



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council Executive Committee Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2014
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Chair (Delegate), President
Ed Blackburn	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Dustin Chelen	Member, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kaori Kabata	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Colin More	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Norma Nocente	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Steve Patten	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Jonathan White	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC

Presenter(s):

Janine Andrews	Executive Director, Museums and Collections Services
Gerald Beasley	Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
Dustin Chelen	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Deborah Eerkes	Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs
Robin Everall	Associate Dean of Students and Past Provost Fellow
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Petros Kusmu	President, Students' Union, University of Alberta
Steven Penney	Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee
Heather Proctor	Chair, University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee
Frank Robinson	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Norma Rodenburg	Student Affairs Officer, Dean of Students
Indira Samarasekera	President and Vice-Chancellor
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Jay Spark	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resource Services)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Blackburn/van der Baan

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of December 2, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rodgers/Chelen

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of December 2, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

Dr Samarasekera reported that she has had several conversations with the new Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE), The Honourable Dave Hancock, and that she is looking forward to a productive relationship with him. She noted that she attended a recent dinner with him and that there will a meeting between him and the other post-secondary Presidents and Board Chairs in the near future. She stated that she hopes to receive advanced information in relation to the upcoming Provincial budget announcement.

3.1 Change Agenda - Action Plan Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera provided a brief outline of the 'Change Agenda – Action Plan' to members, adding that it is the result of an assignment to the President from the Board of Governors at the Board Retreat held in April of 2013. She encouraged members to review the meeting material on this item.

A member enquired about how the 'Change Agenda – Action Plan' might align with the role of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

3.2 Board Committee on Advancement

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera reported that, following the successful introduction of the Office of Advancement at the University of Alberta and building upon the priority of utilizing philanthropic activities to diversify the revenue base of the institution, the Board of Governors will be creating a new entity called (tentatively) the

Board Committee on Advancement. She provided a brief outline of the Committee's composition and its scope.

A member enquired about how this new Board committee might interface with the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

3.3 The President's GFC Task Force

There were no documents.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera reported that the President's GFC Task Force has met twice and will be working hard to complete a final report by the end of Spring, 2014.

4. Comments from the Acting Chair

The Acting Chair commented on a number of relevant items to members.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Student Groups Procedure (in UAPPOL) and Corresponding Rescission of Student Groups from the Code of Student Behaviour

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Penney, Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee; Deborah Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs; Norma Rodenburg, Student Affairs Officer, Dean of Students

Purpose of the Proposal: To make the administration of Student Groups more clear; to remove Student Groups from the Code of Student Behaviour and to provide a process for determining Student Group status or intervening in unacceptably risky Student Group Events or Activities; and to remove Student Groups from the definition of "Student" under the Code and to acknowledge the management of Student Groups as a purely administrative function. This has the effect of making Student Groups no longer subject to Code charges; however, individual students acting on behalf of the group are still subject to the Code. Any decisions regarding the conduct of the Group are assessed in relation to the status of that Student Group.

Discussion:

Professor Penney, Chair of the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC), provided members with a summary of the proposal's aim, noting that this item transitions student groups out of the Code of Student Behaviour to be handled, instead, in an administrative manner. He reported that members of GFC CLRC discussed the proposal twice and that the proposal received an unanimous recommendation forward to the GFC Executive Committee at its last meeting.

Ms Rodenburg explained that the proposal took two years to develop, based on lengthy consultation with various stakeholders across the campuses of the University of Alberta, including members of the Students' Union (SU); she added that, during the process of developing the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL) proposal in support of this change, revisions were made to the definition of

'student groups', information relating to additional training for student leaders, a change in registration timelines, and the addition of an extra level of appeal than is currently provided within the Code of Student Behaviour. She emphasized that the current proposal addresses previous concerns raised within the wider University community and that it is beneficial for all involved.

During the discussion regarding this proposal, members provided several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification about how many student groups currently have an executive that is not comprised exclusively of student members; gratitude for the level of extensive consultation during the development of the proposal; concerns regarding the appeal structure; concerns related to the extra bureaucracy added to student group events; and whether Recreation Services had been consulted.

