



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 24, 2014
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Indira Samarasekera	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Carl Amrhein	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Joanna Auger	Member, Academic Staff, Sessional Staff Representative
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Gary Barron	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Ed Blackburn	Member, Acting Dean, Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Norman Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Philip Bryden	Member, Dean, Law, Statutory
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Patrick Cajina Cortez	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Katy Campbell	Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory
Dustin Chelen	Member, Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic)
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Roy Coulthard	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Michael Deyholos	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Maxwell Douglas	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brent Epperson	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Graduate Students' Association
Robin Everall	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Cole Goshulak	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Raj Gupta	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robert Haennel	Member, Acting Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine, Statutory
Cory Hodgson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Brendan Hokowhitu	Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory
James Hwang	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Averi Iwaniuk	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Kaori Kabata	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kevin Kane	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Brent Kelly	Member, Board of Governors Representative, SU Appointee

Katherine Koch	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Jeffry Kochikuzhyil	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Greg Kondrak	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jill Konkin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Petros Kusmu	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
William Lau	Member, Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Student Life)
John Law	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Qiang Li	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
David Lynch	Member, Dean, Engineering, Statutory
Yongshen Ma	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jennifer McGetrick	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Misha Miazga-Rodriguez	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
D. Douglas Miller	Member, Dean, Medicine and Dentistry, Statutory
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by the Graduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education and Recreation, Statutory
Ray Patterson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mary Persson	Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Joanne Profetto-McGrath	Member, Acting Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Krista Reich	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Patrick Reid	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Wayne Renke	Member, Board of Governors Representative, AASUA Appointee
Jeremy Richards	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan Schaeffer	Member, Dean, Science, Statutory
Terri Schindel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Robert Simpson	Member, Vice-President, Non-Academic Staff Association
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Chloe Speakman	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Guillaume Tardif	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Richard Uwiera	Member, APOs/FSOs, FSO (Academic Staff Representative)
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Andrew Vela	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan White	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Randolph Wimmer	Member (Delegate), Dean, Education, Statutory
Rob Wright	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Kue Young	Member, Dean, School of Public Health, Statutory

Richard Zhao Member, Graduate Student at-Large

Presenter(s):

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Mike Belosevic	Board of Governors Representative, GFC Nominee
Ed Blackburn	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Garry Bodnar	Director of General Faculties Council Services and Secretary to GFC
Dustin Chelen	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
Steven Dew	Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering
Petros Kusmu	President, Students' Union
Colin More	Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Indira Samarasekera	President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Director of General Faculties Council Services and Secretary to GFC
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Assistant Secretary to General Faculties Council and Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Motion: Cormack/Doucet

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 3, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Motion: Bryden/Belosevic

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of February 3, 2014.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

President and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC), Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 394th meeting of GFC and reported on:

- Provincial Budget 2014. She reported that while, as expected, there was a zero percent increase to the University's Campus Alberta grant, there was additional funding announced by the Provincial Government toward the establishment of two new research endowments: the Social Innovation Endowment and the Agriculture and Food Innovation Endowment. She also reported that the Provincial Government has pledged long-term investment in the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative.
- Premier Redford's resignation. She noted that it is unknown how this may impact the Provincial Ministries.
- Deputy Ministers' Dinner: Talent, Research and Innovation: Building the Story of Excellence. She stated that this is always a great event as Provincial Deputy Ministers enjoy the opportunity to meet with Alberta's top researchers.
- Meeting between the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge to develop a case for more investment in graduate education, connected to the innovation agenda of the Province.
- Congratulations to Dr Jonathan White for his recent 3M National Teaching Fellowship.
- Congratulations to the Golden Bears Hockey team for their recent national championship, as well as to the Golden Bears and Pandas Curling teams for their silvers in their respective national championships.
- Congratulations to the University of Alberta students who earned top honours at the Engineering and Commerce Case Competition, held March 12-16, 2014, in Montreal.
- Work continues towards the establishment of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College.
- An expression of thanks to the departing student representatives from both the Students' Union (SU) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) for their engagement on GFC.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Discussion:

Mr Bodnar noted the inclusion of several additional names to Motion I.

