



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 02, 2015  
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

|                     |                                                                                      |
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| 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 |
| Ali Assi            | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                    |
| 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                                                    |
| Qendresa Beka       | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                    |
| Mike Belosevic      | Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee                             |
| Stanford Blade      | Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Statutory               |
| Deborah Burshtyn    | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                     |
| Annie Cai           | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| Christina Caouette  | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| Jonathan Cheng      | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| Ermin Chow          | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| Lisa Collins        | Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory                             |
| David Cooper        | Member, Board of Governors Representative, AASUA Appointee                           |
| Lesley Cormack      | Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory                                                        |
| Roger Croutze       | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| Chris de Gara       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                     |
| Nicholas Diaz       | Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life                 |
| Joseph Doucet       | Member, Dean, Business, Statutory                                                    |
| Sara Dziarmaga      | 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)                                       |
| Robin Everall       | Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students                                            |
| Erik Florizone      | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                 |
| 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                                                 |
| Gerald Haeubl       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                     |

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| John Harris          | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Michael Huang        | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Hanhmi Huynh         | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Cuiying Jian         | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                                                    |
| Michal Juhas         | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                                                    |
| James Kehrer         | Member, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory                                             |
| Sandra Kereliuk      | Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory                                            |
| 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                                                                                     |
| Pierre Lemelin       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Bernard Lemire       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Raimar Loebenberg    | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Kathleen Lowrey      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Godfrey Man          | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Pierre-Yves Mocquais | Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean, Statutory                                                                          |
| Anita Molzahn        | Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory                                                                                     |
| 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                                                                                     |
| Kathryn Orydzuk      | Member, Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic)                        |
| Tom Patrick          | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Ray Patterson        | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Madison Predy        | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| 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                                                                                     |
| Wendy Rodgers        | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Jakub Romanek        | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Carolyn Sale         | Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Arts                                                                               |
| Toni Samek           | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Jonathan Schaeffer   | Member, Dean, Science, Statutory                                                                                     |
| Janelle Schroder     | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Andrew Shaw          | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Robert Simpson       | Member, Vice-President, Non-Academic Staff Association and Additional Appointee                                      |
| Kim Solez            | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Kent Stobart         | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Guillaume Tardif     | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Harsh Thaker         | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                                                    |
| Lok To               | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |
| Dilini Vethanayagam  | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                                                     |
| Zizhao (Finn) Wang   | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                                                 |

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| Brianna Wells    | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                |
| 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, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory |
| Richard Zhao     | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                |

Presenter(s):

|                        |                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nathan Andrews         | President, Graduate Students' Association                                                              |
| Mike Belosevic         | Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors (GFC Nominee)                                  |
| Lisa Collins           | Vice-Provost and University Registrar                                                                  |
| Robin Everall          | Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students                                                              |
| Kris Fowler            | Coordinator, Helping Individuals At Risk                                                               |
| Marion Haggarty-France | University Secretary                                                                                   |
| Wade King              | Advisor, Safe Disclosure and Human Rights                                                              |
| William Lau            | President, Students' Union                                                                             |
| Brenda Leskiw          | Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee |
| Wendy Rodgers          | Chair, GFC Nominating Committee                                                                        |
| Indira Samarasekera    | President and Chair, General Faculties Council                                                         |
| Lihong Yang            | Assistant Registrar (Admissions)                                                                       |
| Olive Yonge            | Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee                       |

Staff:

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

*Discussion:*

A member asked why there was nothing on the Agenda regarding the issue of introducing a 'discussion period' at GFC. The Chair suggested that this matter be addressed during Question Period.

Motion: Beasley/Molzahn

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|----------------------------------------------------|
| THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda. |
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**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Minutes of November 24, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

A member made note of an error within the Minutes.

