



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 06, 2016
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Sarah Forgie	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Support staff representative (Category B1.0), elected by GFC
Roger Graves	Member, Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning
Jacqueline Leighton	Member, Chair Representative, selected by Chairs' Council
Luis Marin	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Fahim Rahman	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Jeff Rawlings	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President of Information Technology
Norma Rodenburg	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar or Delegate
Toni Samek	Member, Major Teaching Award Recipient, Staff Representative
Quinten Starko	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large
Harsh Thaker	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Mani Vaidyanathan	Member, Academic Staff
Stanley Varnhagen	Member, Academic Staff

Presenter(s):

Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel
Anne Bailey	Director of Internal Communications, Office of University Relations
Amy Dambrowitz	Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Roger Graves	Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and Member, GFC CLE
Toni Samek	Member, GFC CLE
Mani Vaidyanathan	Member, GFC CLE
Fahim Rahman	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union and Member, Subcommittee to Explore Teaching Tenure Stream at the University of Alberta
Sarah Forgie	Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC CLE

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Beasley/Rawlings

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 3, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Marin/Thaker

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of March 3, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed the incoming Vice-President (Academic) of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed New Copyright Regulations

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Research); Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

Purpose of the Proposal: To clarify when the staff member owns copyright, and when the University owns copyright and to update and revise the language in Article 10 related to copyright in the various academic collective agreements (APO Agreement, Faculty Agreement, FSO Agreement, Librarian Agreement, CAST Agreement, SOTS Agreement, TRAS Agreement).

Discussion:

Dr Babiuk reported that this document has been in the development phase since 2010. He indicated that the regulations provide clarification on ownership by academic staff of copyright in works they create and that the University retains the license to use these materials for purposes related to its approved mandate.

Members engaged in a discussion surrounding this proposal including implications related to creative commons license and fair dealings.

Motion: Marin/Beasley

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment recommend, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed new Copyright Regulations for the various Academic Staff Agreements to the GFC Academic Planning Committee.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Institutional Strategic Plan - First Draft

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC CLE; Anne Bailey, Director of Internal Communications, Office of University Relations; Amy Dambrowitz, Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For feedback and discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Bailey and Dr Dambrowitz presented the draft Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP) to the Committee. It was emphasized that the ISP will be the single plan to direct the institution and that it is organized around five active goals in no order of priority as they are all considered to be equal in importance. It was further noted that the document is framed by the U of A story and is presented so that it can be read at various levels of detail from a high level perspective to a more strategic one.

On the question of whether there should be prioritization of the goals and strategies, it was noted that once the ISP is approved the next step would involve prioritization and the setting and developing of measures for success. A member noted that the plan speaks to recruitment of students and the staff connection of what we do in the classrooms and its impact on recruitment. A member suggested that the phrase "learning environment" was important to include as it underlines that the student experience is routed in the environment.

In addition to seeking clarification surrounding language used within the document, members also provided suggestions to include more about Libraries, that teaching and research are treated differently, and that inclusion of assessment of learning outcomes seems like a premature goal. A member made note of the timing between the compensation negotiations between the University and AASUA and the release of this document, which places emphasis on investment in people at the academy.

The Chair thanked members for their comments. Dr Dambrowitz invited members to provide additional feedback on the ISP website.

6. Review of GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC CLE

Purpose of the Proposal: To review the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment current delegated authority from General Faculties Council to ensure that it remains current and appropriate and to provide recommendations to General Faculties Council by way of the GFC Executive Committee on the renewal of, or revisions to, the delegated authority and any other changes to the Terms of Reference.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that at the January 25, 2016 meeting of General Faculties Council, members approved a motion to review the delegation of its authorities to all of its current Standing Committees and by June 30, 2016 vote on whether to renew or revise these delegated authorities. In addition, she noted that GFC approved a

motion to be guided in the review of the governance and operations of GFC by the June 2013 report "A Reflection on the State of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta".

The Chair invited members to discuss the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Initially, members engaged in a lengthy discussion surrounding the perceived lack of authority from GFC in terms of the Committee's ability to create policy around the learning environment. On this point, members discussed the role of the Committee in recommending items to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and GFC, and members provided suggestions including adding more delegated authority to the Committee and rewriting the Terms to more clearly define the role of GFC CLE.

A member reported that the Terms of Reference were last amended in 2014 after the release of Mr Chelen's report, "A Reflection on the State of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta", to include more focus on Learning Services.

Members also commented on the addition of several key areas within the Committee's mandate, including the ISP, research, assessment, white papers and perhaps even funding. A member pointed out that examining teaching tenure is complicated due to the boundaries surrounding the Collective Agreement and GFC's authority under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)* over procedures in respect of appointments, promotions, salaries, tenure and dismissals.

Finally, a member noted that the reports produced by the Committee are well researched and contain excellent recommendations but have been underutilized.

7. Formative Feedback

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Roger Graves, Interim Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and Member, GFC CLE

Purpose of the Proposal: For information and discussion.

Discussion:

Due to time constraints, the Chair noted that this item would be deferred to the next meeting of GFC CLE.

8. Mandated USRI Questions for Project Based and Online Courses

There were no documents or updates.

9. Subcommittee to Explore Teaching Tenure Stream at the University of Alberta - Update

There were no documents or updates.

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.