



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jason Acker
Chris Andersen
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Fahed Elian
Jelena Holovati
Gitta Kulczycki
Susanne Luhmann

Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Matthias Ruth
Susan Sommerfeldt
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga

REGRETS:

Shannon Erichsen
Christopher Mackay
Pirkko Markula
Samantha Tse

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of GFC APC

Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of GFC APC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr Lesley Cormack, had been appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia - Okanagan, and would be leaving at the end of June 2020. He confirmed that an interim Dean would be appointed as of July 2020.

The Chair observed that the Provincial budget would be tabled at the legislature the following day, February 27, 2020, and noted that the assumptions made in the budget materials were based on information released in the fall. He also noted that the draft Investment Management Agreement was expected soon and gave an update on the expected performance metrics and roll-out over the next 3-year period.

A member pointed to the challenges of using data collected before the cuts to the Campus Alberta Grant as benchmarks for post-cut performance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Xu/Padfield

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 12, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of February 12, 2020.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. University of Alberta 2020-2021 Tuition and Student Financial Aid

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Discussion:

Dr Dew stepped out of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, Dr Acker, assumed the role.

The Acting-Chair noted that the presentation would cover information related to all three action items with time for questions and discussion throughout and that there would also be further opportunity for question and discussion when each motion was considered. He then invited Ms Kulczycki and Dr Dew to begin their presentation to the committee.

The presentation included:

- An overview of the budget approval process and timelines;
- An overview of the 3 motions before the committee: Tuition and Student Financial Aid, Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF), and Budget;
- Highlights of the impacts of: the tabling of the provincial budget on February 27, the impact of the new funding model;
- An overview of the three-year planning assumptions for the Consolidated Budget and its components: Operating, Ancillary Operations, Research, Capital, and Special Purpose;
- An overview of the planning process around expenditure reductions in the operating budget including impact to Faculties and Academic Support Units;
- An overview of Undergraduate Enrolment Planning for Fall 2020 including domestic and international students;
- The proposed tuition increases and comparisons with tuition of other research intensive Canadian universities; and
- An overview of the MNIF proposal and the details of the differentially applied increase across Athletics and Recreation, Academic Support Fees, and Health and Wellness.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: the allocation of 7.55% of tuition fees toward student financial supports; the needs-based financial aid system operated by the Office of the Registrar; the demographics of students who experience the greatest level of need; the potential for the percentage of fees allocated to be increased; that the tuition comparator information was based on the lowest cost programs across Canadian universities; how the numbers reported align with tuition estimates on the university website; clarification of the donations and other grants, and scholarship and bursaries line items in the budget; that funds donated and endowed were reported as income but could only be used as the donor

intended; and clarification of line items in the budget related to Provincial and Federal grant money, and tuition revenue.

The Graduate Students' Association and Students' Union Presidents each noted their appreciation for the thoughtful and collaborative consultation process taken regarding tuition, fees and budget; and the provincial government's responsibility for the increase to tuition and fees.

Ms Padfield spoke about the limits on the demographic information that could be collected from university students and the Office of the Registrar's efforts to analyze Statistics Canada income data in order to better understand the socio-economic pressures facing the student community. She noted that as part of the university's commitment to "providing and optimizing robust student financial supports", some of the data gleaned from this work would be used in efforts to evaluate and improve financial support approaches and to more effectively reach out to students in the future.

The Acting-Chair reminded the committee of the amendment to reduce the proposed increase for the MBA Fort McMurray program from 10% to 9%.

Motion: Dew/Kulczycki

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Tuition Proposal for Fall 2020 as outlined in the following table, as amended:

Category of Student	Proposed Increase for Fall 2020	Financial Support
Domestic Undergraduate (incoming and continuing students)	7%	15% of net increase
International Undergraduate (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	4%	7.55% ¹
	Exception PharmD – 0%	
Domestic Graduate (thesis-based) (incoming students)	7%	15% of net increase
Domestic Graduate (thesis-based) (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	7% with rebate to reduce increase to 2.67% ²	15% of net increase
International Graduate (thesis-based) (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	7% with rebate to reduce increase to 2.67% ²	7.55%
Domestic Graduate (course-based) (incoming and continuing students) (with exceptions noted below)	7%	15%
International Graduate (course-based) (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	4%	7.55%
Domestic Graduate (course-based) exceptions	Masters of Accounting – 0% MBA – 10% Executive MBA – 10% ³ MBA – Ft. McMurray – 9% ⁴ MEng – 10%	15% of net increase

International Graduate (course-based) exceptions	MBA – 0% Executive MBA – 0% MBA – Ft. McMurray – 0% Integrated Petroleum Geoscience – 0%	7.55%
Former Cost-Recovery Program exceptions	(all 0%) Certificate in Advanced Adolescent Literacy Certificate in Teaching Students with Complex Needs Master of Education in Education Studies Master of Education in Health Studies Education Master of Science in Internetworking Master of Science in Multimedia Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Certificate in School Leadership Certificat d'etudes superieures en administration et leadeurship scolaire	

¹ Existing model for International tuition financial aid.

² 2.67% reflects the increase in cost drivers for the University year over year.

³ Students currently enrolled in the Executive MBA will be grandparented for 2020 only with a 0% increase.

⁴ Students currently enrolled in the MBA- Ft. McMurray will be grandparented for 2020 only with a 0% increase in tuition.

CARRIED

1 opposed (A Bhatnagar)

5. Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Discussion:

The Students' Union President noted that the 0% increase to fees related to health and wellness was not ideal given the increased mental health pressures of the day. She also asked that future consideration be made to include fees to offset the costs of workshops which would assist students with job search and preparation.

Motion: Dew/Kulczycki

THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2.67%¹ overall increase of mandatory non-instructional fees for 2020-21, with the increase applied

differentially to individual fees as follows:

Student Fees	Current Rates/Term	2 Terms	Increase	Revised Rates 2 Terms
Athletics and Recreation	\$82.00	\$164.00	10.00%	\$180.40
Health and Wellness	\$61.32	\$122.64	0.00%	\$122.64
Academic Support	\$252.18	\$504.36	0.936%	\$509.08
TOTALS	\$395.50	\$791.00		\$812.12
Total FT Student Increase (2.67%)		\$21.12		
New Annual Rate (2 terms)		\$812.12		

¹2.67% represents the increase in cost drivers for the University year over year (Academic Price Index (API)).

CARRIED
1 opposed (A Bhatnagar)

6. University of Alberta 2020-2021 Budget

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Motion: Kulczycki/Ruth

THAT the Academic Planning Committee, acting with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2020-21 consolidated budget as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED
1 opposed (A Bhatnagar)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr Acker stepped out of the Chair and Dr Dew resumed the role.

7. Question Period

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

Discussion:

A member noted the rich discussion around the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy at the previous committee meeting and asked about next steps and action plans. Ms Sonuga, Ms Haggarty-France, and Dr Rodgers all responded regarding upcoming committee replenishment and plans for ongoing orientation, information and training sessions, workshops, presentations, and check-ins throughout the process.

A member asked about the per student costs of the MNIFs as related to use of the services. Dr Dew answered that all students are assessed the fees independent of usage in order to ensure affordability for all. The Chair moved the committee into closed session for an update.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email 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 3:15 p.m.