



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2016  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM-4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Steven Dew	Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Walter Dixon (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Nadir Erbilgin	Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Sarah Ficko	Member, President, Graduate Students' Association
Loren Kline	Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean Representative
Roger Moore	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Fahim Rahman	Member, President, Students' Union
Pamela Sewers	Member, NASA Member-at-large
Sarah Stahlke	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large

#### Non-Voting Members:

Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
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#### Presenter(s):

Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Philip Stack	Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Vice-Provost (Strategic Initiatives)
Richard N Fedorak	Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Jocelyn Hall	Associate Chair, Department of Biological Sciences
Brenda Leskiw	former Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Melissa Padfield	Deputy Registrar

#### 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.

Motion: Kline/Rahman

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 12, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kline/Erbilgin

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of October 12, 2016.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair congratulated the newly appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr Richard Fedorak.

The Chair noted that the Provincial Government had announced an extension to the tuition freeze for the upcoming year including mandatory non-instructional fees. He further noted that a government review of both the tuition model and the funding model would occur over the next year.

The Chair also provided members with updates on the President's recent travel to China and the continued work on metrics and working groups related to *For the Public Good*.

Finally, the Chair briefed members on the recent activities of the GFC *Ad Hoc* Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority.

Dr Kline, APC's cross-representative on the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) provided an update to members in regards to recent proposals considered at GFC FDC.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Update on the Budget

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew; Philip Stack; Phyllis Clark

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For information/discussion.

*Discussion:*

Ms Clark provided members with an update on ongoing budget assumptions in relation to expenses and revenues. In addition, she provided figures for benefits and salaries. She noted that other institutional expenses include the carbon levy costs, contractual obligations and the costs from the minimum wage increase. On the revenue side, Ms Clark reported on the implications stemming from the continuation of the tuition freeze. She noted that there has not been a decision about international tuition. The Chair added that the base grant from the Provincial Government would not be announced until March 2017.

There was no further discussion.

5. President's Visiting Committee (PVC): Summary of Review for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Richard N Fedorak; Martin Ferguson-Pell

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The Office of the President reports to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) on completed President's Visiting Committees, for their information and discussion.

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that the President's Visiting Committee (PVC) was created two years ago to allow a thorough review of the quality of academic programs, scholarly activity, and national and international standings in each Faculty at the University of Alberta. He added that the PVC is meant as well to stimulate continuous self-assessment processes.

He reported that the PVC in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry revealed specific issues in relation to changes to existing funding, both from the now reorganized Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) and expiring bridge-funding from Alberta Health Services (AHS). In addition, he explained that faculty renewal has been an area of concern for the Faculty and that the report recommended a more robust FEC process. Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that there were additional suggestions to formalize the relationship between the Faculty and AHS, as well as strengthen the Health Sciences Council, which might help with communicating initiatives throughout the health sciences faculties.

Dr Fedorak noted that the PVC process was ultimately a rewarding experience. He explained that the PVC recommended 17 items, and that the Faculty has already begun work on them. He then provided members with an update on the plan to address the recommendations.

Dr Fedorak, in response to a question, explained that the PVC recommendations aligned with the Faculty's Strategic Plan, and that members of the Faculty had the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommendations, and that the faculty members seemed supportive.

There was no further discussion.

6. Undergraduate National Recruitment Strategy and Key Performance Indicators and Measures

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Lisa Collins; Melissa Padfield

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To inform on the Undergraduate National Recruitment Strategy and the Key Performance Indicators and Measures for the Undergraduate National Recruitment Strategy.

*Discussion:*

Ms Collins provided members with a summary the Undergraduate National Recruitment Strategy and Key Performance Indicators and Measures. She noted that the strategy was developed in a highly consultative manner. She reported on the continued emphasis on access for Alberta students and alignment with *For the Public Good*.

Ms Padfield explained that as part of this strategy, national recruitment efforts have increased. She explained that interest has been good in the targeted markets as well as from within the Alberta.

Members discussed the time between application and letters of acceptance at the University of Alberta. In response, Ms Collins noted that a 2015 survey of students who declined admission reflected that only 9% cited early admission offers and that other factors such as location and funding are also contributing factors.

Members engaged in discussion regarding how the strategy varies from province to province. A member enquired whether there has been an increase of applicants from within Alberta due to the current economic climate. Members also discussed a potential strategy towards offering more information to high school students about the transition into the post-secondary environment, as well as a focus on recruiting within Quebec to both Faculté Saint-Jean and to programs for English language students.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 7. Proposed Changes to the Statement on Equity in Student Affairs

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Lisa Collins; Wayne Patterson

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To revise the Student Statement on Equity to reflect changes to *Alberta Human Rights Act* and changing norms in diversity and equity within the academy.

Motion: Stroulia/Rahman

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the Statement on Equity in Student Affairs found in the section University Regulations and Information for Students/General University Policies/Statement on Equity in Student Affairs of the University Calendar as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

#### 8. Proposed Changes to the University Equity Statement in the Academic Staff Posting and Advertising Procedure and the Support Staff Posting and Advertising Procedure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Wayne Patterson; Lisa Collins

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To revise the University Equity Statement to reflect changes to *Alberta Human Rights Act* and changing norms in diversity and equity at the University of Alberta.

*Discussion:*

Mr Patterson noted that the University Equity Statement requires amendment to align with the *Alberta Human Rights Act* as well *For the Public Good*.

Members discussed the importance of including the Statement of Equity in French, as well as the feasibility of listing all protected groups within future proposals. A member expressed concern that hiring on the basis of merit was removed from the University Equity Statement; Mr Patterson acknowledged that the University will always hire on the basis of merit and that wording was added to the overview statement of the procedures.

Motion: Rahman/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to General Faculties Council the proposed changes to the University Equity Statement in the Academic Staff Posting and Advertising Procedure and the Support Staff Posting and Advertising Procedure (UAPPOL) as submitted by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposal from the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, to change the names of three programs: Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (newly proposed name for Ecology); Integrative Physiology (newly proposed name for Physiology and Developmental Biology); and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (newly proposed name for Molecular Genetics)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Jocelyn Hall; Brenda Leskiw

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Students in renamed programs will be offered more flexibility in these programs as result of proposed changes. There will be no changes to our current course offerings. All students in the honors/specialization programs proposed for suspension will be given the opportunity to complete their programs.

*Discussion:*

Dr Hall explained that the current programs offerings reflect historical departments which were consolidated into the current departmental structure in the 1990's. She stated that, following extensive feedback from faculty and students, there was widespread support for consolidation of the programs to provide more flexibility and appeal to students. She reported that the changes would not impact the courses offered, but rather would broaden the list of options available for students.

A member expressed concern with the lack of consultation with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in regards to the proposed names, as some members of the Faculty are concerned with duplication in program names. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion surrounding inter-Faculty consultation of these changes".

Before calling the question, the Chair noted that members of GFC Academic Standards Committee were also part of the approval process for this proposal.

Motion: Erbilgin/Moore

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the following program name changes: Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (newly proposed name for Ecology); Integrative Physiology (newly proposed name for Physiology and Developmental Biology); and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (newly proposed name for Molecular Genetics), in the Department of Biological Sciences, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachments 1-4, to take effect 2017-2018.

**CARRIED**

Dr Kline opposed

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

11. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by e-mail Ballots

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.