



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

### General Faculties Council Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 26, 2012  
L1-490, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### Voting Members:

Amaral, J. Nelson	Science
Andrews, Nathan	Graduate Council of Students
Arbuckle, Kathryn	Libraries
Beckie, Mary	Extension
Belosevic, Mike	GFC Appointee
Bernier, Ashlyn	GSA President
Blackburn, Ed	Faculté Saint-Jean
Bouchard, Alice	Non-Academic Staff
Brown, Norman	Arts
Chelen, Dustin	Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Chen, Chris	Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Clark, Brenda	Medicine and Dentistry
Clark, Phyllis	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
DeGara, Chris	Medicine and Dentistry
Eccles, Russell	President of NASA
Ferguson-Pell, Martin	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Goble, Erika	Graduate Student at-Large
Gordon, Ann	Arts
Harrington, Joanna	Law
Harris, John	Arts
Haeubl, Gerald	Business
Hickey, Don	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Hodgson, Cory	Science
Hong, Jason	Education
Hwang, James	Science
Ingles, Ernie	Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies
Ives, Jack	Arts
Jensen, Louise	Nursing
Johnston, Lindsay	Libraries
Joseph, Sam	Arts
Kabata, Kaori	Arts
Kang, Jimmy	Science
Kendal, Gerry	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kennelly, John	Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

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Koch, Katherine	Libraries
Kochikuzhyi, Jeffry	Science
Lee, Matt	Science
Lemelin, Pierre	Medicine and Dentistry
Lemire, Bernard	Medicine and Dentistry
McGetrick, Jennifer	Graduate Student at-Large
Meston, John	Graduate Student at-Large
Milner, Rachel	Medicine and Dentistry
Mitra, Sushanta	Engineering
Mohamed, Yasser	Engineering
Molzahn, Anita	Dean, Nursing
Nocente, Norma	Education
Odoom, Isaac	Graduate Student at-Large
Outar, O'Neil	Vice-President (Advancement)
Renke, Wayne	AASUA Appointee
Richards, Jeremy	Science
Robertson, Sean	Native Studies
Robinson, Frank	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Rodgers, Wendy	Physical Education and Recreation
Samarasekera, Indira	President and Chair, GFC
Saunders, Duncan	Public Health
Shchepetkina, Alina	Graduate Student at-Large
Shirvani, Mazi	Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
Shores, Sandra	Library Academic Staff
Smiley, Jim	Medicine and Dentistry
Snart, Fern	Dean, Education
Sumar, Saadiq	Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students
Swanson, Ruby	APO
Tardif, Guillaume	Arts
Van der Baan, Mirko	Science
Whelton, Bill	Education
Williamson, Deanna	Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Wilson, Donna	President of AASUA
Woods, Adam	Arts
Yamagishi, Colten	Students' Union President
Zhang, Hao	Engineering
Zielinski, Michal	Graduate Student at-Large

Presenters/Proposers:

Ed Blackburn	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Mike Belosevic	Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors
Garry Bodnar	Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Anastasia Lim	Executive Director, University Relations
Indira Samarasekera	President and Chair, GFC

Staff:

Bodnar, Garry	Secretary to General Faculties Council
Haggarty-France, Marion	University Secretary
Patrick, Andrea	Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Shirvani/Amaral

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 1, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Belosevic/Shirvani

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of October 1, 2012.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the President

President and GFC Chair Indira Samarasekera reported:

- on the results of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where a University of Alberta team, consisting of nine students from the Faculties of Engineering and Science, won the international competition for their project to create a biotechnology company that turns paper that normally cannot be recycled into usable chemicals, including a key ingredient in the drug Tamiflu.
- on the recent passing of current GFC member, Dr Piotr Rudnicki, who was a dedicated professor in the Faculty of Science's Department of Computing Sciences for over 25 years.
- on the activities and plans surrounding The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and the Renaissance Committee (REN), explaining that the focal point for action has been the roughly 400 suggestions the Administration received from across the University community following her 'State of the University' presentation in 2011. She clarified that the role of the REN Committee will be to reinvigorate the institution and to move the University forward in terms of, amongst other matters, compensation, benefits, and FEC (Faculty Evaluation Committee) processes. She thanked members for their suggestions and comments and assured them they would be addressed.
- on the delivery of education, another item currently being reviewed by the University. She explained that while several online learning initiatives have been available for a long time, an important shift has occurred involving the blending of online and classroom instruction that has warranted the University's rapid attention and response. A Visioning Committee was struck earlier this year to determine the University's preparedness to respond to these changing trends and to formulate a strategic plan to keep the University current and to move it forward in this

