



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 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
Katherine Aitchison	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Nathan Andrews	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Graduate Students' Association
Kathryn Arbuckle (Delegate)	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Ali Assi	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Joanna Auger	Member, Academic Staff, Sessional Staff Representative
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Gary Barron	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Qendresa Beka	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Annie Cai	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Christina Caouette	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Sam Cheng	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Ermin Chow	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Jason Cobb (Delegate)	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Roger Croutze	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Nicholas Diaz	Member, Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Student Life)
Travis Dueck	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Youness Elkhaldy	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Richard Fahlman	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Andrew Fontaine	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cole Goshulak	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Lise Gotell	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Stephanie Gruhlke	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Akash Gupta	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
John Harris	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Statutory
Brendan Hokowhitu	Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory
Michael Huang	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Hanhmi Huynh	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Michal Juhas	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kaori Kabata	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kevin Kane	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Terence (Terry) Kersch	Member, St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee
Katherine Koch	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Greg Kondrak	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
William Lau	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
John Law	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robert Lederer	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Raimar Loebenberg	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Yongshen Ma	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Godfrey Man	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Laurie Mereu	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean, Statutory
Bashir Mohamed	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Anita Molzahn	Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Benjamin Montpetit	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by Graduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Madiha Mueen	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education and Recreation, Statutory
Norma Nocente	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Saeed El Khair Nusri	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kathryn Orydzuk	Member, Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic)
Trevor Pasanen	Member, Academic Staff, Sessional Staff Representative
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Ali Qadri	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Fahim Rahman	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Colm Renehan	Member, Interim Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Jeremy Richards	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Arts
Jonathan Schaeffer	Member, Dean, Science, Statutory
Andrew Shaw	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mazi Shirvani	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Statutory
Robert Simpson	Member, Vice-President, Non-Academic Staff Association and Additional Appointee

Peter Smith	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kent Stobart	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Lok To	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sarah Wall	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Elizabeth Wallace	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Brianna Wells	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
David Whalen	Member, Administrative Professional Officer (Academic Staff Representative)
Jonathan White	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sheena Wilson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Faizath Yallou	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Olive Yonge	Member, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Richard Zhao	Member, Graduate Student at-Large

Presenter(s):

Nathan Andrews	President, Graduate Students' Association
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative (GFC Appointee)
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar and Member, <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee)
Nicholas Diaz	Vice-President (Student Life), Students' Union
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary and Acting Director of General Faculties Council Services and Secretary to GFC
Cory Hodgson	Vice-President (Operations and Finance), Students' Union
Navneet Khinda	Vice-President (External), Students' Union
William Lau	President, Students' Union
Colin More	Member, <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee)
Kathryn Orydzuk	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Steve Patten	Member, <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee)
Fahim Rahman	Member, <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee)
Wendy Rodgers	Vice-Dean, Physical Education and Recreation
Indira Samarasekera	President and Chair, General Faculties Council
Olive Yonge	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Staff:

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

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 (GFC)

Motion: DeGara/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of September 22, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Motion: Simpson/Shirvani

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of September 22, 2014.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

President and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC), Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 396th meeting of GFC. She reported on the following:

- The announcement of the University of Alberta's 13th President, Dr David H Turpin. She noted that the presidential transition has been initiated and that her goal is to prepare in any ways she can Dr Turpin for the beginning of his term as University President (and Vice-Chancellor) on July 1, 2015.
- The recent departure of former Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein and a warm welcome to Dr Olive Yonge, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Dr Samarasekera reported that there will be an event early in the new year to formally recognize the enormous contributions of Dr Amrhein to the University of Alberta. She added that the search for the next Provost and Vice-President (Academic) will begin immediately.
- An update regarding the search for the next Vice-President (Advancement).
- The extending of congratulations to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr D Douglas Miller, for his recent appointment as Dean, School of Medicine at New York Medical College. She thanked Dr Miller for his excellent leadership of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, most notably related to the recent exceptional international accreditation results for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program at the University of Alberta.
- The University of Alberta Budget. She noted that, with the change in leadership within the Provincial Government, her focus continues to be advocacy for sustained investment in post-secondary education. She provided members with a detailed update with respect to the internal budgeting cycle and processes at the institution and possible future changes to the University of Alberta budget model.
- The state of renewal across the University of Alberta. She invited members to e-mail her if they had any outstanding questions or concerns regarding this time of transition.

