there was significant work required by members of the Dean's office. He reported that the Alberta School of Business will undergo external accreditation later this year and that he wonders about the incremental cost of such reviews. He summarized that overall, the experience was positive in several ways.

Dr Mummery reported that the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation has now undergone two reviews: a Unit Review and a PVC, and he noted that there should be further consideration into combining the two. He explained that the result of the reviews have advanced the Faculty's focus and strategy. He stated that there is benefit in the continuity of the relationship with the Committee. He expressed his opinion that every Faculty should have a regular and predictable review, adding that there was benefit alone from participating in the self-study. He noted, however, that there was concern surrounding the absence of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) in these activities, as there is an existing reporting line from the Deans to the Provost. He suggested that the PVC requires additional development to be a valuable exercise.

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that initial PVC reviews might be the most labor-intensive, but that subsequent reviews might be less so. He also noted that there are significant resources which go towards supporting completion of key recommendations.

Members, during the discussion surrounding this item, expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding the unique value of the PVC; clarification on how the President fits into the reviews; whether the information gathered during the PVC could be acquired by less intensive efforts; whether there is any enforcement mechanism behind attention to recommendations; clarification regarding the potential impact of not addressing recommendations; clarification regarding the exact cost of such institutional reviews, and whether it is a beneficial use of resources; whether there is quantifiable return of investment as a result of these types of reviews; that these types of reviews can be very valuable to Deans, in terms of strategic planning; that there is inherent difficulty in assessing a cost/benefit analysis to these types of activities; whether the Provincial Government will recognize the results of PVC; concern with frequent Faculty reviews; clarification regarding committee composition and its impact on the appropriate evaluation of research; clarification regarding the future steps of the PVC; a suggestion to evaluate this pilot; that reviews are part of a healthy post-secondary institutional environment; whether there is another way of organizing a similar type of external review; a suggestion to rename the review, as there will be new individuals in the role of President who might not share the enthusiasm behind the PVC; clarification about the recommendation within the Alberta School of Business' PVC report in regards to fostering more entrepreneurial initiatives, and whether this aligns with institutional goals; clarification surrounding the implications on faculty members and staff, and whether there is a specific plan to address balance; clarification on the selection process for committee members; whether institutional benchmark data exists in relation to Faculty reviews; a suggestion to discuss the results of these reviews at General Faculties Council (GFC); clarification regarding the unique merit in discussing these reviews at this specific Committee.

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

Before the adjournment of the meeting, the Chair acknowledged the retirement of Mr Garry Bodnar and thanked him for his years of dedicated service towards academic governance at the University of Alberta.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.