General Faculties Council
Committee on the Learning Environment
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 06, 2013
2-31, South Academic Building
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

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| Bill Connor | Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee) |
| Dustin Chelen | Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union |
| Nathan Andrews | President, Graduate Students' Association (Delegate) |
| Scott Delinger | Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Information Technology (Delegate) |
| John Boeglin | Academic Staff |
| John Fontaine | Graduate Student at-large |
| Nikki Way | Undergraduate Student at-large |
| Lili Liu | Department Chair |
| Florence Myrick | Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning (Representative) |
| Deanna Williamson | Cross-Representative from the GFC Academic Planning Committee |
| Janet Scott Hoyt | Major Teaching Award Recipient |

Presenters:

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| Nathan Andrews | Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies |
| John Boeglin | Chair, Joint Subcommittee on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment/Teaching, Learning and Technology Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology |
| Dustin Chelen | Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies |
| Bill Connor | Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee) |
| Scott Delinger | Information Technology Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |

Staff:

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| Garry Bodnar | Coordinator, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment |
| Andrea Patrick | Scribe |

**OPENING SESSION**

1.   Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Boeglin/Chelen

| THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Agenda. |
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| **CARRIED** |

2.   Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 30, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Boeglin/ Scott Hoyt

| THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of January 30, 2013. |
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| **CARRIED** |

3.   Comments from the Co-Chair

Dr Connor commented on a number of relevant issues to members.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4.   University of Alberta's Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL):  Update from the Interim Director

There were no documents.

*Presenter*: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee) (on behalf of Sheree Kwong See, Interim Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning)

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

*Discussion:*
Dr Connor reported that the Interim Director of the University of Alberta's Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) continues to consult with faculty and students across the academy on the current and future roles of this unit.

A member enquired about students' role as stakeholders in the teaching and learning environment.

5.   GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on the Status of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI): Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter*: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee

on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee) (on behalf of Sheree Kwong See, Interim Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning, and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on the Status of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To update GFC CLE of the Subcommittee on the Status of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) progress.

*Discussion:*
Dr Connor reminded members that the Subcommittee's Terms of Reference were approved at the January 30, 2013 GFC CLE meeting. Mr Chelen, in response to a request from the Co-Chair, added that the last meeting of this subcommittee was productive and that its work continues to progress.

6.  GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Report: Update

There were no documents.

*Presenters:* Nathan Andrews, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies; Dustin Chelen, Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To update GFC CLE on the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies' progress.

*Discussion:*
Mr Chelen reported that there is meeting scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2013 where each Faculty representative will provide feedback about requirements in relation to implementation. He added that more information will be presented at upcoming meetings of GFC CLE. Mr Andrews added that the broader issue of implementation is still being discussed and considered.

Mr Bodnar clarified that the next meeting of GFC CLE will be a joint meeting with the Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council, scheduled for April 3, 2013.

7.  Joint Subcommittee on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)/Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology Report: Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* John Boeglin, Chair, Joint Subcommittee on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment/Teaching, Learning and Technology Council Fostering Pedagogy of Technology

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

*Discussion:*
Dr Boeglin reported that work within this subcommittee has progressed, although he added that the budget continues to be a complicating factor in terms of commitment to potential programs. He stated that he will highlight this item at the next meeting of GFC CLE in order to obtain feedback from the members of the Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council.

A member noted that it is imperative that this important project continue to move forward and requested

that the report previously generated by this subcommittee be included with whatever materials Dr Boeglin planned to share with members.

8.    Working Group on Online Course/Teaching Evaluations: Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:*  Scott Delinger, Information Technology Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

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

*Discussion:*
Dr Delinger reported that the group met in February, 2013, adding that Mr Josh Ryder, Information Technology Strategic Initiatives Officer, Office of the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology), has been working on evaluation criteria for e-USRIs (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction) and that there is a program being trialed in the Faculty of Extension and one for online courses in Test Scoring and Questionnaire Services (TSQS) in Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT).  He stated that work continues to move forward, especially now that Mr Ryder has joined the Office.

## STANDING ITEMS

9.    GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)

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

*Discussion:*
There was no discussion.

10.    GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)

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

*Discussion:*
There was no discussion.

11.    GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)

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

*Discussion:*
There was no discussion.

12.  Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLAT) Council Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Co-Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)

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

*Discussion:*
There was no discussion.

13.  Question Period

Mr Chelen was asked to comment on the issue of academic advising within Faculties, a matter recently raised by the Students' Union (SU) at a meeting of the Provost's Academic Policy and Process Review Task Force (**APPRTF**).

A member enquired about the status of future agenda items for GFC CLE. Mr Bodnar noted that he would compile those items identified by members at previous Committee meetings as possible items for further discussion by GFC CLE.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

14.  Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

15.  Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

16.  Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

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