During the discussion surrounding the Chair's comments, a member sought clarification regarding the implementation date for changes to the budget model, the research process into a new budget model, and the President-Elect's involvement in this process.

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 (GFC)

Discussion:

Ms Haggarty-France verbally added additional names to Motion II: *To Receive* and thanked both new and continuing members, as well as members of the GFC Nominating Committee, for their engagement in the academic governance process at the University of Alberta.

Motion I: Shirvani/Cormack

MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following academic staff members to represent sessional staff, for terms beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2015:

Joanne Auger	Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Trevor Pasanen	Faculty of Science

CARRIED

Motion II: Lau/Molzahn

MOTION II: TO RECEIVE:

The following *ex officio* member, to serve on GFC beginning July 1, 2015 and extending for the term of appointment as Interim Dean:

Fraser Forbes	Faculty of Engineering
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The following undergraduate student members, to serve on GFC effective immediately and extending for terms ending April 30, 2015:

Janelle Schroder	Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Jakub Romanek	Faculty of Arts
Christina Caouette	Faculty of Arts
Erik Florizone	Faculty of Arts
Ermin Chow	Faculty of Business
Annie Cai	Faculty of Business
Scott Campbell	Faculty of Business
Sam Cheng	Faculty of Education
Tom Patrick	Faculty of Engineering
Akash Gupta	Faculty of Engineering

Zizhao (Finn) Wang	Faculty of Engineering
Youness Elkhaldy	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Kathryn Avramenk	Faculty of Nursing
Hanhmi Huynh	Faculty of Nursing

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Discussion Topics for Meetings of General Faculties Council (GFC) – GFC Executive Committee Ad Hoc Working Group Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC); Lisa Collins, Member, *Ad Hoc* Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee); Colin More, Member, *Ad Hoc* Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee); Steve Patten, Member, *Ad Hoc* Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee); Fahim Rahman, Member, *Ad Hoc* Working Group on GFC Discussion (and Member, GFC Executive Committee)

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss a report provided by the GFC Executive Committee, as prepared by members of the Committee's *Ad Hoc* Working Group tasked with considering, in detail, a proposal submitted by President Indira Samarasekera (and Chair, GFC) prior to the September 8, 2014 meeting of the GFC Executive Committee regarding revitalization of discussion at GFC meetings.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera provided members with a brief description of her proposal to revitalize GFC by introducing a discussion or debate period at Council's meetings.

Mr More explained that members of the GFC Executive Committee *Ad Hoc* Working Group identified that two of their more prominent objectives, while deliberating on this issue, were to allow GFC members to pick topics important to them and, additionally, to present issues to GFC in a timely fashion. He stated that, as set out in the Report before members, a call for ideas could be instituted twice each year before the start of the Fall and Winter Terms and that a small group could determine which topics would be introduced at GFC as well as determining when to schedule the confirmed discussion or debate topics.

Ms Collins added that the Working Group's proposed procedures with respect to how topics will be selected are meant to curate the items and not constrain the process. She emphasized that the selection process is intended to prepare members for fulsome, informed discussion and that meeting materials may be provided before such scheduled discussions or debates. She stated that, in addition to revitalizing GFC, a proper discussion or debate period would also sustain interest in collegial governance at the University of Alberta.

Mr Rahman explained that the Working Group's goal ideally is to conduct a pilot of this proposal by the end of the academic year. He stated that the Working Group is interested in GFC's input regarding the future of this proposal.

