



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 09, 2015
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Indira Samarasekera	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
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
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Qendresa Beka	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Scott Campbell	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
Bill Connor	Member, Dean, Extension (Acting), Statutory
David Cooper	Member, Board of Governors Representative and AASUA Appointee
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Nicholas Diaz	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Andrew Fontaine	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cole Goshulak	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Lise Gotell	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Akash Gupta	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
John Harris	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
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 Kehrner	Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
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
Raimar Loebenberg	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Laurie Mereu	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Anita Molzahn	Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by Grad Council of Students, VP Academic, GSA
Madiha Mueen	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education & Recreation, Statutory
Norma Nocente	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathryn Orydzuk	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students
Ray Patterson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Madison Predy	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
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Arts
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Janelle Schroder	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
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
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Lok To	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sarah Wall	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Elizabeth Wallace	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Zizhao (Finn) Wang	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Brianna Wells	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Jonathan White	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Faizath Yallou	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Olive Yonge	Member, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Richard Zhao	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
<u>Presenter(s):</u>	
Nathan Andrews	President, Graduate Students' Association
Mike Belosevic	Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors (GFC Nominee)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and Co-Chair, Resource Management Steering Committee
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Senior Advisor to the President
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary and Acting Coordinator to GFC
Kerry Mummery	Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and Co-Chair,

Wendy Rodgers	Resource Management Steering Committee
Indira Samarasekera	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Mazi Shirvani	President and Chair of GFC
Olive Yonge	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
	Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Staff:

Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary and Acting Coordinator 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 of GFC

Motion: Doucet/Shirvani

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 2, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

Motion: Andrews/Cormack

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of February 2, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

President and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC), Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 398th meeting of GFC and reported on the following:

- The incoming President Turpin has been engaged in various meetings as well as working on the search committees for the Provost and VP Advancement with the hope that the names for these positions will be announced before he takes office on July 1, 2015.
- The provincial budget is due to be announced on March 26th. The Chair noted that there is very little information available but that government seems to be signaling that the budget will include the next 3-5 years rather than just one year. As well, the Premier seems to be suggesting that there will be a significant transformation. The President noted that the University must consider how resources and administrative practices are allocated to ensure that the University becomes more effective and efficient. There are tentative plans to hold a campus forum on March 31st after the President meets with VPs, to communicate with the rest of campus about the budget. The Chair emphasized that the University does not have a fiscal problem but rather a fiscal framework issue.

- Lastly, the Chair took time to thank the student representatives from the SU and the GSA for their significant contributions during their terms.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

There were no members at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Peter Lougheed Leadership College – Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Senior Advisor to the President

Purpose of the Proposal: To update GFC on progress made on the planning for the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) since Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, Senior Advisor to the President, last updated GFC at its February 23, 2014 meeting; and to engage GFC in a discussion about the future direction of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College.

Discussion:

The Chair introduced the item explaining that a large group of people, including Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, The Right Honourable Kim Campbell and many academics and deans, had worked on this item since April 1st, 2014. The college, organized as an administrative virtual unit, will provide many unique opportunities for students.

Dr Ferguson-Pell showed a video from the college's website that provided an overview of the college and the opportunities it could provide to students. He outlined several priorities that the college is currently focused on including recruitment, support for the development of the first year of course material, planning teacher support, fostering the relationship with the Banff Centre, finishing the organization model, and fundraising. He noted that extensive consultations with faculty members and student leadership had occurred. Input from these meetings, as well as focus groups and one-on-one conversations, resulted in a change of direction in numerous areas. Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that the PLLC will focus on inclusiveness and diversity with the goal of providing a wide range of experiences to students. 15 colleagues from 10 faculties have expressed interest in pursuing adjunct status with the college. Dr Ferguson-Pell concluded by noting that the college will provide an opportunity for University of Alberta to differentiate itself as a top university by providing a wide array of opportunities for students to develop soft skills, experience, and understanding of leadership within an interdisciplinary environment.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: discussion around the college being an administrative unit rather than an academic one and how this affects the governance process including specific questions about APC; the relationship of the college and its instructors to AASUA and its collective agreement; using the word 'college' for this item and the work that went into finding the most appropriate terminology; the relationship between this initiative and other interdisciplinary or leadership units; clarification about the certificate approval process and the advertising of the college; discussion about the recruitment process for teaching assistants; possible appeal processes for decisions related to the college and the need to have these processes outlined in a document; the meeting schedule and membership of the academic reference

committee; at what venue members of the community can communicate opinions and concerns about the college; and, discussion about the unique nature of this college and assurance that nothing has violated the PSLA and that legal counsel has been appropriately involved.

6. Graduate Education Initiatives

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Nathan Andrews, President, Graduate Students' Association.

Purpose of the Proposal: To report to GFC on progress made to date on a number of initiatives related to graduate education at the University of Alberta including: Recruitment Scholarships, Professional Development Strategic Plan, Services for Graduate Students, Quality of Graduate and Postdoctoral Supervision, Quality Assurance in Graduate Education, Graduate Education Administration, and Recommendations of the Deans' Council Subcommittee on Excellence in Graduate Education.

Discussion:

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Dr Shirvani provided information to members on initiatives undertaken in relation to the quality and experience of graduate education. He reported that graduate enrollment has grown enormously and programs have risen to the challenge of this increased population. Dr Shirvani reported that important meetings with the Graduate Education Funding Advisory Committee (GEFAC) had taken place to create a framework for quality assurance and to implement strategic planning. Dr Shirvani also noted that professional development and balancing the diverse needs and resources that come from a diverse body of students are also being investigated. Mr Andrews noted that having a graduate student representative on GEFAC will be investigated.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: what attention was being given to supporting English language learning for international students; what will happen to these initiatives when the funding expires; and, where the money will come from for scholarship top-ups.

7. Exploring Responsibility Centred Management at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Co-Chairs of the Resource Management Steering Committee: Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation

Purpose of the Proposal: To confirm the purpose and current status of the project examining Responsibility Centred Management (RCM) at the University and to seek GFC's response to the following questions: 1. What do you see as the existing advantages and disadvantages of the University's existing (incremental) resource management model? 2. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of RCM? 3. What do you see as the potential risks of the University continuing with its existing (incremental) resource management model? 4. What do you see as the potential risks of the University adopting an RCM model?

Discussion:

Dr Mummery explained that the RCM model is being investigated to determine if it is a viable option for the specific circumstances of the University of Alberta. The RCM model situates faculties as the main income generators; this would be a significant departure from the current funding model. The steering committee will provide findings and recommendations to the President Elect and his team in summer 2015.

Ms Clark explained that it is an important time for the University to reconsider its economic status quo, considering the recent statement made by the Premier concerning commercialization to diversify the economy of the province. Universities are now in the business of recruiting students, are under increased pressure, and are under financial strains to provide funding for research. As well, Ms Clark spoke to an important component of this investigation, which is concerned with how RCM can support academic priorities. Regardless of the results from the study on RCM, Ms Clark spoke to the importance of diversification. Dr Mummery added that moving to such a change in structure would not bring in money purely because of the different model, but because RCM can incentivize increased revenue generation. It was noted that this has been discussed at Deans Council.

During the discussion with regard to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the role of research and the research that was done on this type of model; the potential for an increase in administrative costs associated with the RCM model; the potential for a competitive environment between faculties to be created with this model; an explanation of the research that has been done on this issue; the relationship between a funding change to a change in the culture of the University; potential timeline for the implementation of this new funding model if everything were to fall in place; and, if the model supports academic priorities.

8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

8.1Q Question from GFC Member Hanhmi Huynh Regarding Provincial Funding and the Quality of Education at the University of Alberta

and

8.1R Response from the Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

8.2Q Question from GFC Member Annie Cai Regarding Communications with Students Regarding Deployment of Funds from Market Modifiers

and

8.2R Response from the Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

8.3Q Question from GFC Member Ermin Chow Regarding Accessibility to the University of Alberta Libraries

and

8.3R Response from the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian

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).

A member expressed that there is often the sense that items need to be rushed through GFC for the sake of time, perhaps indicating a structural problem with how the information is being organized.

A member asked if there was a chance that tuition might be raised given another cut from the provincial government, and, if so, how that would be communicated to the community. The Chair responded that tuition is regulated in relation to the cost of living and that there is a mechanism on market modifiers. The Chair noted that it would be unacceptable to make the institution less accessible for students.

A member asked for clarification about how the Finance and Administration office plans for the uncertainty of the provincial budget. In response, Ms Clark noted that the office runs scenarios considering 0, 3, and 5% cuts, as well as investigating the impact of up to a 10% cut.

A member asked about the appropriateness of using the term 'college' for the Peter Lougheed Leadership College. The President noted that there was a lot of consideration around the word and 'college' was determined to be the best available. Discussion on this issue took place at the Executive Committee and the Academic Planning committee on April 7th, 2014 and April 23rd, 2014, respectively.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. GFC Executive Committee Minutes (January 12, 2015)

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.

10. Report of the Board of Governors (no report to date)

There were no documents.

11. Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee (February 13 and 24, 2015)

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 (February 19, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary and Acting Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

13. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

- Guidelines for Discussion Topics for Meetings of General Faculties Council (GFC) [E-Mailed to Members on February 27, 2015]

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

INFORMATION REPORTS

14. Reports

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

- Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2012-2014)
- Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) 2013-2014 Annual Report and Statistics
- General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:54p.m.