



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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

Wednesday, September 05, 2018
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Sarah Forgie, Chair
Masoud Aliramezani
Dale Askey
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Janice Causgrove Dunn
Robert Desjardins
Eva Lemaire

Brian Maraj
Janice Miller-Young
Norma Rodenburg (delegate)
Jennifer Tupper
Mani Vaidyanathan
Stanley Varnhagen
Janet Wesselius

Kevin Zentner

REGRETS:
Jeff Rawlings (delegate)

STAFF:
Meg Brolley, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Bhatnagar/Miller-Young

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 2, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Aliramezani/Varnhagen

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Open Session Minutes of May 2, 2018.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed new and returning members. She provided updates on activities around learning outcomes and experiential learning. The Chair spoke about the work that would continue in the coming months on teaching evaluation. A member asked about evaluation of graduate students who teach, and also evaluation of supervisors of graduate students.

4. Welcome and Committee Member Development and Orientation

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary and Meg Brolley, Secretary to GFC and Manager of GFC Services

Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley gave a presentation on the structure of academic governance at the University of Alberta and the recommendations of the GFC *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance

Including Delegated Authority. They highlighted the recommendations that had been completed to date and gave an overview of GFC Principles for Delegation of Authority, GFC Principles for Standing Committee Composition, GFC Roles and Responsibilities of Members, GFC Meeting Procedural Rules, and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment terms of reference including mandate and areas of responsibility.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. 2017 University Survey of Instructor Teaching Practices and Support, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Miller-Young, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because of the information it contains about our learning environment. After feedback from this committee, CTL will complete a final report as well as a highlights document which will both be available to the broader institution, and is interested in hearing from committee members about what should be highlighted and/or investigated further.

Discussion:

Dr Miller-Young provided an overview of the survey noting that results would inform CTL on future initiatives.

The committee discussed and provided comments on: educational technology, teaching practices, how the survey was distributed, whether the data was available on a Faculty specific basis, the effectiveness and use of peer consultation and evaluation processes, and OER (open educational resources).

6. Updates

A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) – Dr Miller-Young reported on orientation sessions for new professors and those new to teaching. She noted that the Blanket Exercise scheduled for September filled up quickly and an additional session has been scheduled for November.

B. Information Technology - There was no update.

C. Learning Services – Dr Askey reported that Debbie Feisst received a scholarship offered by ACRL (the Association of College and Research Libraries) to attend OpenCon 2018, a major international open access advocacy event organized by the Right to Research Coalition and SPARC. By virtue of this, she was also offered and is also accepting an appointment for a 2-year term on ACRL's Research and the Scholarly Environment Committee. He noted that Michelle Brailey was named to the 2018-2019 cohort of the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program, a group intended to help professionals drive open educational resource initiatives at their institutions. Dr Askey also mentioned that he would be bringing the university's Copyright Act submission and research data management to the committee in the coming months.

D. General Faculties Council – Dr Lemaire noted that GFC would have its first meeting of 2018/2019 on September 24.

E. Student Success Centre – Dr Desjardins noted the unit had changed its name to the Academic Success Centre and that the Dean of Students was re-visioning services to make them more accessible; the costs for workshops and consultation would be reduced and more services would be offered free of charge.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

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

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM