



General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
APPROVED Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2022  
SAB 2-31  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:**

Verna Yiu, Chair  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Peter Berg  
Heather Bruce  
Walter Dixon (delegate)  
Shannon Erichsen  
Anas Fassih

Todd Gilchrist  
Tammy Hopper  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Jacqueline Leighton  
Abner Monteiro  
Aminah Robinson Fayek  
Kent Rondeau  
Milan Regmi  
Chris Sprysak

*non-voting:*  
Kate Peters  
Brad Hamdon

Staff:  
Heather Richholt, Associate  
Secretary to GFC

**OPENING SESSION**

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory:

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that the University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

*Discussion:* The Chair announced several changes in the Office of the Provost including two new Deputy Provost roles, a position to support Online and Continuing Education, and the creation of a Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity) role. The Provost informed members about the development of a new operational model for the University. The chair invited members to ask questions during question period.

3. Committee Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary; Kate Peters, Secretary to General Faculties Council (GFC)

*Discussion*: The committee was encouraged to read *Braiding Past, Present, and Future: the Indigenous Strategic Plan*. They were pointed to specific goals and objectives that were important for the committee's work. B Hamdon noted the jurisdiction of GFC over the academic and research implications of the annual budget. He related that tuition and fees proposals come to APC for recommendation to the Board, but there is no specific authority over tuition and fees for GFC in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

The Chair closed by thanking members for their service to the committee.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The consent agenda was moved and seconded.

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 22, 2022

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of June 22, 2022
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**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

5. Proposal to establish the Engineering Research Chairs program in the Faculty of Engineering.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Simaan AbouRizk, Interim Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Anastasia Elias, Professor and Associate Dean (Research and Innovation)

*Discussion*: S AbouRizk presented background and rationale for the proposal. He spoke about benefits to students and the sources of funding for the Chairs. A Elias added that the proposal will advance the Faculty's strategic research goals. She articulated the benefits of the transparency of the program as well as the governance structure supporting the Chairs. Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Aminah Robinson Fayek added context on the impacts of changes to external federal funding programs. She noted that this initiative will allow the University to leverage other grant programs and bring in other partners to build critical mass for research capacity.

Members congratulated the proponents for their initiative and the innovative approach. They asked about the criteria, how the performance of the Chairs would be evaluated, the impact on students, the alignment with the Indigenous Strategic Plan, and the expectations for generating revenue. The committee discussed additions to the proposal to clarify other benefits, beyond revenue, especially for teaching and research, to ensure the proposal was not be seen as detrimental to teaching. Members noted that criteria for industry collaborators was missing from the proposal.

The Chair suggested that the proposal should also include a ten-year review, that it be viewed with an Indigeneity lens, that teaching release be changed to teaching expectations, and that it be branded as the University of Alberta Engineering Research Chairs.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the establishment of the Engineering Research Chairs program for implementation beginning October 1, 2022.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6. Budget Update (standing item)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance),

*Discussion:* T Gilchrist noted that there were no anticipated cuts to budget 23/24 and that there is some anticipated targeted growth especially in approved areas of tuition and enrolment growth. He informed the committee that the development of Budget Model 2.0 has been paused for the next fiscal year and committed to communicating what model would be used for the annual budget process in the coming meetings.

T Gilchrist responded to questions and concerns related to graduate student appointments and provided and provided current status update on the fall term appointment progress.

Members inquired about processes to provide feedback and were provided with options including the Staff Service Center, their Service Partners, direct managers, College/Faculty General Managers, or senior leadership within University Services and Finance.

The Chair encouraged members to communicate with their networks and to support each other.

### 7. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

*Discussion:* Members suggested that the Engineering Chairs proposal come to Deans' Council.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### 8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- For approval by September 7 – eVote
- Results of eVote

## **CLOSING SESSION**

### Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: October 5, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 17, 2022