- rapidly-changing environment. The President noted that, although she has reviewed the Committee's initial report, it would have a much wider circulation as soon as it was finalized. The Board of Governors will be discussing this issue at their retreat in April, 2013 as it is an area in which they remain interested. She reported that the University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a research partnership with Udacity to provide a pilot project in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)—the MOU is currently available online for all to review.
- on the review and renewal of graduate student education and experiences at the University, a project in which she has been interested since her arrival. More recently, following an external committee recommendation, this has become a top priority. She explained that the goal of the review is to increase graduate student recruitment, identify best practices in graduate education, create quality measures for graduate programming, and provide professional development for graduate students. She reported that working groups will be established to tackle some of these issues and stated that more updates will be provided and that this initiative is still within the consultation stage.
  - on the great success of Fall Convocation, 2012, with 1179 students convocating over a two-day period. She added that the individuals who received honorary degrees at Fall Convocation included two Nobel Peace Prize winners (Ms Leymah Roberta Gbowee and Ms Tawakkol Karman, both of whom received honorary Doctor of Laws), a pioneer in Canadian Family Law (Ms Marguerite Trussler, a honorary Doctor of Laws recipient), and a strong advocate of post-secondary education and the author of "The Case for Investment" (former University of Alberta Board Chair, Mr Brian Heidecker, the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws).
  - on the success of the 2012 Festival of Ideas: *Shifting Tectonic Social Plates*, which included an impressive line-up of speakers including Steven Pinker, Jian Ghomeshi, and Fran Lebowitz. She noted that she continues to receive positive feedback about the Festival of Ideas from Albertans, and she thanked the University Relations team for their hard work and dedicated efforts towards planning and staging this important event.
  - on the recent accreditation of the University's School of Public Health, adding her congratulations on this major milestone for this Faculty.
  - on her various meetings with members of the Provincial Government, including the Honourable Doug Horner and the Honourable Fred Horne. During her meeting with the Honourable Fred Horne, Minister of Health, she presented the University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), escorted a delegation of the Provincial Government on a tour of ECHA, and addressed the current funding model for the University, emphasizing the critical need for more support.
  - on a recent meeting with Alberta Premier Alison Redford, where they discussed increasing enrolment pressures and existing labor demands.
  - on recent meetings with the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Federal Minister of State (Science and Technology), and the Deputy Minister of Industry Canada, John Knubley. During these meetings, she made the case for sustained funding of the Tri-Council agencies and highlighted the need to increase recruitment of international students to Canada.
  - on her efforts to build upon relations with India, specifically surrounding the recent announcement of a Federal Government-sponsored joint endeavor between Canada and India that will see the establishment of the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS) at the University of British Columbia in full partnership with the University of Alberta and the University of Toronto. IC-IMPACTS plans to develop programs with India that provide technology for safer water, the development of infrastructure, and the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. Dr Samarasekera stated that this group is working on exciting initiatives and pledged more updates in the future.

A member enquired about the sustainability of Udacity, copyright ownership, and whether or not Harvard

and Yale Universities have plans to partner with a software company (like Udacity) or develop their own online learning software. Dr Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean, Faculty of Science, replied that authors retain ownership of their intellectual material posted deployed Udacity on behalf of the University; that Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) are using a company called edX; and that there are no guarantees that Udacity will remain a long-term entity.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### 4. New Members of GFC

There were no new members on this occasion.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### 5. The Umbrella Committee (TUC) - Update

There were no documents.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that the purpose of this presentation was to provide GFC with an opportunity to hear from Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), on an update regarding the activities of The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and the Renaissance Committee (REN). He noted that the purpose of The Umbrella Committee (TUC) was to review different ideas to organize institutional planning and resources more efficiently, with an aim to improve the lives of students and staff at the University of Alberta. He added that the REN Committee will attempt to pick up where TUC left off in terms of strategy and will continue to operate with openness and transparency. In terms of membership on the REN Committee, he stated that the final membership list will be announced shortly and that he expects that this committee will begin meeting early in the New Year.

A member asked what will happen to those suggestions not addressed by REN, and Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell replied that members will review the work of TUC and all relevant commentary, and, in turn, apply them to REN's Terms of Reference—anything not within their purview will go through the Strategic Initiatives Group for consideration.

##### 6. Community Connection Awards

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Anastasia Lim, Executive Director, University Relations

*Discussion:*

Ms Lim presented GFC with information about the recent unveiling of the new Community Connection Awards. These awards, created by the Office of the Vice-President (University Relations), will be presented annually to recognize University-related community service activities such as public speaking, volunteer work, school visits, and/or other substantial community service work. The categories of the awards are: The Community Scholar Award, The Community Leader Award, and The UAlberta Advocacy Award. She concluded her remarks by noting the nomination deadline for these awards has been set at January 25, 2013.

7. University Governance Electronic Voting Procedure (e-Vote), Phase I

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Marion Haggarty-France , University Secretary

*Discussion:*

Ms Haggarty-France introduced to members the newly-introduced electronic voting program undertaken by University Governance, explaining that e-Vote will be a useful tool deployed in relation to a number of the unit's activities including committee population, nomination processes, and voting on contested elections where there are more nominees than available positions; she added that it is aligned with the relevant Cornerstones set out in the *Dare to Discover*. Further, she commented that e-Vote brings University Governance up to date with the latest technological capabilities around online voting and that making the transition from paper ballots to electronic voting is the most appropriate course of action for a multi-campus academy and a global community.