Motion: Simpson/Molzahn

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| THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of November 24, 2014, as amended. |
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**CARRIED**

### 3. Comments from the President

The President and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC), Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 397<sup>th</sup> meeting of GFC and reported on:

- The Alberta School of Business' Master of Business Administration (MBA) program received a ranking of being the 86<sup>th</sup> best business school in the world and the third best in Canada, according to the *Financial Times*.
- University of Alberta International Week, which offered more than 60 workshops, exhibits, and keynote speakers this year.
- The University of Alberta Alumni Association's recent events, including the 100 Year Anniversary Celebration, the first Green and Glow Winterfest.
- The Carl Amrhein Aboriginal Student Fund, created in recognition of Dr Amrhein's 11 years as the University's Provost and Vice-President (Academic).
- The Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC). The President noted that an update on the PLLC would be given to GFC at its March 9, 2015 meeting, pending approval from the GFC Executive Committee.
- An update with regard to recent initiatives surrounding the enhancement of the graduate student experience at the University of Alberta.
- Several key initiatives on which Dr Samarasekera will focus in her remaining time as President, including: government relations (encompassing numerous meetings with the Deputy Minister, Provincial Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE)); the University's budget; the possibility of investigating a new revenue model for the Provincial Government; meeting with and advocating for donors; meeting with Deans to discuss Faculty priorities; and transferring knowledge and information to the new President-Elect.

## **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:*

There was no discussion.

Motion I: Doucet/Belosevic

**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 academic staff member elected by the Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) for a term concurrent with his term of appointment on the Board of Governors (November 20, 2014 to September 9, 2015):

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| David Cooper | Faculty of Business |
|--------------|---------------------|

The following undergraduate student representative, to serve on GFC for a term beginning immediately upon approval and ending April 30, 2015:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Sara Dziarmaga | Faculty of Science |
|----------------|--------------------|

**CARRIED**

Motion II: Simpson/de Gara

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

The following *ex officio* members, to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and extending for the duration of their appointments:

|                   |                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Robin Everall     | Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students       |
| Richard N Fedorak | Interim Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry |

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed Calendar Changes Related to the Office of the Registrar's Enrolment Management Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar (Admissions)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The purpose of this proposal is to approve revisions to the University Calendar related to admissions (ie, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 and Admission Charts 1, 2, and 7; and application and document deadlines set out in Section 12.7) that will reflect the proposed changes put forward by the Office of the Registrar in its Ten Point Enrolment Management Plan. The revisions are intended for publication in the 2015-2016 Calendar, with formal implementation in the 2016-2017 academic year. Changes have also been made to the ordering of sections and the language used to improve clarity and consistency.

*Discussion:*

Ms Collins reminded members that the new Ten Point Enrolment Management Plan, viewed as a pilot, had come to GFC in September, 2014 for discussion. This action item now before Council reflects the necessary Calendar changes to accommodate the implementation of this new plan. Beyond the small housekeeping changes, Ms Collins highlighted major changes that were outside the delegated authority of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) to approve: the change in the application for admission deadline from May 1 to March 1 and the alteration in terminology from “early admission” to “final admission.” This latter change will mean that fewer offers of admission to applicants will be rescinded. Dr

Leskiw added that these changes have gone through institutional governance with an unprecedented level of collaboration and support.

During the ensuing discussion with regard to this proposal, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: appreciation of the level of consultation that had taken place with regard to this initiative; clarification about the application deadline on March 1, but with a supporting document deadline in August; discussion around how Grade 11 and Grade 12 marks are used to evaluate an applicant's admissibility; and clarification regarding some phrasing deployed in the (proposed) Calendar revisions.

Motion: Rodgers/Cormack

THAT General Faculties Council approve proposed changes to the University Calendar, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 3, for implementation in 2016-2017 (with publication in the University Calendar in 2015-2016).

