



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Brenda Leskiw	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nat Kav	Vice-Chair, Dean (Delegate)
JC Cahill	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean
Nathalie Kermoal	Member (Delegate), Dean
Allen Ball (Delegate)	Member (Delegate), Dean
Helen Madill	Member (Delegate), Dean
David Magee	Member (Delegate), Dean
Paul Melancon	Member (Delegate), Dean
Marc Moreau	Member (Delegate), Dean
Ada Ness	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kathryn Orydzuk	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Harry Prest	Member (Delegate), Dean
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean
Marc Johnson (Delegate)	Member, Director of the Student Ombudservice
Harsh Thaker	Member (Delegate), Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), VP Academic, GSA

#### Presenter(s):

Brenda Leskiw	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)
Andrea Patrick	Assistant Secretary to GFC, University Governance, University of Alberta
Kate Peters	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Derek Roy-Brenneis	Executive Officer to the Senate and Assistant to the Chancellor
Allen Snart	Vice-Chair, University of Alberta Senate

#### Staff:

Andrea Patrick, Acting Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee  
Arden Burtnik, Scribe

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that Item 6: Faculty of Arts Recommended Grade Distribution would be removed from the Agenda due to a scheduling conflict with the presenter and would be brought back at the next meeting.

Motion: Kav/Magee

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 19, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Cahill

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of March 19, 2015.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant items to members.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

The Following Proposal(s) are Deemed Minor/Editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate) (3.A.i and iii)) by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC ASC, and are APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM GFC IN A SINGLE OMNIBUS MOTION

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Prest/Kav

4A. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals and Denials for April 2015

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposals for approval and denials of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment A, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. The University of Alberta Senate: The Role of Senate Lay Observers in the Admissions Process

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Derek Roy-Brenneis, Executive Officer to the Senate and Assistant to the Chancellor; Allen Snart, Vice-Chair, University of Alberta Senate

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To confirm the value, acceptance and support of Senate Lay Observers - Admissions by GFC and the Faculties; to raise awareness of the potential contribution of Senate Lay Observers - Admissions among Deans and within the Faculty Admissions hierarchy.

*Discussion:*

Mr Roy-Brenneis provided members with a brief overview of the University of Alberta Senate as well as a summary of the role of the Senate Lay Observer – Admissions.

In his presentation to members, Mr Snart initially described the role of the Senate Lay Observer as confirmation, clarification, and communication, adding that the Senate wonders if GFC as well as the Faculties still value the role of the Senate Lay Observer – Admissions.

During the discussion in relation to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: value and appreciation for past members in this role; commentary in relation to past members of the Senate in this role, both in terms of attendance during Admissions proceedings as well as their level of participation; that some Faculties have not had a Senate Lay Observer for some time; that some Faculties are not aware who their Senate Lay Observer is; whether Senate Lay Observers receive any kind of orientation; clarification regarding the history of the Senate Lay Observer program; whether there should be more Senate Lay Observers assigned; that the original need for the Senate Lay Observer was during a period where enrolment management was required, and that there may be less of a role for these members now that most Faculties are under enrolment management; that some Faculties do not know about Senate Lay Observers, or their role; that the Committee should review which Faculties might still benefit from the participation of a Senate Lay Observer; support from the students for the continuation of the Senate Lay Observers; whether the Senate Lay Observer was the same individual as the Faculty Liaison.

6. GFC Academic Standards Committee Delegated Authority to Approve Certificates: A Brief History

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Andrea Patrick, Acting Secretary to General Faculties Council (GFC)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For information/discussion.

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that at the March 9, 2015 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC), members expressed confusion as to the role of GFC ASC in approving certificates.

Ms Patrick provided members with the history of how GFC delegated its authority over the approval of certificates to GFC ASC as well as GFC APC, noting that the proposal was approved by GFC ASC, GFC APC, the GFC Executive Committee, as well as full GFC in spring of 2005, reflecting widespread support of this delegation.

The Chair noted that within the Minutes from this period, GFC members at that time deemed GFC ASC as the most appropriate body to approve certificates, due to its membership composition.

During their discussion surrounding this matter, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding concerns about the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC); clarification about past certificates offered through the Faculty of Extension, and the requirement of governance approval for them; that most of the early certificates were non-credit; that the Provincial Government had actually expressed support for a formal governance process for certificates; that certain members of the University of Alberta community feel excluded from consultation surrounding the academic components of the PLLC; gratitude for receiving the details surrounding GFC's delegated authority over certificates; clarification that pre-GFC ASC's role in approving certificates, that a serious issue was the timeliness of governance approval; that lack of consultation always results in widespread concern; that Associate Deans are the best individuals to approve certificates; that there is a continued need for transparency and openness in this process.

7. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Ms Peters provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE):

To be Proposed:

- Suspension of BSc in Bioinformatics

Currently with IAE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Two post-Master's certificates in Business Fundamentals, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Master of Accounting
- Suspension proposal for Bilingual BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

Currently with Campus Alberta Quality Council Undergoing Quality Review:

- None

External Reviews of Proposals from Other Institutions:

- None

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.