Motion I: Profetto-McGrath/Cormack

MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:

The following undergraduate student members elected by the Students' Union (SU) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for terms that are concurrent with their terms on the Board (May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015):

William Lau	President, SU (Incoming)
Sangram Hansra	SU Appointee (Incoming)

The following undergraduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for a term beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

Helen Ashman	Faculty of Arts
Cole Goshlak	Faculty of Arts

Dylan Hanwell
Samer Sleiman

Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Arts

The following graduate student member elected by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with his term on the Board (May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015):

Nathan Andrews

President, GSA (Incoming)

The following non-academic staff representative nominated by the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2015:

Robert Simpson

Information Services and Technology

CARRIED

Motion II: Belosevic/Collins

MOTION II: TO RECEIVE [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students' Union (SU) to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015:

Kathryn Orydzuk
Nicholas Diaz

Vice-President (Academic), SU (Incoming)
Vice-President (Student Life), SU (Incoming)

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to serve on GFC for a term beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015:

Colin More

Vice-President (Academic), GSA (Incoming)

CARRIED

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); 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 Amrhein prefaced his introduction of the proposal by stating that this was a great day for the University of Alberta, adding that there has been an enormous amount of collaboration and discussion with regard to the development of this initiative and that, over the course of the past four years, four Students' Union (SU) Presidents had worked on it. He explained that, after being notified of his sole delegated authority over approving changes to the Academic Schedule Procedure within the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL), he consulted with University Governance and the Office of General Counsel regarding the historical context behind this. He noted that, at the time that the Academic

Schedule Procedure was developed and instituted within UAPPOL, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) had been delegated the authority to approve changes to that procedure. Dr Amrhein explained that, as he contemplated this delegation in relation to the current fall term reading week proposal, he came to the conclusion, in his view, the proposal was beyond the scale of what was originally imagined during the creation of the UAPPOL procedure. In the spirit of tradition and collegiality at the University of Alberta, he initiated discussions with the President, Deans, and others about the possibility of obtaining an advisory vote from General Faculties Council (GFC) on the proposal. He reported that this plan was indeed validated following a vote to add this item to the current GFC Agenda by members of the GFC Executive Committee at a special meeting held on March 13, 2014.

Mr Kusmu reiterated that a vast amount of consultation was undertaken during the development of this proposal and that, even following a favorable vote today, there will be a task force struck to begin finalizing the programming associated with a fall term reading week and obtaining additional feedback to ensure successful outcomes.

Mr Chelen clarified that the GFC Executive Committee will still approve the annual presentation of the yearly Academic Schedule, as per the *status quo* and as outlined within the Academic Schedule Procedure.

During the discussion with regard to this proposal, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: expressions of support for the introduction of a fall term reading week; concern with the timing of the break; a pledge of official support from the Graduate Students' Association (GSA); excitement that the proposal is in front of GFC for a vote and encouragement to approve it; that an important component of the proposal is the student-focused programming planned for the week; concern that the proposal does not contain confirmed dates; clarification regarding the drafting of the annual Academic Schedule; that the proposal should be approved even in the absence of confirmed dates, due to the importance of the break for students; acknowledgement of the consultation that had occurred with regard to this proposal and, as a result, an expression of support from the Faculty of Engineering for the introduction of this reading week; and commentary from the Vice-Provost and University Registrar that the draft proposal dates are not overly fluid and are based, in fact, on solid dates determined by very careful consideration of the implementation of this reading week in the Fall Term.