During the discussion surrounding this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including but not limited to: expressions of support for this proposal; clarification regarding further action in relation to discussion topics presented at GFC; that 'planned' discussion at GFC does not address the perceived need to bring to Council urgent academy-wide issues; clarification regarding the tone of the

proposal in terms of discouraging, rather than encouraging, conflicting viewpoints; a suggestion to base the discussions and debate on evidence; a suggestion to have topics well framed to encourage proper debate; that GFC has delegated too much of its legislative authority to its Standing Committees and that it detracts from GFC's relevance; a suggestion to discuss GFC's delegated authority as a first topic; that two calls for topics *per year* is not enough; that GFC should have some control over its own Agenda and that GFC should determine the topics; a suggestion to publish all submitted topics, in the interest of transparency; that the current 'Council Chamber' (ie, the meeting venue in CCIS) is not conducive to discussion; and a suggestion for GFC to meet with the Board of Governors once each year.

6. Goals (2014-2015) of the Students' Union (SU) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Purpose of the Proposal: The opportunity for communication and discussion between the Students' Union (SU), Graduate Students' Association (GSA), and GFC regarding the strategic planning process and goals for 2014-2015 for both the SU and GSA.

6.1 Goals from the Students' Union (SU)

Presenters: William Lau, President, Students' Union (SU); Kathryn Orydzuk, Vice-President (Academic), SU; Navneet Khinda, Vice-President (External), SU; Cory Hodgson, Vice-President (Operations and Finance), SU; Nicholas Diaz, Vice-President (Student Life), SU

Discussion:

Mr Lau introduced co-presenters of this item, the members of the SU's Executive Team.

Mr Lau and his colleagues then provided members with an outline of the five key goals of the SU for the 2014-2015 academic year as well as additional details regarding these goals, under the categories of: Student Success; Affordability; Engaging Community; Growing Partnerships; and Building a Better Students' Union.

Members, during the discussion surrounding this item, provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification on whether the SU has informal methods to assist international students with integration; whether the SU will be negotiating international airfare rates for international students; and commendation for the presented goals.

6.2 Goals from the Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Presenter: Nathan Andrews, President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Discussion:

Mr Andrews noted that the GSA's list of goals represents a living document as some items span several years before coming to fruition and, hence, are not necessarily adequately addressed in a single year.

He then presented a summary of the goals for the GSA for the 2014-2015 academic year, including: creating professional development opportunities for graduate students; continued engagement surrounding financial support of post-secondary education; support for a strong Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR); continued partnerships in relation to items set out in the Final Report of the Graduate Student Supervision Task Force; increased services for international students; maintaining a strong

governmental advocacy presence; and continued work with the University surrounding education, compliance, and dispute resolution associated with the Collective Agreement.

He reported, additionally, that the GSA has successfully instituted a series of training sessions for graduate students interested in leadership positions and institutional governance.

A member sought clarification regarding how the GSA might assist graduate students with immigration paperwork and, in turn, complimented Mr Andrews on the presented goals.

7. Dare to Discover Report Card (Academic Year 2013-2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide an overview of the many and diverse initiatives undertaken at the University of Alberta between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014; the primary audience for the Report Card is the Board of Governors, but it is a public document that is distributed widely. This discussion is an opportunity for GFC to learn about some of the diverse University initiatives and the qualitative and quantitative indicators used to measure our progress against Board of Governors metrics.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera reported that the Dare to Discover Report Card (Academic Year 2013-14) contains several representational initiatives from across the five campuses of the University of Alberta. She explained that, even though challenges remain, the University of Alberta has achieved measurable success on a number of the goals set out within *Dare to Discover*. She added that the institution has seen increased graduate student enrolment, the enrichment of the student experience, increased publishing in higher-impact academic journals, an increased number of faculty awards, and the achievement of a record-breaking institutional endowment.

She noted that this document is a strategic, institution-wide report containing information reflective of the progress that the academy continues to make, and she encouraged members to read it.

