



General Faculties Council
 Committee on the Learning Environment
 Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 02, 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)
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Allen Berger	Member, Dean Representative, selected by Deans' Council
Kathleen DeLong	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Support staff representative, elected by GFC
Eva Lemaire	Member, Academic Staff
Glen Loppnow	Member, Associate Dean or Associate Chair, Teaching and Learning
Brian Maraj	Member, Major Teaching Award Recipient
Luis Marin	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Janice Miller-Young	Member, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning
Norma Rodenburg	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar or Delegate
Carrie Smith-Prei	Member, Academic staff member and currently a member of GFC
Quinten Starko	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large
Ali Talaei	Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Mani Vaidyanathan	Member, Academic Staff
Stanley Varnhagen	Member, Academic Staff

Presenter(s):

Kathleen DeLong	Acting Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
Sarah Forgie	Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
Fahim Rahman	Co-Chair, CLE Subcommittee to Explore Teaching Tenure Stream

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Banister/Talaei

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

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 5, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Banister/ Varnhagen

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of October 5, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair welcomed Dr Miller-Young to the committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. GFC CLE Subcommittee to Explore Teaching Tenure Stream at the University of Alberta – White Paper

Presenter(s): Fahim Rahman

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion.

Discussion:

Mr Rahman provided the committee with an overview of the document noting examples from other U15 institutions and arguments for and against having a dedicated teaching stream.

During the discussion, a member noted that institutions define teaching stream in different ways which may include teaching only or teaching plus scholarship; and that it would be important to capture this within the document. Another member noted that the current FSO (Faculty Service Officer) model could be useful as a starting point as this model accommodates varying levels of teaching/research/service and that there are FEC documents in place to do this; it was also noted that the FSO category is a well-established and somewhat unique model. In addition, librarians are also involved in scholarly activity and research.

A member noted that a more in-depth analysis of the issue was necessary. It was suggested that a chart to compare institutions be developed which could include teaching load, title progression, research expectations, and tenure. It was noted that the rationale and reasoning used to develop models in other institutions may not be available online and that the subcommittee should contact the relevant teaching centres directly.

The committee discussed the dualistic approach which could result in the creation of a 'second class' of staff while not raising the teaching profile. Concern about restricting scholarship to that related to teaching and learning was expressed as was the importance of teachers staying current and making contributions in their field. A member noted the importance recognizing that individuals focus on different aspects of their professional career at different times. Mr Rahman agreed that the flexibility of the model was echoed by the subcommittee.

Further feedback from the committee included: more detail required (motivators and drivers, issues trying to address, etc), executive summary, the need for crossover of ideas between teaching and research, recognition of teaching excellence in the tenure and promotion process,

Mr Rahman thanked the committee for their input and indicated that he would take this back to the subcommittee and return to the committee with a revised version.

5. USRIs

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie

Discussion:

Dr Forgie reported that, after meeting with the research team at the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) it became clear that some questions did not fit in with what CLE has been charged with by GFC. She indicated that she was looking for more input from the committee.

The committee discussed the proposed questions and provided the following feedback and suggestions: issue a survey containing some of the questions which could then be used to inform the interview, phrasing and ordering of questions, the use of open ended questions, consider faculty/department structure to ensure speaking to correct people, clarity that it should address current situation and practices, definition of effective teaching (varies according to context) and indicators of quality teaching, responses based on required or elective course.

Dr Forgie thanked the committee for their suggestions.

The letter from a CLE member was tabled to next meeting.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM