



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jason Acker
Walter Dixon (delegate)
Shannon Erichsen
Gitta Kulczycki
Reed Larsen
Christopher Mackay
Roger Moore
Jerine Pegg

Eleni Stroulia
Sasha van der Klein
Ding Xu

REGRETS:

Katy Campbell
Lisa Collins
Florence Glanfield
Sarah Stahlke

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator
Marion Haggarty-France, University
Secretary
Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Acker/Moore

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 9, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: van der Klein/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of May 9, 2018.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair noted that Spring Convocation included 14 ceremonies over 2 weeks and that approximately 6750 students received degrees. He also noted that the controversial honorary degree awarded to Dr David Suzuki was marked by respectful protesters on both sides of the issue but did not detract from the experience for the graduates.

The Chair also mentioned that Dr Britta Baron was leaving her position as Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President International, University of Alberta International for a professional opportunity in Germany at the end of July.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal for a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts major in Media Studies

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Astrid Ensslin, Professor; Michael O'Driscoll, Acting Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts

Purpose of the Proposal: Establishment of BA Major in Media Studies.

As the file demonstrates, the Faculty of Arts has remarkable breadth and depth of expertise, as well as reputational excellence in teaching and research, in the field of Media Studies that is dispersed across a dozen or more departments but is unsupported and uncoordinated by any standardized programming structure. At the same time, we provide strong evidence of student, industry, and employer demand for interdisciplinary media studies training of the sort the proposed program will deliver. Expert reviews and extensive consultation have contributed to and confirmed the rationale for the program design.

The program offers opportunities for enriched learning experiences, including compelling double majors, professionalizing pathways, and coordination with Community Service Learning and Arts Work Experience programming. The program will provide a base for the development of new Indigenous curricular content and might prove a strong recruitment tool for Indigenous students.

The proposal supports many of the key goals and objectives of both "For the Public Good" and "Change for Good," the Faculty of Arts five-year Academic Strategic Plan. The proposed program will complement rather than duplicate existing professional communications programming available in the region, and several Campus Alberta post-secondary institutions are strongly supportive of the opportunities this will present for collaboration and new learner pathways.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that GFC Academic Standards Committee had approved transfer and academic standing for this program at their meeting of May 17, 2018.

Dr Driscoll and Dr Ensslin noted that this program is the result of several years of work that included thorough discussion and consultation with academic and industry experts in Alberta and Canada and included some international input as well.

The presenters pointed to the positive international reputation and rich base of expertise that exists in Media Studies at the university. They noted that this program is an opportunity to bring this knowledge together into a program

Dr Driscoll gave an overview of the program requirements and especially noted the Faculty's intention to develop courses in Indigenous Media Studies and pursue recruitment of Indigenous students to the program.

During the discussion members expressed several comments and questions, including but not limited to: Indigenous courses and topics currently available and the potential for further development, including the hiring of talented academics; interdisciplinary cross listings in Computing Science and other departments; opportunities to expand this program through collaboration with other faculties and departments as well as other institutions; offerings in this discipline that exist at the University of Calgary and Grant MacEwan University; projected enrollment and financial cost of the program; International student tuition and fees for the program; and the potential to add Arts Work Experience (AWE) for this program.

Motion: Erichsen/Acker

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts major in Media Studies, as proposed by the Faculty of Arts, and

as set forth in the attached documents, to take effect September 2020.

CARRIED

5. Election of Vice-Chair for 2018/19

The Chair noted that Dr Roger Moore had agreed to serve as Vice Chair for another year and asked if there were any other nominations or volunteers. No other names put forth and Dr Moore was acclaimed Vice Chair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Draft International Strategy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Dr Dew stepped out of the Chair and Dr Moore, Vice-Chair, assumed the role.

Presenter(s): Cen Huang, Executive Director, International Relations & Recruitment, University of Alberta International; Doug Weir, Executive Director, Student Programs & Services, University of Alberta International; Steven Dew, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To present a draft International Strategy to the University of Alberta for discussion, input, and advice. The attached draft has been developed by University of Alberta International with input from the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the President. The draft contains questions that are intended to guide discussion and to facilitate input gathering on this draft document, to refine content towards a final strategy.

APC received an initial briefing on this document at its May meeting but did not have sufficient time to explore the contents of the document completely. This discussion continues on from the discussion in May.

Discussion:

Dr Dew introduced the document before members and indicated that this is an opportunity for APC to consider the international aspects that are noted in its terms of reference. He noted that this had been discussed at a previous APC meeting and that Faculty representatives will be brought together to discuss it as well. He explained that this is designed to reflect those elements that are mentioned in *For the Public Good*: student recruitment; experiential learning; student diversity; and research. He pointed out that this document is a high-level exploration of our goals in this area and the specifics of how we will achieve desired outcomes will come later.

