



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2015
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Olive Yonge	Chair, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Bob Luth	Member, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research)
Philip Stack (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Fahim Rahman (Delegate)	Member, President of the Students' Union, President, Students' Union
Loren Kline	Member, Academic (A1.0) Staff-at-large
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Colin More	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Pamela Sewers	Member, NASA Member-at-large
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large

Presenter(s):

Sandeep Agrawal	Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Director of Planning Programs
Thomas Hidson	Assistant Registrar, Records
Nat Kav	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Robert Summers	Faculty Service Officer, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Melissa Padfield	Deputy Registrar
Karen Pollock	Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Olive Yonge	Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC APC

Staff:

Meg Brolley, 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.

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

Motion: Kline/Sewers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 13, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion: Kline/Babiuk

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of May 13, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant issues to members.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Rescission of the \$50.00 Faculty Student Fund fee for the Faculty of Law

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost; Thomas Hidson, Assistant Registrar, Records

Purpose of the Proposal: Students of the Faculty of Law will no longer be assessed the \$50.00 fee per term for the Faculty Student Fund. With the implementation of the market modifier, the Faculty of Law agreed to remove the Faculty Student Fund fee and use revenue from the market modifier to support the Faculty of Law student placement service.

Discussion:

Ms Padfield explained that this proposal intends to rescind the \$50 Faculty of Law Student Fee, and that the programs currently supported by this fee would continue to be supported by funds from the market modifier. She further indicated that there was extensive consultation and broad agreement on this proposal.

Motion: Rodgers/Rahman

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors rescind the \$50.00 Faculty Student Fund fee for the Faculty of Law, subject to the implementation of the Faculty of Law Market Modifier approved by the Board of Governors on March 13, 2015.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for an MSc in Audiology

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Karen Pollock, Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine; Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research; Nat Kav, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The MSc in Audiology program is designed to develop competencies in the prevention, evaluation, treatment and management of hearing, balance, and vestibular disorders as well as in the fundamental practices of speech-language pathology.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani thanked members for their attention and noted that the comprehensive proposal material covers all relevant details.

Dr Pollock explained that this proposal aligns with similar programs across Canada in terms of program length and enrolment, adding that no such program is currently offered between Vancouver and Ontario and that there is a great need for this program as evidenced by student demand. She reported that there is a critical shortage of audiologists and audiology services in Alberta and in Canada, and that the need for these services will continue to increase due, in part, to a demographic of ageing Albertans and a government commitment to conduct audiology assessments for all newborns in Alberta.

Dr Shirvani explained that this is a first level specialization and that it requires approval from the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE).

During the ensuing discussion in regards to this proposal, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification regarding the funding for this proposal; clarification regarding the internal and external governance paths for this proposal; concern with the wording of the current Motion, as the program cannot be implemented without final confirmation of funding from IAE; clarification regarding the development timeline of this proposal; whether the proposal includes information about a similar program offered by MacEwan University.

It was confirmed that the proposed program is an expensive one and that implementation of the program would require new funding from government.

Motion: Rodgers/Sewers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Master of Science in Audiology as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and as set forth in attachment 1, effective upon final approval.
--

CARRIED

6. Proposal for an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sandeep Agrawal, Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Director of Planning Programs; Robert Summers, Faculty Service Officer, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; Mazi Shirvani, Vice-

Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research; Brenda Leskiw, Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To establish a new course-based MSc in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on resilient planning and attention to issues related to climate change, extreme weather, winter cities and northern towns. This program would represent the second master's level planning degree in Alberta; the other being the University of Calgary interdisciplinary, design-based planning program which has been offered for 35 years. The proposed program differs significantly from the U of C program in its resilience-based focus with a geographic and topical focus on northern communities, communities based on local or regional resource extraction, and climate change adaptation.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani provided members with a brief summary of this proposal noting that this program is in high demand and that there is a shortage of individuals possessing this education.

Dr Agrawal noted that this proposal was developed under advisement from numerous stakeholders, including all relevant Faculties, students, and industry connections. He reported that this is a course-based cost recovery program focusing on the development of planners who can design resilient communities faced with modern challenges such as extreme weather, climate change, winter cities and northern towns. He explained that there are two proposed streams for this program and provided members with a summary of each track.

Members, during the discussion of this proposal, expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether the details surrounding employment of Graduate Assistants as academically-related employees complies with the Collective Agreement, as outlined within the budget of this proposal; clarification regarding the timeline of this proposal's approval and the hiring process for faculty members; clarification regarding the tuition rates for this program.

Motion: Kline/Sewers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Professional Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation in September 2016.

CARRIED

7. Proposal from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for a Professional Development Requirement For Graduate Programs of Study

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: Recognizing the need for graduate students to develop knowledge and skills to prepare them for the transition to employment, FGSR established a Professional Development Advisory Board, bringing together internal and external stakeholders to examine issues relevant to careers for graduate students. The Advisory Board developed a strategic plan that included a proposal to require every graduate student to participate in a minimum amount of professional development alongside their disciplinary studies at the University. Further consultations led to refinements to the proposal to require every graduate student to develop an individualized professional development plan that would require at least 8 hours to complete its components.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani explained that this proposal has been presented across the University in several different forums recently, and that the Professional Development Advisory Board has approved the plan that week. He provided members with several details as contained within this proposal, including the requirement for professional development and participation in an individualized professional development plan.

During the extensive discussion surrounding this proposal, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: support for this proposal; clarification regarding applicable professional development activities; a suggestion to provide a set of guidelines surrounding appropriate professional development activities; clarification surrounding supervisor involvement and support; clarification regarding access to the online modules; clarification about the need for this to be mandatory; that students may feel pressured to opt out of this program by their supervisors; that although support for this seems widespread, the difficulty lies with operationalizing the details.

Motion: More/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve a new "Professional Development Requirement" for all graduate programs of studies, subject to certain specified exceptions, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), and as set forth in Attachment 1, with implementation to begin in September 2016.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Budget Update

There were no documents.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Mr Stack reported that there are no updates on the budget.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3: 00 p.m.