8. Question Period

8.1Q/8.1R Question from Faculty of Engineering Undergraduate Student Representative Lyndon Crone Regarding Residence Services' Student Staff and Response from Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Frank Robinson to Question Raised by Lyndon Crone

8.2Q Questions from GFC Faculty Member Jeremy Richards (Faculty of Science) Regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Alberta

8.2R Responses from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (In Concert with the Office of the President) to Questions Raised by Professor Richards Regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Alberta

*Discussion:*

Dr Richards acknowledged the response to his question, as provided by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (in concert with the Office of the President), and asked how the issue of academic intellectual ownership might relate to the introduction of MOOCs at the University of Alberta. Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that he does not expect that the current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Udacity specifically addresses those issues, however, if there are contracts in the future, details about copyright and intellectual property rights would be specifically addressed within them.

Mr Cory Hodgson read a written statement directed at Dr Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, regarding a recent incident report from Lister Centre. Mr Bodnar requested that the individual not read the written statement; rather, he invited the individual to pose his question succinctly and clearly. The student then asked why the evidence cited within Dr Robinson's written response to Mr Crone's query constituted a positive change at Lister Centre. Dr Robinson replied that, once more data is available, he will provide a response.

Mr Chelen asked what types of specific incidents contributed to the net increase of reported incidents within the same report. Dr Robinson replied that once the appropriate data has been gathered, he will provide a response.

Mr Adam Woods enquired as to why statistics were still being gathered after the decision was made.

Dr Samarasekera responded that this issue was addressed at the President's Town Hall, held recently on

November 16, 2012. She stated that, based on urgent issues of health and safety, backed by evidence that those health and safety issues needed to be addressed urgently, she made a decision for an immediate course of action. She added that data is currently being gathered to ensure that the appropriate course of action was taken. Once the data is available, it will be made available to the community. She stated that the Board of Governors had delegated the authority to her, as President, to make these types of decisions when there is evidence to suggest imminent danger to staff and students. She concluded that she is certain that the data will prove that the right decision was made at the time.

Mr Sumar asked if it would be possible to provide responses to Dr Robinson's replies to the question put to him, and Mr Bodnar replied that the Terms of Reference for GFC clearly state rules around "Question Period" and that this period is intended to provide a question and answer period without large statements of opinion being read to all members in Chamber or for debate thereof. Mr Sumar replied that he believed the Terms of Reference are not clear in this regard.

Dr Wilson asked if the Udacity Coordinator has been named, and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that his Office is in the advanced stages of obtaining a coordinator but the name is not available yet. He added that the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA) will be consulted on the project.

Mr Yamagishi read from a written statement about Lister Centre, and asked Dr Robinson when additional data would be made available. Dr Robinson replied that he hoped to have a report available for January or February, 2013.

Dr Milner asked if Administration would be open for feedback about MOOCs, and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that they would.

Mr Sumar read from a written statement about incident reporting at Lister Centre. The Chair requested that Mr Sumar ask his question and refrain from reading a prepared statement.

Mr Sumar asked Dr Robinson if he could expand upon the assertion within his responses on the Lister Centre that non-residence life staff do not report incidents or do not report at an appropriate level. Dr Robinson replied that he was unable to hear the question being posed. Mr Bodnar stated that there is a recurring trend at recent GFC meetings where individuals bring prepared, written statements (with embedded queries) to meetings and read from them. He requested that, out of fairness to those in Chamber and to encourage meaningful responses to questions posed, that these written questions be forwarded to him before the meeting. Mr Sumar replied that since they received Dr Robinson's responses late, they were unable to provide their questions in advance of the meeting. Mr Bodnar replied that even if the questions are submitted late, they can always be made available to members and that this type of practice ensures that respondents have an opportunity to be adequately prepared.

Mr Andrews enquired about the timeline of possible changes to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that Ms Catherine Swindlehurst, on behalf of his Office, is currently conducting campus-wide consultation through a series of focus groups on the issue, fine-tuning objectives for the project to move forward. He expects roll-out of possible changes throughout 2013.

Mr Yamagishi enquired about the possibility of receiving a summary report from the Festival of Ideas, and the Chair stated that she will discuss the idea with the Office of University Relations.

Dean Schaeffer was asked what is being done to facilitate the professional development of undergraduate students within the Faculty of Science. Dr Schaeffer replied that, although a more detailed response could be provided by Dr Brenda Leskiw, Senior Associate Dean (Student Services), Faculty of Science, there is a

new centre in the Faculty, the CCIS Career Centre, which provides students with career resources and planning activities. He added that the Faculty has plans to launch a new entrepreneur endeavor as well.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of September 10 and October 9, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

10. Reports of the Board of Governors of October 19, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

11. E-Mail Report of the GFC Nominating Committee

There was no report to date.

There was no discussion.

12. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There was no report to date.

There was no discussion.

13. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

There was no discussion.

14. Reports

- General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012)
- Annual Report on Enrolment from the Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Discussion:*

Mr Yamagishi enquired about the status of the proposal to rescind Section 50 (Enrolment Management) of the GFC Policy Manual, and Mr Kendal replied that a proposal is being prepared for presentation at GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Mr Yamagishi asked if there could be a detailed presentation about enrolment data, and Mr Kendal replied that he would have to consult with Dr Samarasekera first regarding the matter.

### **CLOSING SESSION**



15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.