

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 08, 2023
SAB 2-31
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Verna Yiu (Chair)
Heather Bruce (Vice-Chair)
Sandeep Agrawal
Zengtao Chen
Chetan Dave
Todd Gilchrist
Vadim Kravchinsky
Jacqueline Leighton
Abner Monteiro

Aminah Robinson Fayek
Janmejaya Rao (delegate, GSA)
Norma Rodenburg
Kent Rondeau
Chris Sprysak

Non-Voting Members:
Kate Peters

Regrets:

Heather Seyl Miyashita
Milan Regmi
Tammy Hopper
Brad Hamdon
Anas Fassih

Staff:

Faiza Billo
Heather Richholt

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory:

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that the University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair, Academic Planning Committee (APC)

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, APC

Discussion: The Chair acknowledged that it was International Women's Day and provided an update on the University Strategic Plan (USP) process and the town halls held by the steering committee in February and March, 2023. She noted that an updated "What We Heard" report would be posted after the consultations.

The Chair reminded members of their participation in the process to review the College Model that was led by Dru Marshall, Provost Emeritus from the University of Calgary and former Deputy Provost at the University of Alberta.

She informed the committee that she had received the final report which includes constructive recommendations that would be shared shortly with the University community at GFC on March 20, 2023.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 1, 2023

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of February 1, 2023

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Cross-Appointed Member to Facilities Development Committee

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, APC

Discussion: The Chair noted that APC has responsibility for facilities policies and takes recommendations from the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) on these matters. The committee was asked to add a cross-appointed member and informed that Heather Bruce had accepted to play the role. She asked if there were any additional nominations, and hearing none, named H Bruce by acclamation.

Verna Yiu stepped out of the chair and Vice-Chair Heather Bruce assumed the role.

INFORMATION ITEM

5. Consolidated Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); Aminah Robinson Fayek, Vice-President (Research and Innovation)

Discussion: The Vice-Chair H Bruce invited the proponents of the four action items to provide an overview of their items. The Chair invited members to save their questions for each of the action items and invited the presenters to take the floor.

ACTION ITEMS

6. 2023-2024 Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment)

Discussion: V Yiu and M Padfield were invited to provide additional context on the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) proposals.

There was no discussion.

The motions were moved and seconded.

<p>Motion 1: THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve a 4.00%¹ increase to the Athletics and Recreation mandatory non-instructional fee for 2023-2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Motion 2: THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors remove the off-campus fee designation for the Health and Wellness mandatory non-instructional fee (with no increase to the fee for Fall 2023).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Motion 3: THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve a 2.00% increase to the Academic Support mandatory non-instructional fees for 2023-2024, and removal of the off-campus fee designation for that fee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>¹4.00% represents the increase in cost drivers for the University year over year (Academic Price Index (API)).</p>

7. Tuition Proposals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: Members discussed:

- Student consultation and the feedback that wasn't addressed through a nonetheless fulsome and productive process;
- The exceptional tuition increases that compound the impact of these proposals on students;
- The forthcoming tuition cap and the possibility that the University use their carry-forward rather than increasing tuition;
- That the 2% increases to tuition will still leave a shortfall in the rising costs in the coming years;
- The impact on this tuition proposal on plans to increase enrolment;
- The mechanisms for enrolment growth and the depth of the applicant pool;
- The need for funded enrolment growth at the student-level;
- How students access the financial offset and the threshold set for students to access these funds;
- A request that the University modify the set standard of living to ensure that students who need to access these funds can do so;
- A response that the University already evaluates the moderate standard of living and adjusts bursaries annually to compensate; and
- A request that APC receive information about how that threshold is set before the next academic year.

The motions were moved and seconded.

<p>Motion 1: THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the domestic tuition proposal for Fall 2023 as outlined in the following table, with exclusions as outlined below:</p>		
Category of Student	Proposed Increase for Fall 2023	Financial Support
Domestic Undergraduate (incoming and continuing students)	5.50%	15% of net increase
Domestic Graduate Thesis (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	5.50% increase with rebate to 2.67% ¹	15% of net increase

Domestic Graduate Thesis (2020 entry and beyond)	5.50%	15% of net increase
Domestic Graduate Course-based (per *3)	5.50%	15% of net increase

Exclusions:

The following programs will have their tuition rates held at the Fall 2022 rate.

Undergraduate Program Exclusions to Domestic Tuition Increases:

The following programs will be excluded from the 5.5% tuition increase for domestic students:

- Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs Certificate

Graduate Program Exclusions to Domestic Tuition Increases:

The following programs will be excluded from the 5.5% tuition increase for domestic students:

- Master of Accounting
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership
- Master of Education in Health Science Education
- Master of Education in Educational Studies

CARRIED
2 Opposed – J Rao, A Monteiro

Motion 2: THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the international tuition proposal for Fall 2023 for students admitted prior to Fall 2020 as outlined in the following table:

Category of Student	Proposed Increase for Fall 2023	Financial Support
International Undergraduate (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	5.50%	7.55% ²
International Graduate Thesis (continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	5.50% increase with rebate to 2.67% ¹	7.55% ²
International Graduate Course-based (per *3, continuing students admitted prior to Fall 2020)	5.50%	7.55% ²

¹ 2.67% is consistent with the rebated increase from recent years and is designed to ensure consistency and predictability for students in alignment with cost drivers. This is of net tuition and expires after Fall 2023.

² Existing model for International tuition financial aid.

CARRIED
2 Opposed – J Rao, A Monteiro

Motion 3: THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs to take effect for the Fall 2024 intakes, as set forth in attachment 2.

CARRIED
2 Opposed – J Rao, A Monteiro

8. 2023-24 Budget

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: Members discussed:

- How allocations of various investment funds were decided and whether there were restrictions on spending;
- Increases in parking costs and concerns about the impacts on faculty and staff, especially if profits were being derived from employees;
- A response that the University charges market rates for parking in alignment with the Canada Revenue Agency policy;
- A question about allocations for maintenance and repairs to the Colleges and how projects are prioritized;
- Costs on the University Land Trust projects;
- Whether the government approved use of carry-forwards could be invested or used in-year for strategic initiatives; and
- Whether spending the funds made sense given that the funds were currently offering returns.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2023-24 Consolidated Budget, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

9. Budget Model Principles

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: T Gilchrist presented the Budget Model Principles and an update on the development of Budget Model 2.0. Three new principles were presented for approval with details on how the principle of equity would address inequality.

Members discussed:

- How the equity principle might be actioned; and
- How equity-seeking units would be identified; and
- The importance of operationalising this principle to protect strategic areas.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommend the Board of Governors approve the Budget Model Principles, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval, for Budget Model 2.0

CARRIED

Heather Bruce stepped out of the chair and Verna Yiu resumed the role.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. 2023/24 - 2025/26 Capital Plan

Presenter(s): Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

Discussion: A Sharman presented the final version of the Capital Plan explaining how the list was prioritized. He emphasized the need to reduce the University footprint and minimize liabilities.

Members discussed:

- Where the animal research labs are located and whether livestock and large animal research facilities would be considered in a future capital plan;
- That high risk for media attention when there are animal research labs involved in failures and that both large and small animal research facilities should be assessed; and
- The prioritization of the list and how order was determined, and especially why a new build would take priority over other projects.

11. Question Period

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, APC

Discussion: There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings - Documents available - Budget Briefing Information - February 16, 2023