During the discussion members expressed several comments and questions, including but not limited to: experiential learning opportunities for faculty and staff as well as students; proposals for the university to deliver programming in other countries; the challenges around raising awareness for current international opportunities; how to make better use of international opportunities; funding for international initiatives; legal concerns in other jurisdictions; strategies around remaining competitive and communicating expectations especially at the graduate level; sponsorship and retention of quality undergraduate students into graduate programs; onboarding of international faculty members; tapping into faculty expertise and connections to recognize opportunities as they occur; efforts to recruit a diverse group of international students; and government monitoring to ensure that Albertan students are not disadvantaged.

7. Summary Report from the Unit Review of University of Alberta International (UAI)

Dr Moore stepped out of the Chair and Dr Dew resumed the role.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost

Purpose: To present the summary report from the Unit Review of University of Alberta International (UAI). This is the first Administrative Unit Review under the institution's revamped QA suite of activities.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the government requires regular reviews of academic programs and the university addresses this through the Quality Assurance Reviews. This item was a pilot exercise for a non-academic review.

Dr Rogers explained the process and that it was specific to University of Alberta International (UAI). She noted that the panel was generally impressed and had some recommendations regarding internal communications and partnerships.

The Chair noted that the Centre for Teaching and Learning would be reviewed next.

Members asked questions and expressed comments regarding UAI's role in the International Strategy, the role of Faculty representatives on UAI committees, and the role of the proposed task force to engage members of the community.

EARLY CONSULTATION

8. Alberta Credentials Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Purpose of the Proposal: On May 7, 2018, the University of Alberta was notified by Post-Secondary Programs, Alberta Advanced Education, that the Alberta Credentials Framework was effective immediately.

The Alberta Credentials Framework is a compilation of the Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework integrated with other Alberta government-endorsed post-secondary credentials. It is intended to define credentials offered throughout Alberta's college and university sector in an effort to increase transparency for learners, enable transferability between different educational programs, and foster credential recognition as well as system coordination.

Dr Hopper has initiated consultation with Strategic Analysis & Data Warehousing, the Registrar's Office, University Governance, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in regards to developing an institutional compliance strategy.

Initial key considerations include changes to the definition of two credentials that the University of Alberta currently offers: Post-Baccalaureate Certificates (PBCs) and Certificates, as well as the addition of a credential, the Graduate Certificate, which is not a Board-approved credential at the University of Alberta at this time.

The University of Alberta is interested in utilizing the Framework as an effective method towards differentiating the University of Alberta's unique programs across the sector.

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is aiming for a fall 2018 compliance strategy and updates on its development will be provided regularly.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper explained that the new Alberta Credentials Framework was in line with other Canadian frameworks. She noted that the university was in the process of determining a compliance strategy for the creation of new

credentials as well as bringing existing credentials into compliance. She noted that the hope is to complete the bulk of the work over the summer and report back to APC in the fall.

In response to questions from members, Dr Hopper noted that the university's degree programs were compliant, the framework allowed for laddering certificates into degrees, and the university's embedded certificates were not included in the framework. She related that the university's guiding principle for the strategy was to find a solution that would be the least disruptive and most beneficial to students and that would meet the unique needs of each faculty while maintaining maximum flexibility.

Members expressed comments and asked questions regarding learning outcome requirements, quality assurance suite of activities, credit requirements, and definitions of terms and degree titles.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Update on the Budget (no documents)

Presenter(s): Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

Ms Kulczycki informed the committee that the university was planning to participate in an international benchmarking initiative that would measure the effectiveness and efficiency of administration across the university. She noted that there were 50 universities participating from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Canadian participants included the University of British Columbia, York University, McMaster University, and the University of Toronto.

Members enquired about the perceived benefits of this initiative and what measures the data collection would be based on. Ms. Kulczycki stressed that this was meant to analyze the administrative work across campus. She noted that the initiative would measure quality, efficiency, speed, responsiveness, and satisfaction.

The committee asked for a presentation on this initiative.

10. Question Period

A member enquired about the budget surplus and carry-forward dollars for Faculties and other units that were noted in the audited statements that were presented to the Board on May 30, 2018. Ms. Kulczycki explained the surplus and carry-forward process. The Chair noted that there would be further discussion on carry-forwards in the fall.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Calendar entry for MSc in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), Communication Sciences and Disorders

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to formalize the inclusion of all program requirements and academic regulations in the University Calendar.

12. Graduate Degree Specializations approved by the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research - for information

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.