Motion: Amrhein/Epperson

THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) the approval of the Students' Union's (SU's) proposed revisions to the existing UAPPOL Academic Schedule Procedure to provide for the establishment of a Fall Term Reading Week (Green and Gold Week), starting with the Fall Term, 2015.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Final Report – Provision of Advice to the Office of the Provost

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment; Dustin Chelen, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union; Steven Dew, Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering; Colin More, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek advice from General Faculties Council (GFC), GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC), GFC Executive Committee, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC), and Deans' Council on how best to promote awareness of the list of graduate attributes set out in the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies' final Report approved by GFC CLE at its June 5, 2013 meeting and, in particular, to seek input on how these attributes might figure in the design of academic programming and courses.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein introduced the Report to members, and Dr Connor provided a brief history of its inception and development, adding that it represents a great deal of consultation and research on an important and timely topic. He stated that the Report has been widely discussed across the academy, including at Deans' Council, and has been positively received. He explained that implementing unique, institution-wide attributes and competencies might serve to attract students to the University of Alberta. He thanked the members of the Subcommittee for their efforts.

Dr Dew stated that work on this Report began three years ago and was intended to reflect best practices in terms of focusing on outcomes of educational objectives at the University of Alberta. He explained that, although the work of the Subcommittee was largely student-led, the final Report generated by this body represents a collaborative effort between all members. He stated that the Report contains seven major competencies and attributes and a series of sub-attributes.

Mr More explained that this proposed list of attributes and competencies is relevant to graduate students, as 70% of all graduate students find employment outside the scope of academia, and employers are, in many instances, keenly interested in attributes and competencies over scholarly skills. He added that implementing a program around attributes and competencies might assist graduate students in articulating these skills and that, additionally, it might showcase that the University of Alberta is offering something unique to students.

Mr Chelen commented that, from an undergraduate student's perspective, this proposal offers valuable additional skills. He noted that references to attributes and competencies appear within *Dare to Deliver* and have been gaining attention within post-secondary education sectors, nationally and internationally. He suggested that it would be beneficial to create a University of Alberta-specific list of attributes and competencies to pre-empt attempts from other (external) bodies to impose them on the academy.

During the lengthy discussion surrounding this Report, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: concerns that some of the attributes and competencies appear trendy and might not stay relevant throughout time; that employers also value academic skills acquired by students; that implementation appears to be top-down and prescriptive to professors and instructors; that the institution should avoid implementing attributes and competencies and remain skeptical of the movement; concerns with the language within the list of attributes and competencies provided for this discussion; clarification on the process of combining externally-required attributes and competencies and those to be deployed internally; that certain existing programs already provide students with training around these attributes and competencies; concern that the list is subjective and that some students may not or do not want and/or need additional education in these areas; that this list does not reflect the intention of a university education; that students gain these skills through their experiences at university as it is; expressions of concern about successful implementation; concern that so much time and effort was utilized by a GFC Standing Committee to create this Report; that Departments are already overburdened with work; that students are increasingly expected to do more and are prepared to do more but that imposing attributes and competencies on them might be counter-productive; that graduate students require and desire this type of education and support; expressions of support for this proposal as it would assist

students with gaining employment; that the Faculty of Arts has begun discussing this idea and that they place an importance on providing their students with this type of education; that this type of educational underpinning supports students in becoming the best people they can be; that this has been a student-led initiative and that students support it; and that this issue appears to stem from political issues.

Discussion continued, with members making the following points: a formal endorsement of support for this initiative from the Graduate Students' Association (GSA); that it would be strategic to begin drafting academy-specific attributes and competencies before they are imposed on the institution by external agencies; that there is existing pressure from the bottom up as well in that graduate students are requesting this type of education; that other provincial and national institutions will develop their own lists of competencies and attributes before the University of Alberta does; that the University of Alberta has a responsibility to provide this type of education; that the culture at this academy discourages discussing issues like these, and students are anxious to discuss this with their advisors; that there is a difference between offering education around attributes and competencies and being able to articulate those types of skills; concerns that faculty members would be held accountable for students developing these attributes and competencies; that some individuals do not have the inclination or the personality to ever attain success in some of these areas; that this type of education truly allows graduate students to make the most of their educational experiences and degrees; and that this type of initiative can equip every student at the institution with tools for success and that it is not meant to burden professors and instructors.

Dr Amrhein concluded the discussion by emphasizing that this type of initiative is already occurring worldwide and that the Provincial Government is requesting proof that students graduating from the University of Alberta possess similar attributes and competencies. He added that there is nothing within the Report that is not already being taught at this institution and that external accreditors are already imposing sets of standards across certain Faculties. He noted that employers are also making a shift away from only valuing degrees and are expecting potential employees to possess a range of attributes and competencies. He encouraged continued discussion surrounding this issue and suggested that the best way to move forward is to compile a list of attributes and competencies that meets University of Alberta's standards and none else. He emphasized his faith in the professors, staff, and students at the University of Alberta to collaborate successfully on such an undertaking.

7. Annual Report for Undergraduate Enrolment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide governance committees with an updated (revised) annual report on undergraduate enrolment and to solicit feedback from members.

Discussion:

Ms Collins provided a brief introduction of the Annual Report for Undergraduate Enrolment to members, adding that reviewing undergraduate enrolment data falls under her responsibilities as Vice-Provost and University Registrar. She explained that this is a new approach for the University of Alberta and that the data in the Report highlights enrolment numbers across the academy and affords the opportunity to review trends and to benchmark against peer and competitor institutions. She noted that the Office of the Registrar worked closely with the Office of Strategic Analysis on compiling the data for the Report.

Ms Collins then commented on the contents of the Report, including full-load equivalent (FLE) targets, competitive admission averages, faculty enrolment management, applicant yield statistics, international

undergraduate student enrolment, pathways of the international student population, and retention rates at the University of Alberta.

A member pointed out an error on one of the graphics contained in the Report, and another thanked Ms Collins for the Report.

Following Ms Collins' presentation, there was a brief discussion, concluding with the Chair, Dr Samarasekera, thanking the University Registrar for her effort in compiling the data set out in the Report and for reinvigorating interest in institutional enrolment management issues.

8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

8.1Q Questions from GFC Member Professor Mark Loewen Regarding Delegated Authority and Approval
and and

8.1R Responses from University Governance to Questions Raised by Professor Loewen

8.2Q Questions from GFC Member Professor Jeremy Richards Regarding Delegated Authority and
and Approval

8.2R and

Responses from University Governance to Questions Raised by Professor Richards

8.3Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding the 'Change Agenda' and
and Professional CVs for Senior Administrators

8.3R and

Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Professor Lowrey

8.4Q Questions from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding the 'Change Agenda' and
and External Recruitment of Department Chairs

8.4R and

Responses from President Indira Samarasekera to Questions Raised by Professor Lowrey

8.5Q Questions from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding Donation Data Collection and
and 'Reward Structures'

8.5R and

Responses from Vice-President (Advancement) O'Neil Outar to Questions Raised by Professor Lowrey

Discussion:

During Question Period, members asked supplementary questions related to the written questions before Council and a series of additional queries, including, but not limited to: clarification regarding delegation of authority in relation to the approval of recent changes to the Code of Student Behaviour; clarification surrounding the historical context of the delegation of authority over further (proposed) changes to the Academic Schedule Procedure; whether a central database of delegations of authority exists and expressed need for this type of database; that there is a need for transparency as a public institution and that most Faculty members make their *curriculum vitae* documents public; a suggestion relating to the recruitment strategy for Chairs and that it might not be feasible to attract the best scholars to Chair

positions; a suggestion for the Office of Advancement to clearly and publicly track their fundraising activities; clarification on the timing of the discussion regarding the final report from the President's GFC Task Force at General Faculties Council (GFC); a request for an update regarding the Galleria Project; clarification surrounding GFC's role in approving the Lougheed Leadership Initiative; and clarification surrounding the impact of rising admission averages at the University of Alberta.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of January 15, February 10, and March 5, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

10. Report of the Board of Governors

There was no report.

Presenter: Mike Belosevic, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Nominee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

11. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee (January 22, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Ed Blackburn, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

12. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There was no report.

Presenter: Garry Bodnar, Director of General Faculties Council Services and Secretary to GFC

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

13. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

14. Reports

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

- Helping Individuals at Risk and Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Activity Report 2012-2013

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.