

General Faculties Council
Approved Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2011
2-1 University Hall, Council Chamber
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Ex Officio (27): President Indira Samarasekera (Chair), Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, Vice-President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (Research) Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey, Chief Advancement Officer O'Neil Outar, Vice-Provost and University Registrar Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies, Ernie Ingles, Deans and Directors: John Kennelly, Lesley Cormack, Fern Snart, Katy Campbell, Nathalie Kermaal, Anita Molzahn, Lory Laing

Students (3): Nima Yousefi Moghaddan, Emerson Csorba, Colten Yamagishi

Faculty--elected (54): Deanna Williamson, Mikael Adolphson, Lise Gotell, Roger Graves, Steven Harris, Jack Ives, Lynn Penrod, Serra Tinic, Roxanne Harde, Ian Gellatly, Andrew Luchak, Ingrid Johnston, Linda Phillips, Christina Rinaldi, Sushanta Mitra, Mary Beckie, Ed Blackburn, Joanna Harrington, Brenda Clark, Chris De Gara, Pierre Lemelin, Ron McElhaney, Rachel Milner, Rhonda Rosychuk, Jim Smiley, Amy Tse, Elaine Yacyshyn, Patricia McCormack, Pirkko Markula, Duncan Saunders, Cary Brown, J Nelson Amaral, Bob Luth, Jeremy Richards, Jonathan Veinot

ATTENDEES (Appointed):

Graduate Students at-Large (14):

Rahul Agrawal, Nathan Andrews, Behman Berahman, Erika Anne Elves, Sagar Lunawat, John Meston, Nikki Nosworthy, Andy Rathbone, Hillary Sparkes, Minhao Zeng, Michal Zielinski

Undergraduate Students (40): Emily Fung, Ann Gordon, Nikolas Kalantzis, Petros Kusmu, Gabriel Tremblay, Brit Luimes, Lyndon Crone, Heidi Johnson, Saadiq Sumar, Spencer Dunn, Kim Ferguson, Jeffry Kochikuzhyi, Thomas L'Abbé, Su Su Liang, Nicholas Monfries, Michael Parkes

Board of Governors Representatives (6): Robert Campenot, Roy Coulthard, Tanya Martelle, Rory Tighe

Non-Academic Staff, NASA (2): Russell Eccles

APOs and/or FSOs (2): Tracy Hetman, Richard Uwiera

Academic Staff Representing Sessional Staff (2): Kelly MacFarlane

Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (1): Frank Robinson

GOVERNANCE STAFF:

Garry Bodnar, Secretary to General Faculties Council

Ann Hodgson, Scribe

Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Britta Baron, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International)

Garry Bodnar, Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee

Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations)

Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

President Samarasekera welcomed all new and returning members of General Faculties Council to the first Council meeting of the new Academic Year.

Motion: Cormack/Hetman

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of May 30, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

The Secretary to GFC noted that GFC faculty member Pierre Lemelin had been present at the May 30, 2011 Council meeting and, as a result, his name should be added to those in attendance. Dean Cormack indicated her name has been misspelled.

Motion: Molzahn/Amaral

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of May 30, 2011, as amended.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

President Samarasekera welcomed new and returning members to GFC. In special tribute, the President reflected upon and acknowledged those recently-departed members of the University of Alberta 'family' and extended her condolences to their associates, family, and friends.

Jonathan Schaeffer, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology), provided a high-level status report on the University's migration to Google Mail. The President highlighted the academic achievements of six faculty members named to the Royal Society of Canada (RCS)—Professors Richard Fedorak, Andy Knight, John Newman, Jan Selman, James Shapiro, and Joel Weiner—and noted that 11 University of Alberta graduate students had received 2011 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships.

The President provided a high-level summary of current campus initiatives, including: substantial information technology upgrades, with reference to the introduction of new smart classrooms and enhanced wireless connectivity; and the Annual Fund Campaign's newly-funded student pilot projects: Green and Gold Student Leadership and Professional Development Travel Grants, the Undergraduate Research Interns Program, and Study Abroad Program International Travel Grants.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Discussion:

The President invited members of GFC to review the listing, as formally presented to Council.

