



General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Steven Dew, Chair  
Joel Agarwal  
Chris Andersen  
Amlan Bose  
Walter Dixon  
Shannon Erichsen  
Todd Gilchrist  
Jelena Holovati

Susanne Luhmann  
Pirkko Markula  
Melissa Padfield  
Jerine Pegg  
Susan Sommerfeldt  
Kisha Supernant  
Marc Waddingham  
Sheena Wilson  
Ding Xu

non-voting:  
Kate Peters

**REGRETS:**

Brad Hamdon  
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: Agarwal/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 of APC

*Discussion:*

The Chair updated members on the conversation at the GFC Executive Committee meeting regarding the recommendations of Committee of the Whole of GFC on February 8th. He noted that as set out in one of the recommendations, a discussion item regarding metrics for the College system had been added to the agenda for the February 22 meeting of GFC and that more information would be forthcoming regarding the other recommendations.

A member asked about the division between the powers of the Board of Governors and GFC for decision making at the University and how to ensure that the academic position was well represented to the Board in future.

The Chair explained that the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) was clear that GFC was the lead on academic matters and the Board was the lead on matters of budget, finance, human resources, labour relations, and senior leadership. He noted that the first two motions recommended by GFC at their meeting of December

7, 2020 were clearly within GFC's authority to recommend to the Board, while the third motion regarding the establishment of the College Dean positions related more to business matters.

A member observed that this was a challenge with the bicameral system noting that the Board had collected information on the position of GFC by observing the conversations at GFC. Further, that cross representation on the two bodies ensured the Board was informed about academic perspectives expressed at GFC. The member observed that the ultimate responsibility for the decision lay with the Board and their decision to establish the College Dean role was a compromise on GFC's recommendation, and not the result of misunderstanding or being unaware of GFC's position.

In response to a question, the Chair noted that the Board's decision to establish College Deans reflected the position that clear leadership and accountability was required to make the College system work.

Members discussed GFC's role in developing the metrics that would be used to measure the effectiveness of the College system, the provincial government's interest in metrics, and the potential for metrics relating to finance, shared services, and interdisciplinarity.

A member expressed disappointment in the university's governance system and the Board's decisions related to academic restructuring.

The Chair thanked members for their participation in the February 5 budget briefing and reminded them that the budget and capital plan, and tuition fee proposals were expected to come to APC for recommendation at the meeting of February 24.

The Chair noted that the Office of the Provost had struck a Remote Teaching and Learning Task Force, led by Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) John Nychka and Associate Dean of Students Helen Vallianatos. The Task Force will work quickly to address the issues raised regarding online proctoring, participation grades, and synchronous learning access for those in distant time zones. He also noted that three motions recommended by the Council of Student Affairs related to the remote learning challenges that had been added to the upcoming GFC agenda for consideration.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes from January 13, 2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Supernant/Ericksen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of January 13, 2021.
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**CARRIED**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 4. Proposed New Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees, Proposed Change to Existing Application Fee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To establish New Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees and Change to Existing Application Fee.

*Discussion:*

Ms Padfield gave a brief overview of the proposed changes and explained the Registrar's Advisory Committee on Fees (RACF) technical review process.

Members asked questions about the rationale for the increase to the graduate studies application fee and discussed payment alternatives. Members also discussed efforts to increase accessibility for study abroad experiences.

Motion: Padfield/Pegg

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, that the Board of Governors approve:  
the proposed New Non-Regulated Exclusion to Program Fees (set forth in Attachment 1)  
the proposed Change to Existing Application Fee (set forth in Attachment 2)  
as submitted on behalf of the relevant Faculties/Departments by the Registrar's Advisory Committee on Fees (RACF), to take effect as noted in each respective attachment.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 5. Growth Strategy

Materials and presentation before members is contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

*Discussion:*

The Chair gave a presentation on the University of Tomorrow vision for 2022 and 2025 and opportunities for growth including:

- Domestic undergraduate enrolment;
- International undergraduate enrolment;
- Online program delivery; and
- Continuing and professional education.

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

- the challenges and potential benefits of online delivery of some courses and programs;
- opportunities related to increasing international exchange partnerships;
- increasing graduate student engagement in the undergraduate experience to help manage enrollment growth;
- that even though the university was operating under budget constraints, it was not a for-profit institution and was operating "For the Public Good"; and
- concern regarding expected demographic growth given the province's economic struggles.

### 6. Academic Restructuring (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair gave a brief update on Academic Restructuring noting that acting Deans of the Faculties of Business and Nursing were announced the previous week, and that an Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science would be

confirmed soon. He also noted that engagement within the three Colleges was underway with discussions around visioning and structure.

The Chair noted that he had received some questions from a member related to the estimates for administrative cost savings for Faculties and Departments. The estimates had been shared in the fall and then again more recently in President Flanagan's University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) update on February 4. He noted that the estimates were taken from Uniforum data and referred to operations costs. He explained that Uniforum used the term "operations" to describe a subset of data and that resources used for teaching and research supports were not included in those costs. He further noted that \$95 million was the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) target for administrative restructuring and some of those savings would be met by economies of scale provided by service partners at the College level but that these were conceptual estimates and reflected expectations rather than exact numbers.

7. Budget Update (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; and Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that a special APC meeting might be required to accommodate the government's schedule.

8. Question Period

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

*Discussion:*

A member noted that they had some feedback on debate and voting processes at GFC meetings. The Chair asked the GFC Secretary to follow up.

A member asked about the recreational fee increase for the winter 2021 term. The Chair explained that this fee was not an increase but a reinstatement of the regular fee which was reduced the previous semester. He explained that the fee was reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions but that it had been reinstated because the university was able to offer more recreational services including several online options.

## **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

- Next Meeting of APC: February 24, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: February 22, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.