



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Amlan Bose
Alex Clark, delegate
Shannon Erichsen
Todd Gilchrist
Jelena Holovati
Susanne Luhmann

Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt
Kisha Supernant
Marc Waddingham
Sheena Wilson
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan

non-voting:
Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

REGRETS:
Walter Dixon

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 Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Bose/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 APC

Discussion:

The Chair spoke about the updated public health measures put in place by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province to limit the spread of COVID-19 and noted that the university was in compliance. He pointed members to the website for more information.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Rob Munro, Executive Lead, Service Excellence Transformation

Purpose of the Proposal: To review and discuss the final proposals from the Academic Restructuring Working Group.

Discussion:

The Chair spoke about the timelines for discussion and approval of the Academic Restructuring (AR) model. He noted that there was a plan to get feedback from GFC on November 23 to help them to land on a single scenario, which would then come to APC on November 25.

The Chair noted some highlights of the feedback received over the past months including multiple suggested scenarios, the desire to preserve the identities of Native Studies, Augustana, and Campus Saint-Jean, accreditation requirements, and concerns with the addition of Executive Deans to the leadership structure. He acknowledged the challenges with meeting the various needs of the diverse university.

The Chair gave an overview of each of the revised models including details about organizational structure, administration and leadership savings, budget control, Faculty Evaluation Committees (FECs), and governance structure.

During the discussion, members and presenters expressed opinions, asked questions, and provided responses including but not limited to:

- the definitions of "Faculty" and "School" and how the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* allowed for both to have the same powers including representation on GFC;
- further discussion of "Faculty" and "School" and how some disciplines preferred one nomenclature or the other;
- that university policy and the collective agreement would have to be observed in the new structure;
- questions about how FECs would work in the hybrid model with one Dean of an Arts and Science mega-Faculty;
- that feedback from Arts and Science expressed opposition to an Executive Dean so the hybrid model attempted to compromise on that;
- that feedback from the Professional Faculties was that they wanted to keep their autonomy so the Executive Dean was included for the Colleges;
- the cost savings related to cuts of operations staff across the University;
- questions specific to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry since they were not included in the scaling exercise but would still need to bear their share of the cuts;
- that the overlap of the Service Excellence Transition (SET) and AR made it difficult to see where the cost savings were coming from;
- that SET was reorganizing the administrative functions of the university regardless but that AR would help SET to work more efficiently by creating opportunity for economies of scale;
- whether a school of dentistry would be created to add further divisions within the models;
- that more decisions about reorganization within the new organizational structure would be made later in the process, after a model was chosen;
- questions about salary limits and expectations for Faculty General Managers, Deans, and Executive Deans;
- what transitional costs were expected to result from the restructuring process;
- whether or not there would be an opportunity for Augustana to join a college or faculty in the future;
- where the Faculty of Education would best fit in the revised scenarios;
- concerns related to administrative costs;
- whether or not the Board of Governors would accept GFC's recommendation;
- what role APC and GFC would have to play in the next phase of decision making related to AR;
- timelines for the next levels of organization toward implementation in July 2021;
- emphasis on the importance of regular academic renewal and the flexibility to improve our academic structure and organization in the future; and

- the potential for APC to develop a framework for regular review of organizational and academic structures to ensure ongoing renewal.

4. Budget Update - Standing Item (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion:

Mr Gilchrist noted that the university was unlikely to see further in-year cuts to funding but that future additional cuts, beyond the projections, were possible.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

6. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots (no items to date)

There were no items.

7. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings (no items to date)

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: November 25, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 23, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.