



General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 28, 2012  
Room 2-31, South Academic Building  
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Ashlyn Bernier	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Marc Arnal	Dean, Campus Saint-Jean
Larry Prochner	Department Chair at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

Presenters:

Sandi Barber	Director/Administration, Office of Education, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Fraser Brenneis	Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Susan Fawcett	Program Director, Alberta School of Radiation Therapy, Alberta Health Services - Cancer Care
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Sandy McEwan	Chair, Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Andrea Patrick	Scribe
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 14, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Arnal/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of November 14, 2012.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Comments from the Acting Chair

Dr Ferguson-Pell commented on a number of relevant topics to members.

Dr Arnal enquired about representation on the Renaissance Committee from the non-Edmonton University of Alberta campuses and from the Faculty of Native Studies, and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that the selection process for committee members was not solely controlled by Central Administration and that the process of replenishing this entity was not being done in a standard, formulaic manner as is normally the case. He explained that the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA) had sought self-nominations, and Central Administration compiled a list of consenting nominees, which were then submitted to AASUA for ratification or veto. He expects that the list of committee members will be available shortly.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 4. Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Radiation Therapy Degree Program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction); Fraser Brenneis, Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Sandy McEwan, Chair, Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Susan Fawcett, Program Director, Alberta School of Radiation Therapy, Alberta Health Services - Cancer Care; Sandi Barber, Director/Administration, Office of Education, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

*Purpose of the Proposal:* There has been a clear demonstration of the need for this new degree program to ensure that radiation therapists entering clinical practice have the appropriate scientific and clinical knowledge to assure the highest level of care. As the practice of radiation therapy expands, this

baccalaureate program will be flexible enough to allow an increase in cohort size, as appropriate, and provide expanded career opportunities for Albertans. The Alberta School of Radiation Therapy (ASRT) commenced the final student intake in the current Radiation Therapy training program in September, 2012 with completion of that cohort in December, 2014. Since the ASRT is the only educational entity to offer the radiation therapy education between Manitoba and the West Coast, the creation of a degree program in radiation therapy will not impact other educational institutions when the University opens enrolment to students in 2013-2014. The establishment of the above-noted degree also provides the University with the opportunity to build a program that can contribute to learners in other Departments and in other Faculties. The undergraduate degree courses that will be developed in cancer biology, radiobiology, and cross-sectional anatomy may well be attractive to students in other health-discipline Faculties and in the Faculty of Science. In addition, the computer simulation lab being developed in University Terrace will provide a unique infrastructure for teaching cross-sectional anatomy and some of the imaging disciplines not only to medical students but also to residents in disciplines that will include radiology and diagnostic imaging, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. In establishing the best new radiation therapy baccalaureate program, it is the intention of the Department of Oncology to build capacity for students across the University.

The capacity built by the program will enable the University to remain competitive in this field for the foreseeable future, and the development of the upgrade path and Master's degree with advanced practice certification will enable University to offer a unique program that will attract students from across the country.

*Discussion:*

Dr Connor explained that this proposal has been an ongoing, cross-campus endeavor since its inception and that the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) has been consultative and collaborative throughout the process.

Dr Brenneis introduced his co-presenters and expressed regrets that Dean Miller could not be in attendance as he was attending a meeting of the Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) at this time. Dr Brenneis explained that this proposal, during the course of its development as well as in the final stages, received universal support from every committee to which it had been presented, including Faculty-level committees as well as the GFC ASC Subcommittee on Standards (SOS). He stated that, if approved, this proposal would constitute the Faculty's fifth degree program.

Dr McEwan explained that the delivery of radiation therapy to patients is the combined efforts of three different disciplines: the oncologist (MD), the medical physicist, and the radiation therapist (ie, the person who faces the patients and operates the imaging machinery). This role over the last 10 years has become more complex, along with the technology and treatment plans. In Alberta, training has consisted of a two-year diploma program, with four to five students graduating each year. There was an early move in Ontario to create a similar degree program, and this has proliferated across the country. The degree has evolved around the complexities of radiation therapy. The other justification for the proposal is the difficulty in recruitment, because other provinces already provide a similar degree program.