Motion I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT (Cormack/Molzahn)

The following Chair of Chairs' Council, for a term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012:

Lili Liu	Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy (Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine)
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The following President of the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA), for a term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012:

Ian MacLaren	President, AASUA
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The following academic staff member to represent sessional staff, for a term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012:

Kelly MacFarlane	Faculty of Arts
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The following academic staff member to represent administrative professional and faculty service officers, for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2012:

Tracy Hetman	Specialized Support and Disability Services
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The following academic staff member to represent library staff, for a term beginning July 11, 2011 and ending June 30, 2014:

Lindsay Johnston	Libraries
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The following graduate student representatives, for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2012:

Rahul Agrawal	Biomedical Engineering
Nathan Andrews	Political Science
Behnam Berahman	Chemical Engineering
Khashayar Ebrahimi	Mechanical Engineering
Erika Anne Elves	History
John Meston	Educational Policy Studies
Nesrine Mostafa	Dentistry
Nikki Noseworthy	Psychological Studies in Education
Andy Rathbone	Educational Policy Studies

Minhao Zeng	English and Film Studies	CARRIED
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Motion II: TO RECEIVE (Molzahn/Amaral)

The following *ex officio* member to serve on GFC for a term beginning June 17, 2011 and extending for the duration of the Interim Deanship:

Verna Yiu	Interim Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
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The following *ex officio* member to serve on GFC for a term beginning June 1, 2011 and extending for the duration of the Interim Deanship:

Lory Laing	Interim Dean, School of Public Health
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The following statutory faculty member who has been elected or re-elected by their Faculty to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2013:

Lynn Penrod	Faculty of Arts
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CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. GFC Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

The President led a comprehensive orientation for the benefit of GFC members, indicating that her role as President is guided by her three "Rs," *Reform, Resources, and Reputation*, enabling the University to achieve its vision and to build on its reputation. University Secretary, Marion Haggarty-France, presented the purpose and role of university governance, speaking to the bi-cameral system deployed at this institution, and outlined the governance and legislative services provided by the University Governance Unit and their alignment to and with the President's vision.

6. Student Engagement (no documents)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, General Faculties Council; Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Britta Baron, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International); Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that she had already spoken to this item under her 'Comments from the Chair' with reference to the new student-oriented student funding initiatives.

7. Information Session on the University Budget 2011/2012 Preliminary Forecast (no documents)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark provided an information session on the University's budget scenario (fiscal year ending March, 2012), including statistics on Provincial Government funding, tuition fees, scholarships, and awards. Ms Clark reported on the fiscal forecast for the 2012-2013 budget and highlighted institutional risks connected to the current Provincial climate and economy (eg, pension plan contributions, general interest earnings), adding that natural gas and crude oil prices, the Canada-US exchange rate, and global interest rates are all drivers feeding into this budget forecasting.

The President indicated that the University has dedicated time to lobbying efforts around funding support to the University through the Campus Alberta Innovation Program.

Vice-President Clark spoke to the work being done to prepare for the next institutional budget cycle. She stated that, within her portfolio through Financial Services, staff will be settling on the budget drivers and preparing appropriate communications to the Faculties, monitoring Auxiliary Services, and exploring cost-saving initiatives, the collective goal of which is to arrive at a fiscally responsible and balanced budget.

Ms Clark responded to questions concerning the budget process, and in particular, the method by which it would be possible to determine the history associated with the establishment of a specific fee and/or its budget line; and how Faculties manage and proceed with their respective budget forecasts within periods of funding uncertainty.

8. Web Strategy and Rollout – Presentation from the Vice-President (University Relations)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Vice-President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn summarized the development and implementation of a new web strategy for the University of Alberta which serves to drive our vision, enhance visibility and reputation, and reflect the University's academic, research, and teaching programs. She noted that this process has involved a thorough re-visit of the existing web environment and that the newly-launched UofA website marks the beginning of several changes and further implementations scheduled in 2011-2012 for the University's web presence.

