



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Martin Coutts
Shannon Erichsen
Jelena Holovati
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield

Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt
Kisha Supernant
Marc Waddingham
Sheena Wilson
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Amlan Bose
Walter Dixon
Brad Hamdon

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 APC

Motion: Andersen/Agarwal

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 of APC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that a motion submitted by a member had come forward to GFC earlier in the week, regarding provision of the documents for the November 23, 2020 GFC meeting and the possibility of deferring the decision to January if documents were not brought forward in time. He explained that the motion did not receive the support necessary to be put on the agenda but that it did speak to something that APC had raised about having the right information and in enough time to support decision making.

The Chair spoke about international students who were waiting for mechanisms set out by the Federal Government to allow them to come to Canada to study for the winter 2021 term. He remarked that consultation on tuition proposals would proceed shortly and proposals would come forward in the spring. The Chair also noted the recent announcement of a three-year, \$3.7-million grant agreement between the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES) and the Alberta government to increase capacity for research that will benefit farmers and consumers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Luhmann/Supernant

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 7, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of October 7, 2020

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. 2018/19 Student Financial Support Annual Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the Annual Report on Student Financial Support and Accompanying Overview for information. In the attached report, the RO provides a snapshot of the current state of undergraduate and graduate financial supports issued by the Office of the Registrar (RO) in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

Discussion:

Ms Padfield provided a brief summary of the annual report and touched on the overlap between merit and need based funding, and provided highlights related to funding for domestic, indigenous, and international student groups. Ms Padfield acknowledged that the report did have some gaps because of data that was not available but that it was as comprehensive as possible. She noted that some information regarding graduate funding was available this year but only related to the funds that the Office of the Registrar (RO) administered. She also pointed to additional information on student loans, which helped to provide a more complete picture of student funding.

Members discussed:

- funding provided through tuition off-sets;
- the scope of RO administered supports;
- the variable awards averages, by program, for incoming undergraduate students;
- the differences in needs based funding for international and domestic graduate students;
- comparisons in funding across Canadian universities;
- whether graduate and undergraduate funding data could be combined to provide a more complete picture;
- terms of reference and endowments that prevent moving merit based awards to needs based funding; and
- how expected increases in enrollment would affect student funding.

5. University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Rob Munro, Executive Lead, Service Excellence Transformation

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and receive feedback on the contents of the Interim Report of the Academic Restructuring Working Group.

APC will receive updates on the following as a part of this discussion:

- Consultation to date
- Potential revised scenarios resulting from input received
- Financial Estimates

Discussion:

The Chair gave an overview of the presentation that he had given to GFC earlier that week and spoke about some of the feedback that had been gathered on the scenarios including suggested variations. He provided a visual of how the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) would complement the Academic Restructuring scenarios to create greater efficiencies. The Chair also spoke about efficiency estimates for the scenarios and went over some examples of direct and indirect savings.

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

- the potential for Athletics and Community Recreation to be moved from the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation to the Dean of Students and Facilities and Operations portfolios respectively;
- alignment between the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD), the School of Public Health, Dietetics and Nutrition, and the proposed Health Sciences division;
- the specific knowledge and skills present in FoMD's Information Technology providers and their critical connections with Alberta Health Services;
- when Department restructuring would occur relative to Faculty restructuring;
- that one of the goals of academic restructuring was a more dynamic institution that would change and grow as needed in the future, beyond the initial changes;
- a concern with Scenario B that adding a layer of Executive Deans would interfere with Decanal authority and decision making, and create less cooperation and more competition for funds;
- a question about how to ensure the new structure was accountable to the values of the institution and create opportunities for creative and non-STEM scholarship;
- some examples of how administrative leadership could support university-wide alignment in lifelong learning, work integrated learning, technology, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), and Indigeneity;
- that considering the student numbers in each grouping rather than faculty numbers, would result in a very different picture of the divisions;
- that student services would be handled centrally or at the Faculty level but not at the division level;
- that it was time to choose a scenario and move forward on the details as time was running out;
- requests for clarification on some of the numbers in the financial estimates for the scenarios; and
- the importance of drawing distinctions between direct savings and indirect savings - explaining where exactly the savings were coming from.

6. Budget Update - Standing Item (no documents)

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

Discussion:

Mr Coutts noted that a fiscal update was expected in November and that the University was concerned about the potential for in-year funding cuts. He also noted that deferred maintenance funding was at risk because the government was changing the application to a project by project basis which looked to be more uncertain than the current system.

7. Question Period

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

Discussion:

Susan Sommerfeldt, elected academic staff and GFC member from the Faculty of Nursing, shared that a mini interdisciplinary course involving over 1100 students was currently underway. It required significant effort from staff with severely reduced positions, retired faculty, grad student and sessional faculty volunteers, senior students as peer coaches (almost 200 of them), and a contingent of volunteer community healthcare practitioners (about 70) for it to happen. The usual in-person course was transformed over the summer to fully remote with both synchronous and asynchronous parts. The U of A was internationally known for its student "Interprofessional Learning Pathway" and online educator resource centre VIPER (Virtual Interprofessional Education Resources), all part of supporting this student learning experience. Dr Sommerfeldt noted that if this program could succeed given the current challenges, including the dissolution of Health Sciences Education and Research Commons in the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (HSERC), and provide a beacon of enthusiasm, new learning, connectedness, new student interaction, and inter-disciplinary inter-faculty collaboration, she could only imagine what could be accomplished with supportive structures in place.

The Chair thanked her for her contribution and the important work that continues.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: November 3, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 23, 2020

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