Dr MacEwan described the details of the proposed program. There will be a heavy physics component as the imaging technology relies on physics. The emphasis on cross-sectional anatomy as part of this program will benefit other programs as well as a resource that can be used across campus. Clinical training will ensure that true clinicians graduate from the program, not just technicians. The computer laboratory in University Terrace, featuring cross-sectional anatomy and imaging, will facilitate the instruction of creating treatment plans.

He added that the budget has been amended to reflect a request for an addition of a crucial piece of teaching equipment, a linear accelerator. The addition of this equipment has made a huge difference at The Michener Institute, a post-secondary institution in Toronto, Ontario, that educates applied health science professionals, in terms of providing students with necessary training reflective of the current realities within radiation oncology.

Members had several comments and questions regarding this item, including, but not limited to: the potential for Augustana Campus and Campus Saint-Jean to offer the pre-professional coursework for this degree program; questions about the re-examination policy for students enrolled in this particular program; questions about the withdrawal policy; and concerns about the availability of a Physiology course.

Dr Brenneis stated that the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry consulted with the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science during the process of developing this program but had not discussed the proposal with Augustana Campus or Campus Saint-Jean, although he expressed his willingness to discuss this as an option going forward. Dr Arnal added that he would like to see automatic consultation with Augustana Campus and Campus Saint-Jean whenever pre-professional coursework is being developed for a degree program, stating that the Government might want to see that the University of Alberta is producing bilingual professionals. He also suggested that this should be added to the University Calendar so that students are aware of this option.

Dr Brenneis also stated that the course withdrawal policy mirrors the other degree programs within the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and that the withdrawal policy itself predates this proposal. He added that, if necessary, the Faculty could provide its own Physiology course.

Motion: Kline/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the (proposed) Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Radiation Therapy Degree Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect September, 2013.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 5. Academic Chapter of the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) (no documents)

*Presenter:* Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

Dr Skidmore updated members with regard to the annual revisions to the University of Alberta's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP). As background, she reported that the University previously provided separate reports to the Provincial Government on undergraduate and graduate plans, research plans, capital plans, and the financial resource plan; however, the CIP was created after the Government indicated that they would like one comprehensive report comprising all previously-prepared plans. The inaugural CIP was completed the same year as the latest iteration of *Dare to Discover*, and the two were created in tandem. This is the third year of such reporting, and she explained that the CIP does not need to be dramatically redrafted each year but, rather, only updated to reflect annual information including reporting from each Faculty.

Dr Skidmore continued by reporting that, in addition to amending a number of messages within the CIP, the

focus on this year's revisions within the Plan's 'Academic Chapter' will be to exemplify that the University is a research-intensive institution and to highlight those unique requirements and inherent challenges. Another focus will be renewal of infrastructure, as the University has five campuses to maintain. The third focus will be strengthening the digital environment. She added that another positive feature within the CIP will be an emphasis on outcomes, measures, and metrics.

Members had several comments and questions relating to this, including, but not limited to: the Ministry's response to the last version of the CIP; the addition of complementary commentary to accompany the data in an effort to make it more readable; the addition of leadership and entrepreneurship in the revision; the possibility of including information from a document relating to student outcomes in entrepreneurship that the Deans authored, available from Dr Fern Snart, Dean of the Faculty of Education; stating a more broad definition of entrepreneurship within the CIP; including a piece from Alberta industry leaders, stating that University of Alberta graduates are fulfilling current and future employment and leadership needs; and including data that contain the spread of information, not just the means.

Dr Skidmore responded by saying that the Ministry's response to last year's CIP was very positive. She pointed out that leadership has been included in previous versions of the CIP and will be again, as will entrepreneurship. She stated that she continues to work closely with the graphic design team in ensuring that commentary accompanies data within the CIP. She noted that she would contact Dean Snart to obtain the document related to student entrepreneurship. She concluded by thanking everyone for their valuable feedback.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

7. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.