8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

8.1Q Question from GFC Member Faizath Yallou Regarding the Provision of Teaching Assistant (TA) Funding *and*

8.1R Response from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to Question Raised by Faizath Yallou

8.2Q Question from GFC Member Michael Huang Regarding the Possible Impact of the EPLgo Branch Closure *and*

8.2R Response from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to Question Raised by Michael Huang

8.3Q Question from GFC Member Andrew Fontaine Regarding Metrics Used to Measure Institutional Progress *and*

8.3R Response from the Office of the President to Question Raised by Andrew Fontaine

8.4Q Question from GFC Member Andrew Fontaine Regarding the Balance of Quality of Education and Research *and*

8.4R Response from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to Question Raised by Andrew Fontaine

8.5Q Question from GFC Member Ali Qadri Regarding Deployment of Funds from Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) *and*

8.5R Response from Office of the President to Question Raised by Ali Qadri

8.6Q Question from GFC Member Fahim Rahman Regarding Possible Expansion of the Furry Friends 'Puppy Therapy' Program *and*

8.6R Response from the Office of the Dean of Students to Question Raised by Fahim Rahman

8.7Q Question from GFC Member Fahim Rahman Regarding Outcomes of the New Science Internship Program (Faculty of Science) *and*

8.7R Response from the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Science to Question Raised by Fahim Rahman

8.8Q Question from GFC Member Travis Dueck Regarding the Administration's Definition of Excellence and the Contribution of Institutional Programs *and*

8.8R Response from the Office of the President to Question Raised by Travis Dueck

8.9Q Question from GFC Member Carolyn Sale Regarding Discussion at GFC on the University's "New Budget Model" *and*

8.9R Response from the Senior Administration to Question Raised by Carolyn Sale

Discussion:

The Chair addressed each written question (and corresponding written response) in turn by asking those who had submitted the questions if they were satisfied with the provided response(s).

With regard to Item 8.5Q, a member clarified that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is not involved in the production of the mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIF).

With regard to Item 8.8Q, a member enquired how the University defines program success and how this is communicated, in turn, to students and instructors.

With regard to Item 8.9Q, a member stated that, as the proposed new budget model presumably deals with how the priorities of the academy are funded, members of GFC should be involved in its formulation, as the University of Alberta is a collective enterprise; and that other Canadian institutions have provided their faculty, students, and staff with transparent information in relation to the transitions to new budget models.

Professor Sale proposed a Motion to add to today's meeting Agenda a discussion item centred on the Administration's plan surrounding the introduction of a new institutional budget model. Professor Kane stated he was prepared to second this Motion.

The Chair responded that the GFC Executive Committee is responsible, under delegated authority, for setting the Agendas of GFC. At the Chair's request, Mr Bodnar clarified that, as *per* the procedural rules regarding 'Question Period' set out in the GFC Terms of Reference, Motions are not allowed during this

period and that, additionally, the written answers provided to the written questions submitted are not debatable.

A member expressed a parliamentary point of order regarding the possibility of suspending the rules of 'Question Period' to allow the Motion to be introduced.

The Chair noted that again, as *per* the current and unequivocal procedural rules relating to GFC's 'Question Period', she would not consider this point of order.

A member expressed confusion surrounding the Administration's response to members' requests for more clarity surrounding the new budget model.

A member expressed support for a full discussion at GFC relating to a new budget model at the institution.

A member sought clarification regarding when budget details would be available for 2015-2016 and suggested that the new budget model be shared with and discussed by the wider academic community at a 'Town Hall' forum. In response to the latter point, the President noted that she was supportive of such a forum taking place.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. GFC Executive Committee Minutes (September 8, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Olive Yonge, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

10. Report of the Board of Governors (October 24, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Mike Belosevic, Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors (GFC Nominee)

Discussion:

A member sought clarification regarding the approval of a Motion relating to the transfer of unrestricted net assets to permanent restricted endowment net assets, as outlined within the Report.

11. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee (October 9, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Wendy Rodgers, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

12. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There were no items.

Presenter: Marion Haggarty-France, Acting 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.

14. Reports

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.