

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 04, 2023
SAB 2-31
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Verna Yiu (Chair)
Heather Bruce
Sandeep Agrawal
Bishoi Aziz
Christian Fotang
Todd Gilchrist
Tammy Hopper

Vadim Kravchinsky
Adrian Lam
Ola Mabrouk
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Aminah Robinson Fayek
Norma Rodenburg
Kent Rondeau
Chris Sprysak

Non-Voting Members:
Kate Peters

Regrets
Zengtao Chen
Chetan Dave
John Lemieux

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)- Revisions to the Investment Management Agreement

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

Discussion:

The Chair made the following comments:

- Gratitude for the work of First Peoples' House and Students who organised a week of activities to support the National day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- The visit of Minister Sawhney;
- Appointment of Tim Tang as the Associate Vice-President Student Experience; and
- Amendments to the Investment Management Agreement.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 20

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of September 20, 2023

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Name Change

Presenter(s): Roger Epp, Acting Vice-Provost and Dean, of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Discussion:

R Epp provided an overview of the proposal to rename the Faculty based on the addition of the Post-Doctoral Students.

Members asked questions and made comments including:

- Change management to ensure that systems and communications reflect the new name;
- Timelines to make changes and the need to involve Shared Services, Performance, Analysis and Institutional Research (PAIR), and Information Services and Technology;
- A friendly edit to the motion to clarify that the proposed name was “post-doctoral” not “post-graduate” studies; and
- Whether the faculty had been responsible for post-doctoral individuals to present and how their needs were being met.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Academic Planning Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the change of name from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to the Faculty of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Budget Update (standing item)

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

Discussion:

T Gilchrist informed the committee that he had no additional information on the budget having recently presented to both APC and GFC. Members asked about the timelines for preparation of the budget and heard that currently, functional plans were being developed for university-wide services. T Gilchrist responded that faculties could expect to receive a call to prepare their functional plans in the coming months. Members discussed the Budget 2.0 Town Hall.

6. Question Period

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

Discussion:

Members asked about a forthcoming item on Campus Security; when an update on the work on Facilities management would be coming; how the administrative expense ratio is calculated.

7. The GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research); Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Student engagement and enrolment); Chris Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies; Trevor Phillips, Manager Indigenous Recruitment, Office of the Registrar

Discussion:

M Padfield, F Glanfield, C Andersen and T Phillips presented on the committee's composition, authority, and approach to decision-making. They explained that all members of the Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI) were First Nations, Metis or Inuit (FNMI) and that they were called upon to make decisions on types of documentation that could be used to verify claims of identity and or citizenship/nationhood. They noted that the University has no authority to decide on an individual's claim to Indigeneity, that authority rests with Indigenous organizations and governments and other authoritative sources when considering claims of Indigeneity.

C Andersen spoke to the history of identification of FNMI persons at the University and the change in practice from requiring proof of ancestry to self-identification. He spoke to the creation of the CDI as the current mechanism to navigate the complexity of certification of student and applicant Indigenous identity.

T Phillips spoke to the process of bringing cases to the committee including the timelines in alignment with the admissions cycle. He described where cases come from - primarily applications for admissions or student financial supports and awards. CDI examines legitimacy of documentation from both a community and a registrarial perspective. He pointed to the approved changes to the addition of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation and the refinement and clarification of Inuit documentation and their impact on recruitment and enrollment. He described decision making on specific cases concerning documentation from different Nations that may or may not have federal recognition.

F Glanfield concluded by noting that meetings take place in closed session but that the committee's decisions are published if they relate to changes to the list of documentation that is accepted. She further noted that committee members were participating in conversations happening at a National level concerning Indigenous Identity. She pointed to the Teillet report from the University of Saskatchewan which led to the creation of a structure to manage identity claims for faculty and staff and provided examples of the complexity of decision making including how Indigenous organisations are affiliated with National Indigenous organisations and fraudulent identity claims. She explained that committee members were required to support deliberations on these issues.

APC Members asked about international searches for Deans, faculty and staff, and whether claims to Indigeneity from other countries "counted". They heard that these individuals would not be considered Indigenous unless they had kinship or relationships with Nations within the country we now know as Canada.

Members asked about how to understand the importance of connections with community and citizenship. They discussed how to understand whether communities are claiming the individual through their relationships in opposition to individual claims to citizenship with communities. They asked how Indigenous applicants would be able to support their claims if they were impacted by the 1960s Scoop or other colonial initiatives when they do not have relationships with the community.

Members asked whether a policy on Indigenous identity for faculty and staff was being considered and if the CDI approves policies and individual cases and if students coming from Indigenous Nations in the US are considered; and how many faculties do not have an Indigenous students pathway.

8. TRC Report to the Community (TRC) Dashboard

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield; Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research)

Discussion:

F Glanfield presented the first Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) Report to the Community. She noted that the report included an emphasis on Truth first, and the University's work to respond to each of the Calls to Action.

In presenting the Truth Telling set out in the Dashboard, she emphasized:

- the role of the University of Alberta in supporting the Residential School System;
- that the University is situated on land that was given to the Papaschase Cree First Nation and then taken away by the government when the institution was founded; and
- the research supported by the University that exploited children in residential schools.

She articulated the importance of remembering this history and the ongoing impact on faculty, staff and students.

She described the methodology used to rate progress in terms of the University's ability to complete the work required in the Calls to Action. She pointed to the information available on the Dashboard that was not directly related to the Calls but where work of Truth and Reconciliation is happening. She invited committee members to use the information available in their work.

Members asked what could be done to advance reconciliation and what was the role of the Committee to enact the commitment the University has made. Members discussed what this could look like for APC's work and how to press proponents to consider the Calls to Action, Indigenous Worldviews, and *Braiding Past, Present and Future*. V Yiu noted that the Dashboard is a powerful tool to show progression on the University's commitment to making progress.

Members asked about how to address issues outside the university, in communities and in Edmonton. The approach of working within the university to effect change was challenged. F Glanfield noted that individual researchers have a responsibility to work to build relationships and partnerships with communities. She noted that in particular, the connection to the North needs to come from community engagement. An example out of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine to develop dual credit courses with a Northern Community in a Dene community was mentioned as a partnership where these relationships have been established.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

A. TRC Report to Community and Digital Dashboard

B. Investment Management Agreement Amended Submission

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: November 1, 2023

- Next Meeting of GFC: October 16, 2023

