



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 05, 2021  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Steven Dew, Chair  
Chris Andersen  
Chris Beasley  
Walter Dixon  
Shannon Erichsen  
Anas Fassih  
Todd Gilchrist  
Jelena Holovati

Rowan Ley  
Susanne Luhmann  
Pirkko Markula  
Melissa Padfield  
Jerine Pegg  
Susan Sommerfeldt  
Kisha Supernant  
Yan Yuan

*non-voting:*  
Kate Peters

**REGRETS:**  
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 GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Motion: Andersen/Luhmann

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:*

In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- updated public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- suspension of in person classes and procedures in place for essential research;
- *Alberta 2030* and impacts to student financial aid, work integrated learning, international learners, and potential increased autonomy for research intensive universities;
- China/Canada relations in the public eye and concerns related to intellectual property and national security; and
- College Deans and Faculty Deans working together on division of responsibilities to take effect July 1, 2021.

The Chair also welcomed the new student members to the committee and asked all members to consider reaching out to colleagues regarding upcoming anticipated vacancies on GFC and GFC standing committees.

A member asked for some details about anticipated vacancies and the Chair noted that the GFC Secretary would send some information to members.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Supernant

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 14, 2021

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of April 14, 2021,

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

***Dr Dew stepped out of the Chair and Dr Markula assumed the role.***

4. 2022-2023 International Tuition Fee Proposal for Incoming Students

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To propose tuition fees for the Fall 2022 intake of new international students, compliant with the requirements imposed by Bill 19 and associated Alberta Tuition Framework and Guidelines.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew provided an overview of the proposal and explained that international students were given a fixed tuition price for the reasonable duration of their program and that it was communicated clearly and in advance. He noted that this proposal sought a 2% increase to predictable tuition for students admitted in Fall 2022. He also explained the reduction in tuition fees for the Master of Arts in Communications Technology (MACT) effective Spring 2022.

A member asked about the change in tuition for the MACT program and Dr Dew explained that the program was not originally aimed at the international market and that it was moved from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts the previous year and the new tuition was more in line with other Arts programs.

The undergraduate student committee members noted that due to concerns with disproportionate tuition impacts on international students, and in accordance with University of Alberta Students' Union policies, they would be voting against the tuition increase and asked for the motions to be divided.

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT the Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs to take effect for the Fall 2022 intakes, with the exception of the Master of Arts in Communications Technology, as set forth in attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

2 opposed (C Beasley, R Ley)

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT the Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve tuition fees for new international students for the Master of Arts in Communications Technology, to take effect for the Spring 2022 intake as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***Dr Markula stepped out of the Chair and Dr Dew resumed the role.***

5. Quality Assurance (QA) Suite of Activities: 2019-2020 Excerpted QA Reports from the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide excerpted reports of the QA reviews undertaken in the 2019-2020 academic year at the University of Alberta.

*Discussion:*

Dr Hopper spoke about delays in the normal process due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the work of her team to move to an online process. She provided a brief overview of the excerpted QA reports and noted that they were also published on the public facing Provost's website.

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

- the role of APC to provide feedback on these reports and whether information about Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), including required components and strategies that were undertaken, could be reflected equally across Departments and programs;
- a recommendation in the report for additional Department-level administrative support and a request for additional support staff hours, and the impact of the reduction in support staff across the university due to the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) restructuring;
- whether resourcing concerns identified in these reports could be flagged for action and support at the Faculty, College, or Institutional level;
- the responses from the professors, Departments, Faculties, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for graduate programs;
- whether repeat recommendations that had not been addressed from the previous review were flagged and addressed;
- the Dean's responsibility and accountability to the QA process;
- work integrated learning, including research and teaching assistant opportunities for undergraduate students;
- variable feedback from the undergraduate student associations; and
- the use of the word "Indigenous" and how to narrow its application it so that it is meaningful.

The Chair noted that APC was asked to apply the institutional lens and flag patterns and issues that needed to be addressed across the institution.

Dr Hopper indicated that her team was currently working to revise the templates for the next cycle, that specific instructions regarding EDI and Indigeneity would be included, and that she would explore sharing the revised documents with APC for their feedback in alignment with APC's authority to receive, discuss, and provide feedback on processes for quality assurance and unit reviews .

## 6. Changes to Faculty of Extension

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to collect feedback from APC on the future of Continuing and Professional Education, Extension as a home for that programming, and the potential transition to an academic support unit under the Office of the Provost.

### *Discussion:*

The Chair spoke about the previous year's relocation of Extension's academic programs to other Faculties and the future of the Faculty of Extension. He pointed to the survey and scan of the university's U15 comparators, and spoke about the successes of Extension's English Language School, and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) programming. The Chair also noted that there was the potential for Extension to play a role in helping to make all of the University of Alberta's CPE programming more consistent and visible.

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

- the authorities around the decisions made to date and the role for APC and GFC to play in determining the future of Extension;
- the administrative decision to move the academic programs out of the Faculty of Extension due to budgetary constraints;
- the budget model and the commitment that teaching and research would drive allocation of the Campus Alberta Grant;
- the potential for Extension to become a unit that would be able to provide variable levels of support to Faculties for current CPE programming and toward the development and delivery of new CPE programming;
- whether there would be competition for revenues between Extension and Faculties that were already offering CPE programming; and
- the need for consultation with broader stakeholder groups to ensure that Extension was able to continue to meet their needs as well.

## 7. Institutional Management Agreement

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To share the current draft of the IMA with APC to ensure the committee understands impacts on the University of Alberta.

### *Discussion:*

The Chair reviewed the evolution of the government's decision making related to IMAs and noted that the initial decision to implement a new performance-based funding model was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that the current IMA being instituted for 2021-22 had one measure with 5% of funding tied to a single metric of work integrated learning. He noted that in the process to determine a baseline for this metric, the problem of inactive programs in the government's system came to light. The Chair explained that these programs would have a negative effect on the metric so there was incentive for Faculties to clean up their inactive programs by suspending and eliminating them.

Members discussed the parameters for an experience to be considered work integrated learning, and the potential to formalize some existing opportunities to increase these numbers.

## 8. University Annual Report, 2020-21

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Deborah Williams, Executive Director, Performance, Analytics and Institutional Research

*Purpose of the Proposal*: Review and provide input for revisions of the University of Annual Report, 2020-21. Development and submission of an Annual Report is a legislative requirement of the Government of Alberta, and is prepared in accordance with annual reporting guidelines prepared by Advanced Education. A retrospective document, the Annual Report presents accomplishments and progress made during the period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

*Discussion*:

Ms Williams provided a brief overview of the report.

The Chair invited members to submit comments or questions by email.

9. Development of a GFC Position on Metrics Associated With Academic Restructuring

The item was deferred.

10. Budget Update

The Chair noted that there was no update to provide.

11. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

13. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

A. Consultation on proposed changes to GFC Guiding Documents

**CLOSING SESSION**

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: May 19, 2021

- Next Meeting of GFC: June 7, 2021

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

