



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 06, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jason Acker
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Laura Beard (delegate)
Amlan Bose
Shannon Erichsen
Jelena Holovati
Gitta Kulczycki

Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt
Marc Waddingham
Ding Xu
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France

REGRETS:

Walter Dixon
Christopher Mackay
Yimmie Sonuga
Yan Yuan

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: Padfield/Kulczycki

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

-Update COVID-19 PHRT Subcommittee on Academic Impacts

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

Discussion:

The Chair welcomed new and returning student members to the committee.

The Chair spoke about the GFC Town Hall on Fall Term Planning which was held earlier that day. He noted that there were many uncertainties and that much depended on the regulations that would be put in place by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) for the province. He noted that the university could expect to continue with remote delivery for the most part but was hoping to see some relaxation of restrictions around non-essential research and some smaller and more manageable face-to-face delivery where possible. He also noted that the university was attempting to communicate and align with other U15 institutions.

Regarding International student tuition for fall 2021, the Chair noted that consultation with students was underway and that a proposal would be coming to APC for recommendation and then approval by the Board of Governors in June.

The Chair noted that a working group had been established to lead conversations and bring forward suggestions and scenarios about academic restructuring, and that APC would be included in these conversations. He also noted that the Winspear Library had been closed down, effective May 1st, but that resources and services had been redistributed and remained available.

The Chair also noted that the deadline for the Investment Management Agreements (IMAs) had been extended until the end of May because of COVID-19 and that the university was asking for a further extension due to continuing uncertainty.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- the composition and mandate of the working group on academic restructuring;
- a suggestion that the working group include student and faculty representatives and not only administrators;
- a concern that planning in response to COVID-19 and budget cuts was being done by administration and not including the voices of students and faculty members and that cynicism was growing among some members of the Academy;
- whether APC would be updated regarding planning decisions that were made in the Faculties in response to budget cuts even if APC approval was not required; and
- that the Ontario government had put their performance based funding model on hold and whether the Alberta government would do the same.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Acker/Luhmann

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 15, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of April 15, 2020.

CARRIED

4. Proposed Changes to Program Requirements for Graduate Degrees in Educational Policy Studies

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

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 and Ethics requirements in the Graduate Programs calendar entry for the Department of Educational Policy Studies as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Name Change of the Master of Arts en Études canadiennes to the Master of Arts en Études interdisciplinaires canadiennes, Faculté Saint-Jean and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Samira ElAtia, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculté Saint-Jean; Bryan Hogeveen, Vice Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to change the name of the MA in Faculté Saint-Jean to Master of Arts en Études interdisciplinaires canadiennes.

Discussion:

Dr Hogeveen gave a brief overview of the proposed name change and noted that the new name was more accurate. He also explained that the name change received the overwhelming support of FGSR Council.

Dr ElAtia explained that the current name of the program indicated a political science focus and that the faculty and students in the program were supportive of the name change to better describe the complexity of the program.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Graduate Student Enrolment Report 2019-2020

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the 2019-20 report on graduate enrolment; providing the institution with a current snapshot of graduate enrolment and trends for awareness, and to inform future planning as it relates to graduate education and programming.

Discussion:

Dr Milne presented the highlights of the report and noted that it would be posted on FGSR's website.

Members discussed: how enrollments relate to targets; how enrollment targets in the new budget model combine graduate and undergraduate full load equivalents (FLEs) at present; whether the COVID-19 pandemic's restrictions on English Language Proficiency exams would affect applications or yields from international students; average completion rates and whether information was available on those numbers related to the type of research and if that could give a better idea for student expectations; the success of University of Alberta students in securing research funding; extensions on funding for students whose work had been disrupted due to COVID-19; and recent announcements of federal funding to support graduate students.

7. Draft University of Alberta 2019-2020 Annual Report to Government

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Deborah Williams, Associate Vice-President, Disclosure, Assurance, and Institutional Research (DAIR); Logan Mardhani-Bayne, Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic

Purpose of the Proposal: To present a draft of the University of Alberta 2019-20 Annual Report, for information.

Discussion:

Ms Williams gave an overview of the report and explained the sections that were still under development.

A member asked about expectations regarding the stability of undergraduate student completion rates and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Budget Update (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted the significant in-year reduction of provincial funding in the amount of 110 million dollars and the projected further reductions of 53 million dollars per year over the next two years, along with the challenges related to restrictions on the use of funding reserves and limits placed on expenditures.

Ms Kulczycki noted that projections from March to August 2020, estimate an additional 37.9 million dollars in negative impact due to COVID-19 related pressures.

Members asked about job losses and the ripple effect as positions were lost and more work fell to those who remained.

The Chair noted that Faculties and Units were still working on strategies and making decisions relating to budget cuts so the final information was not available yet.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email 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 3:30 p.m.