



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jason Acker
Chris Andersen
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Fahed Elian
Shannon Erichsen
Jelena Holovati
Gitta Kulczycki
Susanne Luhmann

Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga

REGRETS:

Christopher Mackay
Matthias Ruth
Samantha Tse

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion: Acker/Padfield

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

- Update on Public Health Response Team (PHRT)
- Temporary Measures to Support Undergraduate International Enrolment

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the PHRT and the University were moving quickly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and referred members to the website for information regarding the following updates and considerations:

- Cancellation of in-person classes as of March 13, 2020;
- Online content delivery as of March 17, 2020;
- Research considerations;
- Suspension of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIs) for winter 2020 term;
- Change in English Language Proficiency admission requirements for fall 2020 given that many standard tests were unavailable;
- Recognition of the daycare and K-12 school closures;
- Staff encouraged to work from home; and

- Remote access for governance meetings.

The Chair further noted that there was a recommendation coming forward to Dean's Council regarding the suspension of the 4-point grading system for winter 2020 term. Members discussed some considerations of a credit/no-credit grading system including student eligibility for scholarships, and admission GPAs for professional and graduate programs.

Members asked questions and expressed comments related to notations on transcripts regarding credit/no-credit grades, spring and summer 2020 tuition for thesis based graduate students, emergency funding for international students who were struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and considerations for those students who were living in residence and did not have the option to relocate.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 26, 2020

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Padfield/Pegg

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session agenda of February 26, 2020.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed Name Change and Suspensions of Majors in the Bachelor of Music Program, and Associated Substantive Program Changes, Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Associate Dean, Academic, Augustana Campus

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to change the name of the Augustana Faculty Bachelor of Music 'Comprehensive' major to 'Performance-Based Pedagogy' major, to suspend the Bachelor of Music 'Piano' and 'Voice' majors, and to make significant changes to the Augustana Faculty Bachelor of Music program associated with the changes to the majors.

Discussion:

Dr Mündel gave an overview of the changes that had been made at Augustana including the adoption of a project based core, and streamlining programs to allow for more flexibility moving forward.

A member noted that some faculty members in the Faculty of Education music programs were not supportive as they did not feel that they had been properly consulted. A member asked for clarification regarding the changes to the program and to the majors.

Motion: Luhmann/Acker

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal to rename the 'Bachelor of Music Comprehensive major' offered through Augustana Faculty to the 'Bachelor of Music Performance-Based Pedagogy major', as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2021.

CARRIED

Motion: Andersen/Padfield

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed program changes to the Bachelor of Music program in the Augustana Faculty, as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee and as set forth in Attachment 3 [of the meeting materials], to take effect for Fall 2021.

CARRIED

Motion: Clark/Acker

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of Music in 'Piano' and 'Voice' majors, as submitted by Augustana Faculty and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect for Fall 2021.

CARRIED

5. Revised University of Alberta 2020-2021 Budget

Dr. Dew stepped out of the Chair and Dr. Acker assumed the role.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To propose an updated University of Alberta 2020-21 Budget, for recommendation to the Board of Governors.

Discussion:

Dr Dew explained that the university's budget was recommended by APC before the provincial government released their budget and that revisions were now required as a result of an 11% drop in the university's funding. He noted that tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees were not being revisited but that APC was being asked to rescind their previous recommendation and to recommend the revised budget to the Board of Governors.

Ms Kulczycki outlined some strategies for the university to employ over the short and long term.

Members asked questions and expressed comments about Faculty autonomy regarding where to apply cuts, where layoffs would be applied, and the potential for partial refunds for services to students.

Motion: Kulczycki/Andersen

THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, acting with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, rescind the following motion, approved on February 26, 2020:
THAT the Academic Planning Committee, acting with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2020-21 consolidated budget as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

Motion: Clark/Kulczycki

THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, acting with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the revised 2020-21 consolidated budget as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED
1 opposed (A Bhatnagar)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Investment Management Agreements Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: We are sharing the current draft of the IMA with APC to keep them up to date on the progress of our negotiations with the Ministry on the new funding model.

Discussion:

The Chair informed members that the university had received the draft Investment Management Agreement (IMA) from the government and was working on responding to those areas of the IMA on which they had been invited to provide input. He noted some concerns that would be communicated to the Ministry.

7. International Strategy Implementation Plan

The item was deferred.

8. Report of the Academic Planning Committee Ad Hoc Working Group on the Facilitation of Clinical Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Alex Clark, Associate Vice-President (Research and Innovation)

Purpose of the Proposal: On 23 October 2019, APC established an ad hoc working group focused on the facilitation of clinical research that explored perceived and/or real current challenges related to undertaking clinical research at the University of Alberta. The ad hoc working group was asked to bring its findings and recommendations back to APC in a timely manner.

Discussion:

Dr Clark gave an overview of the report and ongoing efforts to encourage and strengthen collaboration between the university and Alberta Health Services, and the establishment of a new Research Support Advisory Committee in the office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation)

There were no questions.

9. University of Alberta Non-Credit Credential Framework-Micro Credentials

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and receive feedback on the proposed development of a Non-Credit Credential Framework for approval by GFC.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper explained that this framework was being developed to respond to the need for consistency and standardization across University of Alberta non-credit offerings. Dr Hopper also mentioned the trend to develop micro credentials for in-depth study in specific subject areas.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to: the variety of non-credit offerings; degrees of assessment and credentials; executive education; continuing medical education; and massive open online courses (MOOCs).

10. Question Period

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

Discussion:

A member asked a question about academic restructuring as a result of budget cuts. The Chair responded that there would be more information about academic restructuring coming forward to APC.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email 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.