



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Chris Andersen
Laura Beard (delegate)
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Fahed Elian
Gitta Kulczycki
Christopher Mackay
Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield

Susan Sommerfeldt
Samantha Tse
Ding Xu

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Shannon Erichsen
Jelena Holovati
Susanne Luhmann
Jerine Pegg

Matthias Ruth
Yan Yuan

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary
Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
David Epp, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Elian/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, GFC APC

The Chair noted that the Presidential Search Committee is seeking input; he directed members to the email link that was distributed on September 24, 2019.

The Chair also noted that the the international tuition changes considered on September 11 have since been recommended by the Board Finance and Property Committee for approval by the Board of Governors on October 18, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Tse

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 11, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of September 11, 2019.

CARRIED

4. Proposed Changes to the calendar language for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Professional Development Requirement for Department of Educational Psychology

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because FGSR is clarifying the calendar language for the Professional Development Requirement.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed revisions to the calendar language for the FGSR Professional Development requirement in the Graduate Programs calendar entry for the Department of Educational Psychology as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Name Change for the Vice-President (Research) Portfolio to Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Portfolio

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, GFC APC

Purpose of the Proposal: To change the name of the Vice-President (Research) portfolio to align with current responsibilities and to highlight the importance of innovation within the research enterprise.

Discussion:

Dr Dew provided an overview of the proposal noting that a revised position description for the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) was approved by the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee on July 29, 2019. He indicated that the name change reflects the increasing expectations from internal and external stakeholders of the importance of innovation in research.

Members discussed the use and meaning of innovation in the title, the use of innovation nationally to represent a number of outcomes including knowledge translation and research mobilization, it underscores other things that change because of research and the impact of research, and that the term innovation attempts to encompass research creativity.

The Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) agreed to present clearer information on innovation in future communications and on their website.

Motion: Beard/Bhatnagar

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee, acting under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the name change of the current Vice-President (Research) portfolio to Vice-President (Research and Innovation) portfolio.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), Chair GFC Executive ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

Dr Hopper provided an overview of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways recommendations for early consultation. She noted that, of the 48 recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority, 11 were related to program approvals. While some of the 11 recommendations had been addressed through changes to committee terms of reference, the Transition Committee, charged with implementing the ad hoc recommendations, had advised GFC Executive that further work was required to achieve the efficiencies and effectiveness envisioned. GFC Executive thus established an ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways. Dr Hopper provided information on the ad hoc committee, including its mandate, terms of reference, membership, and timelines.

She presented the following recommendations for comment:

1) Establish a new GFC Standing Committee—the GFC Programs Committee that would consolidate the work on programs currently under the responsibility of Academic Planning Committee (APC), Academic Standards Committee (ASC), GFC Executive and GFC Policy Manual Section 37, and would reside in the Provost's or Registrar's office. 2) Change Terms of Reference for APC and GFC Executive to remove components of program approval. 3) Rescind GFC Policy Manual Section 37. 4) Disband ASC and the ASC Subcommittee on Standards.

In response to a question, Dr Hopper noted that when she presented this proposal to ASC, ASC members were supportive of the proposal in general and were assured that the committee's work would continue to be done but in a different forum. She emphasized that it was important not to lose the value that the Associate Deans bring, and noted that the Associate Deans undergraduate also meet in an administrative committee where they discuss undergraduate items.

Other comments and questions from members included, but were not limited to: support for having all the program issues in one committee to make it more efficient and less confusing for program proposers; the process for program termination and suspension; the continued role of APC for program proposals with financial or resource implications, and program issues of institutional significance; the role of FGSR on graduate program approvals; the need to monitor the resulting changes in committee workloads; the need to ensure that administrative assistance is available to proponents; and support for the rescission of GFC Policy Manual Section 37 as it is antiquated, administratively burdensome and may be in conflict with current policies.

7. Budget Update (no documents)

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

The Chair provided some timelines for receiving the budget letter noting that the provincial budget will be announced on October 24, 2019. He noted that, in lieu of a budget letter to date, government has provided interim allocations to October 30.

Ms Kulczycki presented a chart describing several scenarios if there are reductions in the Campus Alberta grant and possible levers related to revenue and expenses.

Members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to: potential for reductions on academic and administrative side; impact on infrastructure projects; philanthropic donations; lobbying efforts with government; differential cuts; additional impacts for health faculties that receive funding through Alberta Health Services; program coordination internally and externally; university mandate; and APC's role in discussion on resource allocation.

8. Question Period

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, GFC APC

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots
There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.