Dr Pozega Osburn, aided by a Power-Point presentation, provided a detailed overview of the range in web engagement possibilities, highlighting many attributes and new functionality tools including: mobile friendly programming (HTML 5), home-page up/down scrolling, new call-to-action buttons, and many more main page

links. She expressed her appreciation to all members of the University community for the input and feedback received throughout the extensive consultation and development period, resulting in an evolutionary University web environment that serves to share more student life experiences, illustrates our University campuses' features through buildings/maps in 2D and 3D graphics, provides news on a broad range of interest levels (headlines, primary, secondary), and significantly upgrades and enhances those part of the website devoted to the Office of the Registrar and University of Alberta International (UAI).

Dr Pozega Osburn stated that goals have been set to ensure the institutional web environment remains current with our users; to enable University Relations to better serve this institution, including the elimination of Sitecore fees; to enable the investment of more resources into collaborating within Faculties/units; and to work with their staff to meet their needs for web utility. At this point in the meeting, she responded to questions regarding a Faculty's ability to demonstrate that it is meeting its student's web-needs and requirements; she agreed to circulate to the GFC the specific contact information to individuals within University Relations to assist with addressing individual units' needs (eg, web navigation).

9. Update on International Activities at the University of Alberta (no documents)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Britta Baron, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International))

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International) Britta Baron, aided by a PowerPoint presentation, updated members on three types of internationally-led activities—operational support, financial support, and information/advisement support—noting that approximately 50 staff members are stationed across the University to provide the wider community with said support. Additionally, Ms Baron highlighted the University's international student experiences happening across the institution and globally, including:

- *International Recruitment* – significant progress and improvements leading to a 30% increase in the enrollment of international students, pointing to the University's biggest growth year. Over 400 students have come to University of Alberta International (UAI) with sponsorship funding.
- *International engagement:* UAI continues to provide support to Faculties/units hosting international delegations visiting the University of Alberta. Ms Baron encouraged University members to contact UAI for guidance and information to make these international connections; UAI will work with Faculties to administer partnerships and agreements.
- *Research Internship Program* – this successful bridging program has been expanded, responding to the need to provide support to intern students from the University's partnering universities, including those located in Brazil, Germany, Korea, Mexico, and the United States. These students are eligible to engage in Faculty-led research (University of Alberta research placements) under the supervision of a faculty member.

Ms Baron responded to a variety of questions, including one relating to the international student fee. Provost Carl Amrhein added a brief commentary to detail the tuition fee policy for undergraduate students and graduate students, highlighting the modest domestic and international fees.

10. Question Period

Discussion:

Provost Carl Amrhein, aided by the support of a Power-Point presentation, provided responses to a series of questions posed by GFC member, Professor J Richards, with regard to changes in course offerings and student:staff ratios, illustrating the various ways in which the student ratios and full-time equivalent (FTE)

and temporary staff ratios could be compiled and reported. He asked that a response to the final written question posed by Professor Richards on these matters (ie, Question #6) be deferred to the next meeting of GFC in order to allow the Administration sufficient time for its preparation.

Dr Amrhein noted that the data presented to members by means of this presentation would be forwarded to GFC following today's meeting. Dr Amrhein invited further questions on the data, as presented, and advised that further queries members may have can be directed to his attention.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The President reviewed the Information Items in turn and invited questions from members. There were no further questions or comments.

11. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of May 2 and June 6, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

12. Report of the Board of Governors of June 17, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

13. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee (May 24, June 17, and August 25, 2011)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

14. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee (June 21, 2011)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

15. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

Message from Professor R Luth on Grading and Assessment Project: For Your Review (E-Mailed to Members on July 5, 2011)

16. Reports

There were no reports to date.

CLOSING SESSION

The Secretary to GFC reminded those attendees who had not already done so to sign the Meeting Attendance Registry prior to departure to ensure their attendance was recorded appropriately.

17. Adjournment

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