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **6. Helping Individuals at Risk and Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Activity Reports 2013-2014**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Wade King, Advisor, Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (SDHR); Kris Fowler, Coordinator, Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* In 2008, the University introduced the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (SDHR) as an intake office for issues arising under the Ethical Conduct and Safe Disclosure Policy. Organizationally, the Office reports to the University Auditor to promote the independent, neutral, and advisory nature of the function. In 2010, the Helping Individuals at Risk Policy (HIAR) was introduced and an intake function was created to work in conjunction with the Office of SDHR. The policy requires that annual reporting to General Faculties Council (GFC) and to the Board of Governors will occur after each year of operation.

The purpose of these reports is to provide an overview of the activities of each office and to comment on trends, strategies, and issues in these areas.

#### *Discussion:*

Mr King provided highlights of the HIAR and SDHR annual reports before members. Beginning with the latter, Mr King relayed several statistics about the organization that show there had been a slight but steady decrease in the number of significant matters that have been reported and referred. He explained that the largest number of individuals who do come forward with questions are from the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) and from the University's student body. The Office's website has been updated to create a 'disclosure portal'. He added that the activities of this office are in compliance with the Provincial Public Interest Disclosure Act. As well, Mr King noted that one of the goals of his Office is to make people aware of the kind of institution the University of Alberta is and the kind of inclusive campuses we are trying to achieve.

With respect to the HIAR annual report, Mr King explained that the resources in this organization are available to all staff and students, with the aim to prevent harm to self and harm to others. Several statistics were noted, explaining that the largest number of reports come from undergraduate students and are

mostly regarding behavioural concerns. While these may not be directly related to harm, it is preferable to maintain a record to enable prevention as much as possible.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: queries regarding the privacy of the students and the demographic information of the reports (it was clarified by Ms Fowler and Mr King that in-depth demographic information is not collected to avoid stigmatizing certain groups and, while students can call their Offices to determine if a file in their name has been created, they will not be notified in the first instance if and when such a file is created nor will others in the wider University community be made aware of a record's existence); an explanation that the records are kept for four years and then, depending on a student's involvement with the University at that time, files may be selectively retained or destroyed; clarification on how the organization knows when to intervene; and the goal of the organization to avoid escalation by working with those who report to build a strategy of intervention.

The Chair commended both Mr King and Ms Fowler on excellent reports and on the work performed by their respective units.

#### 7. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2014-2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss the 2014-2015 annual report on undergraduate enrolment, which provides the institution with undergraduate enrolment information for awareness and to aid in future planning.

#### *Discussion:*

Ms Collins reported that demand at the University of Alberta from high school applicants has increased by 37% since 2010. As a result, admission averages have also increased. It was also noted that the number of transfer college student applicants has increased since 2010 (by 7.5%), but this is steadier in comparison. Despite these increases, many programs offered by the institution remain very accessible to students, with a considerable number of options for direct entry and for transfer. Lastly, Ms Collins noted that the University is approaching its overall target for international student enrollment.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: discussion around how the Faculty of Nursing is dealing with its over enrollment; and the fact that it usually takes three to four years for over enrollment in a Faculty to be corrected.

#### 8. Student Mental Health and Wellness at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Nathan Andrews, President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA); Robin Overall, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; William Lau, President, Students' Union (SU)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Given the ongoing importance of the issues of student mental health and wellness and the broad range of programs and initiatives that are ongoing at the University of Alberta, a presentation to GFC to update the University community was considered both timely and useful. Keeping

the University community informed of a) the issues of mental health and wellness and b) what the institution is doing in these areas is crucially important. This presentation to GFC will:

- Update members on the programs and initiatives underway;
- Help raise awareness of what programs and services are available on campus;
- Continue to lead the way in destigmatizing conversations around issues of mental health and wellness;
- Continue to help establish support for a constructive and comprehensive approach to student mental health and wellness that will be proactive, effective, and sustainable over the long term.

*Discussion:*

Dr Overall reported that the University's focus has been on student mental health, rather than mental illness, with particular efforts on prevention. Progress has been made with the support of a wide range of offices and individuals at the University. She also noted that the Office of the Dean of Students has investigated services across the institution's campuses, all of which serve to create a healthy community for all, provide multiple access points and options, provide a supportive learning environment, and assist, as necessary, in quick intervention.

