



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2016  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Vice-Chair, Member (Delegate), Dean, Physical Education and Recreation
Fraser Brenneis	Member (Delegate), Dean, Medicine and Dentistry
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Deborah Burshtyn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean, Public Health
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean, Business
Scott Jeffrey	Member (Delegate), Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Brenda Leskiw	Member (Delegate), Dean, Science
Karsten Mundel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Arts
Carla Peck	Member, Academic Staff
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Nursing
Marc Johnson	Member, (Delegate), Director of the Student Ombuds Service
Anna Vocioni	Member, (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Frank Tough	Member, (Delegate), Dean, Native Studies

#### Presenter(s):

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Art Quinney	Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) Co-Chair
Peter Mahaffy	Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) Co-Chair
Marilyn Patton	Director, Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) Secretariat
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kate Peters	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

#### Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

### **OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Leskiw/Ross

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 21, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Mundel/Davis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of April 21, 2016.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed the Co-Chairs of the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) to the meeting as guest presenters.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Brenneis/Jeffrey

4A. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval and Denial of Transfer Credit for May 2016

THAT GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed approval and denial of Transfer Credit for May 2016, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Campus Alberta Quality Council - Student Learning Outcomes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Peter Mahaffy and Art Quinney, Co-Chairs, CAQC; Marilyn Patton, Director, CAQC Secretariat

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To inform the members of the responsibilities and functions of the Campus Alberta Quality Council and to discuss Student Learning Outcomes.

*Discussion:*

Dr Quinney thanked members for the invitation to attend and added that he has met with several other institutions recently to give this presentation.

Dr Quinney then provided an overview of the history and role of the CAQC noting that it was established by the Provincial Government in 2004 and is defined in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*. He spoke about the CAQC's role in the program approval process and noted that it is one of three approval stages, with the system coordination review and the Minister's decision being the other two.

While the CAQC has a monitoring role for new programs, Dr Quinney noted that, in recognition of the maturity of the processes within the Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions (CARIs), the role normally consists of a regular audit of the institution's internal quality assurance policies and processes for academic review.

Dr Mahaffy provided an overview of the *Alberta Forum on Post-secondary Learning Outcomes: Sharing Principles, Effective Practices, and Challenges*, jointly organized by the CAQC with the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) and the Ministry of Advanced Education and held on May 18, 2016.

The committee had an extensive discussion the role of learning outcomes in student mobility. Members expressed concern that course equivalencies could not be determined on the basis of a comparison of learning outcomes alone. Dr Mahaffy reported that this concern was also noted at the forum and recognized that learning outcomes could not be viewed in isolation, but required context and nuance to interpret. Dr Mahaffy also noted that programs can undergo a lot of incremental changes which, when viewed through the learning outcomes lens, can reveal a substantial change to program such that it now serves a very different student than originally envisioned.

It was noted that government is notified of significant changes to programs and that the Minister reserves the right to refer to programs to the CAQC even if institution does not view the change as substantive.

## 6. Proposed Changes to the Statement on Equity in Student Affairs

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The University Statement on Equity and the Student Statement on Equity are being revised to reflect changes to Alberta Human Rights Legislation and changing norms in diversity and equity within the academy. The committee is being asked to review and provide advice on the proposal at this time; a revised proposal will be submitted for governance approval in the fall.

*Discussion:*

During the discussion, members provided feedback on language changes within the proposal including the removal of racialized and socio-economic and commented on the increase to the length of the course syllabi which would occur by adding further information to it. The Chair reported that a group has been established to review the content and volume of information required in course syllabi and that recommendations would be brought forward to ASC at a later date.

A member suggested that the Statement on Equity would have greater impact if located somewhere other than in a course syllabus. The Registrar noted that the proposed changes reflect the protected grounds outlined in the Human Rights and the federal employment equity legislation. Members raised questions about the University's commitment and responsibility to ensuring diverse socio-economic backgrounds

which is not a protected ground but remains an important factor. It was also suggested that the language of diversity continues to evolve and regular review of the terms used would be appropriate.

Ms Collins reported that an official proposal would be circulated for approval through governance in the fall.

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

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Nataraj (Nat) Kav, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

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

*Discussion:*

Ms Peters reported to members that there were no updates. There was no further discussion.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by email 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 10:40 a.m.