Motion: Blackburn/Nocente

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the proposed Student Group Procedure (in UAPPOL), as set forth in Attachment 1, and the concurrent rescission of reference to 'Student Groups' from the Code of Student Behaviour, as set forth in Attachment 2, both as submitted by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA), to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

6. Draft Agenda for the February 3, 2014 Meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the Agenda for the next GFC meeting to be held on Monday, February 3, 2014.

Discussion:

After a brief introduction by President Samarasekera, Dr Ferguson-Pell, aided by a PowerPoint presentation, briefed members on the latest conceptual planning surrounding the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative. His update included information related to the defining characteristics of the project as well as its purpose. He noted that there would be an opportunity for students interested in leadership to choose to live in a residence in which this type of programming would be available. He reported that as society continues to require the skills of high-quality leaders, combined with the depth and breadth of evidence-based leadership education only available at the University of Alberta, now is the time to build upon this unique opportunity. He encouraged members to research the legacy of Mr Peter Lougheed, who spent so much time at the University of Alberta and had become an exemplary leader.

Dr Ferguson-Pell outlined for members certain elements of the program, including the possible areas of focus and competencies, adding that he has reviewed, amongst others, the leadership program offered at the University of Arizona for inspiration and ideas. He stated that, following an overwhelming message from students and others, the University's program is being designed to be accessible to nearly every student at the University of Alberta. He reported that the Leadership Academic Coordinating Committee has been working hard to develop the initiative but that it is time for additional consultation with the

academy and that it be considered for placement on the February 3, 2014 General Faculties Council (GFC) agenda.

Dr Samarasekera reported that this initiative had received heavy attention at the recent President's Executive Committee (PEC) retreat.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification about the timeline of the program; clarification about the cost of the residence; whether there have been conversations with the Provincial Government about funding the residence; gratitude for considering the views of students when developing this project; support for several of the elements of the project; concern that the project is not advanced enough to be taken to GFC for consideration; concern that the current project lacks the amount of consultation required to be taken to GFC; support for taking the item to GFC, since substantial work has gone into it recently; clarification about the roles of the Principal and the Academic Leader within the presentation and how these officers will interact with the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; whether the Banff Centre will remain within the scope of the project; concern that the residence experience is only available to 144 students, with a query on the reasons for this determination of size; a suggestion to tailor the definition of leadership to the uniqueness of education at the University of Alberta and an expression of caution against making the term meaningless by broadening it too much; gratitude for the amount of development the project has undergone since its inception; clarification about what decisions have already been made concretely with regard to this project and what decisions are yet to be made; and clarification about where funding will be applied and in what order.

Motion: Patten/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative as a discussion item to the Agenda for the February 3, 2014 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC).

CARRIED

On the subject of approval of the February 3, 2014 GFC Agenda, members engaged in a lengthy discussion and provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether there are too many items now on this Agenda; that GFC members will not be able to provide meaningful comments to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) regarding the Fall Term Reading Week proposal if they do not take the time necessary to closely read the material; that it would be beneficial for meeting material to be posted earlier than normal, considering the amount of material for consideration; whether there are time limits for items to go forward to GFC; whether the amount of agenda items will inhibit the kind of quality conversation necessary for these important items; commentary surrounding the placement of the items on the agenda, based on importance; an expression of concern there are too many items on the Agenda and that the discussion will not be fulsome; a suggestion to defer the Student Mental Health - Final Report; clarification between 'Discussion Items' and 'Information Reports'; and a suggestion to defer the item on Graduate Education.

Motion: Patten/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the February 3, 2014 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC), as amended.

CARRIED

At this point, the President withdrew from the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Graduate Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: To update the GFC Executive Committee and General Faculties Council (GFC) on progress made to date on the graduate education initiative at the University of Alberta. To present the discussion document, The Funding Model for Graduate Students, Applying the best evidence from U15.

Discussion:

Citing time concerns, the Acting Chair announced that this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

8. Review of the Recommendations in the Final Report of the Renaissance Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Jay Spark, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resource Services)

Purpose of the Proposal: To update the GFC Executive Committee and General Faculties Council (GFC) on the University Administration's process for reviewing the recommendations contained in the revised final Report of the Renaissance Committee and to solicit the views of members on recommendations they believe are of strategic importance to the University.

