



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Council on Students Affairs  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2020  
0-31 Marigold Room (SUB)  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

### **ATTENDEES:**

Steven Dew, Chair  
Dylan Ashley  
Akanksha Bhatnagar  
Teddy Carter  
Melinda Chisholm  
André Costopoulos  
David Draper

Anastasia Elias  
Marion Haggarty-France  
Melissa Padfield  
Yimmie Sonuga  
Samantha Tse  
Alan Underhill

### **REGRETS:**

Katherine Belcourt  
Ian Gatera  
Dhanvanth Soora

### Staff:

Ann Hodgson, University  
Governance

### **OPENING SESSION**

1 Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mover/Seconder: Ashley/Padfield

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, COSA

In his opening comments, the Chair:

- Welcomed Yimmie Sonuga, the new GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services (University Governance).
- Highlighted the new structure of the COSA meeting agenda aimed to support the consultative nature of COSA. Guest presentations (for consultation) will come forward early allowing for optimum discussion time and deepening of engagement by members. Immediately following, ex-officio members will highlight activities from within their portfolios as a means of reporting back on matters in between meetings.
- Thanked the U of A Students' Union, Horowitz Events Centre, and Akanksha Bhatnager (SU President/COSA Member) for their joint efforts to bring the January Meeting of COSA to the Students' Union Building in response to an initiative expressed by the committee to hold COSA meetings in other locations, preferably with a student focus.

The Chair provided updates from recent U of A events and timely governance items, including:

- *Flight PS752* – the U of A honoured ten victims of the tragic crash (*Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on January 8, 2020*) by hosting a public memorial service in collaboration with the Iranian-Canadian community. More than 2300+ attendees gathered at a special memorial tribute held at the Saville Centre (South Campus) on January 12, 2020. Prime Minister Trudeau, Premier Kenny, and Mayor Iverson were in attendance.

- Provost Steven Dew added that he, amongst so many others with close professional ties to the victims, is personally sharing the loss of Professors Mojgan Daneshmand and Pedram Mousavi from the Faculty of Engineering and emphasized a number of mechanisms are in place to support University members affected by this tragedy.
- *2020-21 University Tuition* – the consultation and approval path for this year’s tuition proposal will navigate throughout February and March, requiring Board approval on March 13, 2020. The Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) is the consultative advisory body that resources the university budget planning process. As a result of the provincial budget announcement in October (2019), it is anticipated that domestic undergraduate student tuition may raise by 7% and international undergraduates tuition by 4%. Domestic and international Graduate (thesis-based) students may see a 7% tuition increase with rebate to reduce increase to 2.67%. New applicants to professional degree programs (ie. MBA, Executive MBA) may presumably see tuition increases in place for Fall 2020/21.
- The Chair added that tuition, including mandatory student instructional support fees have been frozen (by the Provincial Government) for the past five (5) years. Increased financial supports to all U of A enrolled students will be established to align with, and help off-set tuition increases.
- In terms of a U of A communication plan to reach prospective, new applicants and continuing students, the Registrar’s Office is putting together articulate messaging well in advance of board-approved changes for 2020/21, noting that tuition changes remain subject to Board approval.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda Mover/Seconder: Draper/Tse

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 28, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the Open Session Minutes of November 28, 2019.

**CARRIED**

## **EARLY CONSULTATION**

4. Effective Teaching and Learning: A Framework for Multifaceted Assessment

*Presenters:* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), Janice Miller-Young, Cheryl Poth, Luis Fernando Marin

*Purpose of the Proposal:*

To gather feedback on the work of the Centre for Teaching and Learning to develop a framework to describe effective teaching. The framework will guide efforts to provide robust supports, tools, and training to develop and assess teaching quality in the University. The framework may also be used to identify qualitative and quantitative criteria that are fair, equitable, and meaningful across disciplines for teaching assessment and evaluation. In this way, it may be used in developing policy to replace and revise GFC Policy 111. The emerging framework describes five dimensions of effective teaching and learning: a) content expertise, b) course design, c) instructional practices, d) climate for learning, and e) reflection, growth, and leadership. Each element contains several sub-dimensions for which constructs can be defined, and which may be assessed by self, peers, and/or students.

*Discussion:*

Dr Hopper (representing Dr John Nychka, Vice-Provost, Learning Initiatives), joined by Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) colleagues: Dr Miller-Young, Cheryl Poth, and Mr Luis Fernando Marin, provided a thorough synopsis of the framework initiative that is underway and collective progress made to date. Dr Hopper and the CTL team engaged COSA members in a consultative discussion, providing a deeper opportunity to receive undergraduate and graduate student perspectives and feedback regarding the framework in relation to student assessment of teaching.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: how adaptable will the framework be to the diversity of other university programs; what constructs are we using; how will people “buy in” (differentiate practice from course design); is the framework intended to become an additional and cost-effective tool to gather perspectives, context and evidence; how will the context become actionable; will the framework become elevated to an institutional level with sustainability and trajectory; can the framework be applied at a course and program level.

5. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

*Presenter. Purpose of the Proposal:* .Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

*Purpose of the Proposal:*

The proposal is before GFC to discuss the proposed changes to the process for program approval.

The ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes was mandated to propose revised pathways that are transparent, straightforward and incorporate the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority.

The ad hoc committee is coming forward at this time to consult on a proposal for a new process of program approval at the university that consolidates approval functions that currently reside in various committees and policy processes. This draft proposal represents a significant departure from current practice but one that could potentially provide a cohesive, transparent, and streamlined approach to the process. In the proposed pathway, all components (except resources) of new and revised programs would come to a single committee for approval.

*Discussion:*

Dr Hopper reviewed the draft proposal before COSA and engaged members in a progressive update regarding the work that has been accomplished by the ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes in response to the recommendations articulated within the Report of the *ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority*.

Dr. Hopper emphasized the forward-thinking and aggregated approach required to effectively review and initiate substantial change in order to overhaul the academic program approval process which currently exists at a university-level. The vision for the delivery of a new program approval process encompasses accountability and oversight, while providing clarity, transparency and efficiency.

Members provided comments and asked questions including but not limited to: getting the right voices on the new GFC Program Committee; is there an indigenous aspect and an EDI lens; will the new GPC (replacing ASC and SOS) become overloaded with administrative work; how will GPC ensure support from all other sources.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 6. BUSINESS ARISING SINCE LAST MEETING

- *Weapons on University Property* – proposal is navigating to the GFC Executive Committee (February 10) for recommendation to GFC as final approver.
- *Freedown of Expression* – statement was formally received by the Provincial Government on December 15, 2019. Content is published and in effect.
- *Red Tape for Students: What Bugs You (This question will become a standing item on the COSA agenda to receive student input and concerns.)*
  - An example of “RT” was identified by a student member as a result of shifts in departmental programming. The matter created undo impact and concern. Recognizing variables can exits across campus, changes to student processes should be as transparent as possible, with an across-faculties approach to communicating and applying. The concern was noted and will be reviewed by the Registrar and Dean of Students.
  - Members suggested the availability of an online “red tape” form, as a practical and efficient access point for students to submit their concerns.
  - U of A is working to systematically streamline institutional “red tape” through the UniForum tool.
- *GSA Update* – ongoing consultations on a number of fronts including: FGSR Supervisory Tool: Supervisor-Student Guidelines, Standardized Annual Progress Report (with Dean Brooke Milne); Graduate Student Tuition 20/21.
- *Student Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* – charter will come forward to GFC (April 2020) and is successfully completing a comprehensive consultative path across university governance bodies.
- *Elections* – the U of A Students’ Union (UASU) is supporting and promoting the 2020 UASU Elections; encouraging all students to get out and vote.
- *QA (Quality Assurance) Administrative Portfolio Review of the Office of the Dean* – the DoS is excited to host a site visit within two weeks and has garnered a lot of participant feedback in advance.
- *Student Life Policy and accompanied Student Caregiver Procedure* - consultative work continues productively regarding the development of a Student Life Policy suite. New policy documents prepared by the Dean of Students’ Office are anticipated into Governance shortly for consultation and final approval by the Board of Governors.
- *Joint Summit of Board/GFC/Senate (Jan 24) Debrief* – the Provost was unable to attend due to conflicting meeting commitments. The Summit engaged members of the Board of Governors, Senate, GFC and University senior leadership in a collaborative learning and strategizing session in relation to the Performance Based Funding Model (proposed by the Provincial Governance for post-secondary implementation in the near future).

Steven Dew

Dylan Ashley

Akanksha Bhatnagar

Andre Costopoulos

- Summit attendees were provided with an interactive and timely opportunity to build a deeper understanding of government metrics, performance targets and new institutional expectations.
- *Undergraduate Enrolment Report 2019-20* – the annual report is now live and online for public accessibility. The data (compiled by December) is a high-level snapshot reflecting the U of A key building blocks: enrollment, registration and outcomes. Figures are based on 2019/20 statistical data. Members were provided with an opportunity to engage in a detailed discussion of the report. M Padfield responded to a number of questions including but not limited to: managing FLE targets; indigenous, student-parent and international student enrollment figures.

*Melissa Padfield*

7. Question Period

In response to a member's follow-up question regarding Performance Based Metrics, the Chair engaged members in collegial dialogue regarding the anticipated new model. Questions which came forward included but were not limited to: governance metrics on students; how is the data and feedback solicited; what is the consultation and approval path for sign-off; what is the cycle span of data already collected, are there thresholds for improvements; what is the lifespan of future collected data.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

8. Items Approved by the Committee by email Ballots (non-debatable) (no items to date)
9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings (no items to date)

**CLOSING SESSION**

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.