



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2013
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Ex-Officio Chair, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Colleen Skidmore (Delegate at 3:05 pm)	Ex-Officio Chair, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Colin More (Delegate)	Ex-Officio Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Petros Kusmu	Ex-Officio Member, President of the Students' Union
Mary Persson (Delegate)	Ex-Officio Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Alexander Schlacht	Elected Member, Graduate Student-at-Large
D Douglas Miller	Elected Member, Dean Representative, Medicine and Dentistry
John Law	Elected Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Keith McKinnon	Elected Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Larry Prochner	Elected Member, Department Chair-at-large
Lise Gotell	Elected Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Elected Member, Academic Staff-at-large, Cross-Representative from GFC FDC
Wendy Rodgers	Elected Member, Academic Staff Elected By and From GFC

Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member, Faculty Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Presenter(s):

Mary Persson (delegate)	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Debra Pozega Osburn	Vice-President (University Relations)
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

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

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell announced that Item 4: 'Comments from the University Secretary for the New Academic Year' would be removed from the Agenda in the interests of time. He also announced that due to an urgent meeting and subsequent scheduling conflict, he would be required to leave the meeting at approximately 3:00 pm this afternoon—Dr Colleen Skidmore would then assume the chair at this point in the meeting on his behalf.

Motion: Kline/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda, as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 12, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Kusmu

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of June 12, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

There were no comments.

4. Comments from the University Secretary for the New Academic Year

As noted above, this item was removed from the Agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Letter of Expectation 2013 (University of Alberta Section)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell; Debra Pozega Osburn; Colleen Skidmore

Purpose of the Proposal: To review and provide advice on the draft University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation (LOE) with the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education.

Discussion:

Dr Pozega Osburn reported that since the original Letter of Expectation (LOE) was forwarded in March, 2013 to the University of Alberta from the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), enormous efforts have gone towards developing the document; she added that the submission deadline was moved back to October 31, 2013 by EAE, at the request of the 26 Campus Alberta Presidents, so that institutions had enough time to properly address all relevant sections.

She updated members on the three sections of the LOE, including the Campus Alberta section, the

Comprehensive Academic and Research Intensive (CARI) institution section, and the University of Alberta-specific section, which, she reported, had been circulated to Deans' Council and several other groups for feedback and suggestions. She noted that comprehensive consultation with students, faculty, and the larger community had been undertaken in person and from online sources such as Ideascale and the University's Colloquy blog.

Dr Pozega Osburn requested that members provide advice and input in terms of the draft LOE, and Dr Skidmore clarified that, in addition to advice, members would be asked at today's meeting to vote to recommend the document to General Faculties Council (GFC) (for subsequent recommendation to the Board of Governors).

During the extensive discussion regarding the draft LOE, members expressed numerous comments, suggestions, and questions, including, but not limited to: gratitude towards the academy for applying pressure to get the submission deadline extended to allow for proper consultation; clarification about the status of the proposed amendments to the LOE that had been suggested by the Students' Union (SU) as part of the consultative process; why the portion about governmental responsibilities was deleted from the LOE; concerns about what draft of the document would be recommended to GFC and the need for clarity with regard to possible edits made to the document by the Administration after today's GFC APC meeting; whether the document formally recommended to GFC could continue to be edited after members' vote; whether changes recommended by external entities could be applied to the draft LOE outside of the GFC APC meeting; that the document seems to have been written by a committee; that the draft LOE is too generic and needs more information specific to the University of Alberta within it; clarification about the purpose of the LOE; that the issue of partnership between the University and the Provincial Government needs to be included within the document; that there needs to be additional revisions to clarify whether the LOE is speaking to the Government, or for the Government, in relation to academic freedom; that there needs to be additional emphasis on academic freedom; clarification about whether the LOE is the Government's document, the University of Alberta's document, or of joint ownership, dependent on section; that the University of Alberta is a delegate of the Province, not a partner; that autonomous governance should be emphasized, as authorized by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*; that the amendments proposed by the SU make the document more University of Alberta specific; that the document should be inclusive, responsive, and appropriate in tone; and that the document should include reference to the term "attributes and competencies."

Dr Skidmore assumed the Chair at 3:05 pm following Dr Ferguson-Pell's departure from the meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding governance procedures, and Dr Skidmore clarified for members that any amendments to the document would need to be made at the meeting, before the vote to recommend, as *per* the Motion on the floor.

Mr Kusmu requested to verbally present the SU's suggestions for revisions to members and, following discussion on each, Dr Skidmore stated the results of an unofficial straw poll on each proposed amendment.

After further clarification about governance process, Mr Kusmu proposed a Motion to Amend.

Motion to Amend: Kusmu/More

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee amend the 7th bullet on page two of the University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation (LOE) 2013 to strike "...prepares students for..." and add "...prepares students with the attributes and competencies to succeed in...."

DEFEATED

The Mover and Seconder consented to the friendly amendments agreed upon during the discussion of this item at the meeting.

Motion: Rodgers/Persson

(Abstention: Kusmu)

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation (LOE) 2013 (to be provided to the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), as submitted by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (University Relations)), as amended, to take effect upon signing by the Minister of EAE and the Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of Alberta.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Update on the University of Alberta Budget

There were no documents.

Presenter: Mary Persson

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Ms Persson reported that the Provincial Government has requested that the structural deficit be addressed by the end of the fiscal year 2014-2015. Dr Skidmore added that the President, Vice-Presidents, and Deans have worked collectively over the summer months to prepare a revised two-year budget. She pointed out that Ms Clark's budget primer slides, used at a recent Campus Forum, are available online for review.

Mr Bodnar noted that there will be an additional presentation regarding the budget at the September 16, 2013 General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting.

A member enquired about over-enrolment of graduate students, and another member noted that this issue had been reported within local media.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.