Discussion:

Mr Spark provided an update to members regarding the Administration's attempt to review and summarize the 73 recommendations contained within the revised final Report of the Renaissance Committee, adding that the meeting material relevant to this item had been presented to members of Deans' Council as well as Chairs' Council and that there will be additional opportunities for feedback as this item moves between various committees and bodies.

Members expressed a number of comments and questions in relation to this item, including, but not limited to: the Report contains high-level thinking and low-level specifics and concern that the Renaissance Committee unilaterally redefined certain fundamental items including academic freedom and scholarship; concern that the recommendations within the Report are not wholly representative of the views of the community; and a suggestion for the recommendations to be tested democratically across the institution to identify the crucial issues.

9. Fall Term Reading Week Proposal (Green and Gold Week)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Petros Kusmu, President, Students' Union; Dustin Chelen, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: To create a fall term reading week during which academic-, career- and community-based programming takes place to improve student mental wellness and academic success (also known as a Green and Gold Week). To achieve this goal, instructional days will not be scheduled in the week in which Remembrance Day falls.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell introduced the item, briefing members on the recent history of the proposal. He reported that as this proposal relates to amending the UAPPOL Academic Schedule Procedure to accommodate a fall term reading week, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is the final approver. He noted that the proposal was recently well received at Deans' Council.

Mr Kusma thanked the Provost and members for their consideration of the proposal and noted that he has worked tirelessly to address the concerns of a number of individuals and Faculties across the campuses of the University of Alberta in an attempt to fine-tune the proposal and alleviate the concerns surrounding its implementation. He stated that a fall term reading week would be a large step forward for the success of students and that, although it does not address all mental health issues across the institution, it is an opportunity for a much-needed break for students during that time. He stated he has collaborated with the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students on programming during that week to ensure that students (and, particularly, international students) would not feel isolated during the proposed week off.

During the ensuing discussion relating to this item, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: concern with examination dates, specifically in relation to the proximity to Christmas break; gratitude for the level of consultation surrounding this proposal; and clarifications related to how this proposed break will be accommodated.

10. Student Mental Health at the University of Alberta - Final Report of Provost Fellow Dr Robin Everall (Edmonton, Summer 2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; Robin Everall, Associate Dean of Students and Past Provost Fellow

Purpose of the Proposal: Provide the final Report of the Provost's Fellow on Student Mental Health and Wellness for information/discussion. The Report advocates for changes within the University of Alberta and contains recommendations for improving the University's ability to support and advance the mental health and wellness of its students.

Discussion:

Dr Overall provided a brief history on this matter, noting that student mental wellness has been an emerging area of concern and interest across North American post-secondary institutions and that student health and wellness forms the foundation for successful learning.

She reported on several key factors in relation to how the University of Alberta might address the issues surrounding student mental health and wellness, including policy developments, the diversity of student supports, creating a sustainable focus on this issue, and how this might impact the way faculty members teach. She noted that the issue requires a wholistic approach.

During the ensuing discussion surrounding this item, members provided numerous comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that this is an important and relevant issue; gratitude for the work that went into the report; and caution against creating reactionary responses to these issues and that a larger conversation about the climate and structure of the academic environment is required to truly address the issue.

11. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report to General Faculties Council (GFC) for the Period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gerald Beasley, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian; Janine Andrews, Executive Director, Museums and Collections Services; Heather Proctor, Chair, University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To file an annual report, as required, with General Faculties Council (GFC).

Discussion:

Mr Beasley introduced himself and fellow presenters, Ms Andrews and Dr Proctor. He noted that the presentation of the University of Alberta Museums Annual Report to General Faculties Council (GFC) was an annual occurrence.

Ms Andrews stated that some of the issues listed within the report are longstanding and that the University of Alberta Museums group, as a whole, collectively endeavors to solve them on an ongoing basis. She reported that some of the continuing areas of focus include maintaining staff, digitizing, and utilization of space in Enterprise Square.

Members provided a number of comments and questions in relation to this report, including, but not limited to: museums are meritorious of additional funding and resources to ensure sustainability; a suggestion for a more centrally-located area to showcase certain collections for the benefit of students; that the report contains important and useful information; and an expression of support for the mention of student connections within the report.

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- Date Changes for the January, 2014 Meeting of the GFC Executive Committee [E-Mailed to Members on December 10, 2013]

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.