Mr Andrews continued the presentation by speaking to the GSA's long-term commitment to student mental health and wellness. He noted the GSA is working with the Office of the Dean of Students in this area—for example, there is a psychologist available in Triffo Hall, in close proximity to the GSA offices. The three million dollars in student wellness funding from the Provincial Government will expire in 2016, and the GSA is already advocating for this crucial funding to be renewed so that services, while they still continue to be available in some form, will not be limited in any way.

Mr Lau spoke to the diverse efforts of the SU in the arena of student mental health, such as the establishment of a Health Week which facilitates open discussion on a range of health-related topics. They are looking to increase the reach of their peer support centre and for a permanent space to house this support service. The SU will be conducting a visioning exercise in March, 2015 as part of its effort to foster a healthy campus.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: how the University of Alberta compares to other institutions in Canada (specifically, with respect to suicide rates, in which the University's rate is at the average in Canada but higher than at peer institutions in the United States); how the University will continue providing mental health support should the aforementioned three million dollar grant from the Provincial Government not be renewed; classroom initiatives that may support mental health, such as fostering community amongst students by providing opportunities for group work; commentary on the distinction drawn between mental health and mental illness; and the difficulty in managing increased awareness amongst students with the corresponding increase in their demand for services.

## 9. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

9.1 Questions from GFC Member Mr Richard Zhao Regarding Emergency Bursaries for International Students  
and

#### 9.1R Responses from the Offices of the President and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Discussion:*

Before opening the floor to questions, the Chair invited Ms Collins to update GFC on the work of the GFC Executive Committee regarding special topics for discussions at Council meetings. Ms Collins explained to members that the working group struck by the GFC Executive Committee was looking at ways to revitalize GFC but was not addressing GFC's mandate. Members of this group have met twice since the last meeting of GFC but have not yet made plans to provide a formal final report to GFC, because there is upcoming consultation to be done as well as discussion to be held with the President-Elect, Dr David Turpin. That said, Ms Collins noted that information, namely guidelines for holding such discussion periods at future GFC meetings, would be circulated between this and the next GFC meeting on March 9, 2015.

The Chair then turned attention to the one written question and its corresponding response before members. Mr Zhao, the member who had submitted the written question, asked a brief supplementary question, to which the University Registrar, Ms Collins, responded.

Further, members posed a number of oral questions, including, but not limited to: a question related to the perceived difficulty students have in attending GFC because of class schedules, along with the recommendation to examine possible alternative times and the use of live-video streaming of Council meetings; the President's sponsored review of GFC, which occurred in 2013-2014, that will be discussed with the incoming President, with the President-Elect deciding upon 'next steps' accordingly; how the University will support professional development for graduate students because the money that was expected from the Provincial Government did not come through; details on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC), such as who will be teaching courses and what will be offered, what steps are being taken to ensure a diverse range of students will be accepted, and what is being done for students in professional Faculties to allow them to participate; and clarification regarding the governance process associated with an embedded credit certificate in leadership, which would be formally considered by the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC), as are all embedded certificates, and whether or not this matter would be brought to GFC for discussion.

#### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

##### 10. GFC Executive Committee Minutes (November 12, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

##### 11. Report of the Board of Governors (December 10, 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:*

There was no discussion.

12. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Wendy Rodgers, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

13. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no documents.

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

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

15. Reports

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

- University of Alberta Museums Annual Report to General Faculties Council (GFC) for the Period July 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

**CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, President Samarasekera, noting his upcoming retirement from the institution, congratulated Mr Garry Bodnar, GFC Secretary, for his remarkable service and commitment to GFC and institutional academic collegial governance, which he has served for 24 years, and, overall, his 35 years of employment at the University of Alberta. Members engaged in a standing ovation.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.