UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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

Wednesday, September 04, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:
John Nychka, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Dale Askey
Radim Barta
Mike MacGregor
Brian Maraj

Janice Miller-Young
Milad Nazarahari
Norma Rodenburg
Amber Sayed
Jennifer Tupper
Mani Vaidyanathan
Christine Wiesenthal

REGRETS:
Pascal Lupien

Staff:
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary
Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Heather Richholt, scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Agarwal/Maraj

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 1, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Barta/MacGregor

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the open session minutes of May 1, 2019.
CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Discussion: The Chair introduced himself and spoke about his background, his teaching philosophy, and his goal to celebrate and elevate the value of teaching at the university. The Chair then asked members to introduce themselves.

4. Welcome and Committee Member Development and Orientation

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

Discussion: Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley gave a presentation on the structure of academic governance at the University of Alberta. They spoke about recent changes to processes stemming from the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority. They also covered the mandate and role of the Committee on the Learning Environment, recent agenda topics, and meeting logistics. Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley highlighted the importance of early consultation which allows opportunities for members to engage in early and meaningful debate on important issues. They explained that by participating, members can contribute to the content of significant proposals and shape the direction of policy on matters of significant academic importance or interest before items proceed through the regular approval pathways.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. PhD Learning Outcomes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Discussion: The Chair introduced the item and noted the importance of clear communication of expectations in graduate programs. He pointed out that there was a gap in this area and that this proposal was meant to increase the accountability for programs and for students.

During the discussion, members spoke about the timing of supervisory committee meetings and candidacy exams related to research progress, research oriented careers, the flexibility for Departments to further specify and clarity requirements beyond the FGSR minimums, and that the provided templates were not mandatory but were a tool made available for use.

6. An Ethics Framework for Student Learning Analytics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Services & Technology),

Discussion: Dr MacGregor spoke about the amount and quality of data that could be collected through learning analytics and the importance of having an ethics framework firmly in place to protect all those involved. He explained the definitions that comprise the basic elements of the draft code including informed consent, access to data, privacy and security, and transparency of purpose.

Members discussed the data collected through e-class, scope creep, the ethics of collecting student data, positive intervention, and the importance of education and communication related to data collection and informed consent. This item will go forward to GFC for early consultation.

7. Renaming Learning Services to Library and Museums

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Dale Askey, Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian

Purpose of the Proposal: The current name for Learning Services does not accurately communicate the constitution or the scope of the units within the portfolio. Learning Services emerged from historical antecedents that no longer pertain. We seek to rename the portfolio to indicate clearly the major

Discussion: Dr Askey introduced the proposed renaming, provided background on the current name, and explained that the new name would be clearer and more accurately reflect the major activities of the unit.

Members discussed the Faculty collections that were held by the Faculty but curated by the Museums, and the proposed use of Library as opposed to Libraries which would de-emphasize the separation of buildings and reflect the organization as a cohesive, single unit. The committee expressed support for the proposal.

8. <u>Summary Report of the St. Joseph's College USRI Pilot Project</u>

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion: Dr Miller-Young spoke about the USRI pilot project for St Joseph's College and how the new instrument could be useful for future discussion regarding evaluation of teaching.

Members discussed the use of "useful" in the questions, and the percentage of students polled who completed the survey.

9. <u>Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference - GFC Committee on the Learning Environment</u>

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment; Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

Discussion:
Members expressed support for the draft terms that represent discussions over the last couple of years. The committee discussed support for the inclusion of Learning Services and IT Learning. It was noted that graduate and undergraduate teaching and learning were included in the terms, and the contract implications of including academic teaching staff in the composition was raised.

10. <u>Updates (no documents)</u>

Updates were deferred to the next meeting.

11. <u>Question Period</u>

There were no questions.

<u>INFORMATION REPORTS</u>

12. <u>Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)</u>

There were no items.

13. <u>Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings</u>

There were no items.

<u>CLOSING SESSION</u>

14. <u>Adjournment</u>

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.