



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, June 03, 2013  
L1-490, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

Amaral, J. Nelson	Science
Arbuckle, Kathryn	Acting Chief Librarian
Auger, Joanna	Sessional Staff (Academic)
Banister, Marina	Arts
Belosevic, Mike	GFC Appointee to the Board of Governors
Berger, Allen	Dean, Augustana Faculty and Executive Officer of Augustana Campus
Bouchard, Alice	Non-Academic Staff
Brown, Cary	Rehabilitation Medicine
Brown, Norman	Arts
Bryden, Philip	Dean, Law
Chelen, Dustin	Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Clark, Brenda	Medicine and Dentistry
Clark, Phyllis	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Coulthard, Roy	Graduate Student at-Large
Deyholos, Michael	Science
El-Bialy, Tarek	Medicine and Dentistry
Epperson, Brent	GSA President
Ferguson-Pell, Martin	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Haennel, Robert	Acting Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine
Harrington, Joanna	Law
Harris, John	Arts
Hokowhitu, Brendan	Dean, Native Studies
Holte, Robert	Dean, Science
(Delegate)	
Ingles, Ernie	Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies
Ives, Jack	Arts
Iwaniuk, Averi	Education
Jensen, Louise	Nursing
Johnston, Lindsay	Library Academic Staff
Kehrer, James	Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kelly, Brent	Students' Union (SU) Appointee to the Board of Governors
Kendal, Gerry	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Koch, Katherine	Library Academic Staff
Kusmu, Petros	Students' Union President

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Laing, Lory	Interim Dean, Public Health
Lau, William	Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Lederer, Robert	Arts
Lemelin, Pierre	Medicine and Dentistry
Loebenberg, Raimar	Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science
Milner, Rachel	Medicine and Dentistry
Mohamed, Yasser	Engineering
Molzahn, Anita	Dean, Nursing
More, Colin	Student Nominated by Graduate Council of Students
Odoom, Isaac	Graduate Student at-Large
Obsburn, Debra Pozega	Vice-President (University Relations)
Outar, O'Neil	Vice-President (Advancement)
Pang, Harold	Nursing
Patterson, Ray	Business
Preksaitis, Jutta	Medicine and Dentistry
Reich, Krista	Graduate Student at-Large
Reid, Patrick	Graduate Student at-Large
Renke, Wayne	AASUA Appointee to the Board of Governors
Richards, Jeremy	Science
Robertson, Sean	Native Studies
Robinson, Frank	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Samarasekera, Indira	President (Chair)
Saunders, Duncan	Public Health
Shao, Peng	Graduate Student at-Large
Shirvani, Mazi	Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
Shores, Sandra	Library Academic Staff
Speakman, Chloe	Science
Sturdy, Christopher	Science
Tamana, Sukhpreet	Graduate Student at-Large
Tinic, Serra	Arts
Tse, Amy	Medicine and Dentistry
Van der Baan, Mirko	Science
Vela, Andrew	Education
Whelton, Bill	Education
Williamson, Deanna	Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Wilson, Donna	President of AASUA
Wright, Rob	Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Zhang, Hao	Engineering
Zhao, Richard	Graduate Student at-Large
Zwicker, Heather (Delegate)	Dean, Arts

Presenters/Proposers:

Ed Blackburn	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Mike Belosevic	Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors
Allen Berger	Dean, Augustana Faculty
Garry Bodnar	Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC

Indira Samarasekera                      Executive Committee  
President and Chair, General Faculties Council

Staff:

Garry Bodnar                              Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC  
Marion Haggarty-France              University Secretary  
Andrea Patrick                              Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

Dr Samarasekera asked that the Agenda be reorganized to accommodate a presenter's schedule.

Motion: Belosevic/Amaral

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 14, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Berger/Lau

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of March 14, 2013.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the President

President and Chair, Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 389<sup>th</sup> meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and reported:

- On the retirement of several longstanding GFC members, notably Mr Gerry Kendal, University Registrar, and Mr Ernie Ingles, Vice-Provost and Director, School of Library and Information Studies. She thanked all departing members of GFC for their dedication and hard work.
- On the Provincial Government's vision of Campus Alberta, the re-opening of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*, and a recent meeting with Mr Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE). She stated that she will be attempting to gather concrete objectives from the Provincial Government surrounding their plans for Campus Alberta. She noted that the *PSLA* serves the University of Alberta well, and it may not be beneficial to re-open it. At the request of Dr Samarasekera, Acting Provost Dr Ferguson-Pell was invited to comment on a recent meeting he had with Minister Lukaszuk. He reported that during this meeting, the Minister discussed results-based budgeting, plans for a possible institute that would foster commercialization opportunities across Campus Alberta, potential changes to Alberta Innovates, re-

opening the *PSLA*, and performance criteria for Campus Alberta. He noted that the discussion did not yield many specific details on these matters.

- On the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She reported that following a request from the Alberta Council of Presidents, citing the need for the document to be vetted through governance processes, the Ministry of EAE has agreed to move the deadline for completion of the MOU to October 31, 2013. She noted that the University of Alberta will collaborate with fellow Comprehensive Academic and Research Intensive (CARI) institutions of Alberta in completing certain sections of the MOU and provided members with a governance timeline of a draft MOU presentation at the June 21, 2013 Board of Governors meeting, a first draft in July, and then discussion of the draft MOU at the September 16, 2013 GFC meeting, with an aim to submit a final document by the stated deadline of October 31, 2013. She emphasized that the MOU will be a condensed document. She reminded members to monitor the posts on the University's Colloquy blog for updates.
- On the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). She explained to Council that WUN is a group of 19 research-intensive universities which collaborate on global research topics. She reported that at the recent WUN meeting, members discussed ideas surrounding the Network's areas of focus: climate change, understanding cultures, higher education, and public health. She noted that food security was determined to be the next area of focus and that proposals would be prepared for consideration by several international funding agencies.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion I: Shirvani/Molzahn

**MOTION I: TO APPOINT/RE-APPOINT** [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:

The following undergraduate student representatives nominated by the Students' Union (SU) to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

Kelsey Mills	Faculty of Arts
Majd Mouzaffar	Faculty of Arts
Marina Banister	Faculty of Arts
Stephen Schiavone	Faculty of Arts
Rafael Valdez	School of Business
Ralph Mlynarski	School of Business
Andrew Vela	Faculty of Education
Averi Iwaniuk	Faculty of Education
Ranek Kiil	Faculty of Engineering

Patrick Cajina Cortez	Faculté Saint-Jean
Harold Pang	Faculty of Nursing
Rob Wright	Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Chloe Speakman	Faculty of Science
Cory Hodgson	Faculty of Science
Dawson Zeng	Faculty of Science
James Hwang	Faculty of Science
Jeffry Kochikuzhyil	Faculty of Science
Jimmy Kang	Faculty of Science
Matt Lee	Faculty of Science
Maxwell Douglas	Faculty of Science

The following graduate student members nominated by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

Erika Goble	Graduate Student at-Large
Gary Barron	Graduate Student at-Large
Isaac Odoom	Graduate Student at-Large
Jennifer McGetrick	Graduate Student at-Large
Karen Vera Lyn Turpin	Graduate Student at-Large
Karly Coleman	Graduate Student at-Large
Kirsta Reich	Graduate Student at-Large
Navjot Thind	Graduate Student at-Large
Patrick Reid	Graduate Student at-Large
Peng Shao	Graduate Student at-Large
Qiang Li	Graduate Student at-Large
Richard Zhao	Graduate Student at-Large
Roy Coulthard	Graduate Student at-Large
Sukhpreet Tamana	Graduate Student at-Large

**CARRIED**

Motion II: Shirvani/Chelen

**TO RECEIVE** [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:

The following *ex officio* members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2013 and extending for the duration of their appointments:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Gerald Beasley	Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected or re-elected by their Faculty to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016:

Lise Gotell	Faculty of Arts
Kathleen Lowrey	Faculty of Arts
Steve Patten	Faculty of Arts
Toni Samek	Faculty of Education
John M. Law	Faculty of Law
Chris de Gara	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (June 30, 2014)
Jonathan White	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Kim Solez	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Amy Tse	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

**CARRIED**

5. Merger of the Augustana Faculty's Department of Fine Arts and Department of Humanities

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Allen Berger, Dean, Augustana Faculty

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To create administrative efficiencies and reduced expenditures and help facilitate improved faculty communication and new collaborations in teaching and research.

*Discussion:*

Dean Berger explained to members that in an attempt to review administrative savings within Augustana Faculty, the proposal speaks to the merger of two small departments, resulting in three equally-sized departments within the Faculty. He reported that the proposal was approved by Augustana Faculty Council unanimously—this serves as a reflection of support from the departments. He drew members' attention to the corresponding letters of support for the proposal and noted that programs and courses would not be negatively impacted.

Motion: Amaral/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the proposed merger of Augustana Faculty's Department of Fine Arts and Department of Humanities into a single Department of Fine Arts and Humanities, as submitted by the Dean of Augustana Faculty and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2013.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **6. Academic Governance – Moving Forward**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

*Purpose of the Discussion:* For information.

*Discussion:*

President Samarasekera explained to members that she will be creating an arm's length GFC Task Force to review GFC and its Standing Committees, noting that the review will examine Terms of Reference for GFC and each GFC Standing Committee, compare them with the Terms of Reference and activities of other GFC Standing Committees, and ensure that there is a clear delineation between governance and administration. She stated that now is the time to ensure that processes at the University of Alberta are streamlined, effective, and strategic, and she added that GFC should be a forum in which substantive discussions and debates occur. She added that she hopes to decrease the level of repetition within the governance process, ensuring that members' time is utilized efficiently in an environment when there is a need to do more with fewer resources.

She reported that the GFC Task Force will be populated by two faculty members with expertise in governance as well as one graduate student representative who, similarly, has some expertise in this area. She stated that a report from the GFC Task Force will be presented to the GFC Executive Committee and to GFC in the Fall.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that it is beneficial to routinely review governance processes for efficiency; clarification on whether the University of Alberta has faculty members with an expertise in university governance; how the review aligns with "*Dare to Deliver*"; clarification of the scope of the review; that GFC is seen by some to be a "rubber stamp"; that the GFC Executive Committee retains a lot of power and is seen to be operating beyond GFC; concern that some GFC Standing Committees report to the Board of Governors and, seemingly, not GFC; that all GFC Standing Committees should report directly to GFC; that the material on this item, provided to members, did not contain information on the inclusion of the graduate student representative on the GFC Task Force; a suggestion to include an undergraduate student representative on the GFC Task Force; concern that the summer months would not be enough time to complete the review; and clarification about the cross-over between administrative issues and governance.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr Samarasekera noted she was amenable to this Task Force including an undergraduate student representative.

### **7. The Umbrella Committee (TUC) Report**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Discussion:* For information.

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that 'The Umbrella Committee (TUC) Report' represents the final report for TUC, adding that the Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG), under the direction of its Chair, Dr Erasmus Okine (who was in attendance at this meeting of GFC), will address any remaining topics not considered by TUC during the time in existence. He noted that all other matters are being considered by the Renaissance Committee (REN).

Members expressed several comments and questions in relation to this item, including, but not limited to: clarification with regard to the role of REN; and clarification about Central Administration's plan to address the issue of indirect costs of research.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **8. Budget Principles (and Update)**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Phyllis Clark, Vice President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Section 3(4)(a) of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Terms of Reference on budget matters states that GFC APC is to "recommend to GFC on budget principles." The budget principles as recommended by GFC APC at its meeting of May 22, 2013 are attached for GFC's consideration.

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained to members that in an effort to provide clear guidelines for the University of Alberta to direct future academy-wide changes, a set of budget principles had been drafted.

Members expressed a number of comments and questions in relation to the budget principles, including, but not limited to: a suggestion to include the words "publicly funded" within principle 1; clarification about the meaning of "demonstrable excellence"; a suggestion to amend punctuation within the document; that Central Administration may not be able to minimize job losses because certain losses will be directed and decided by individual Faculties; clarification about increasing international student enrolments but not the number of Canadian students; that Central Administration may have minimal control over increasing the number and quality of graduate students; clarification about how the costs of new initiatives will be weighed against the need to maintain existing programs and staff in the current financial climate; clarification about communicating with frequency and openness in relation to releasing each Faculty's budget letter publicly; whether Central Administration could release the budget letters to University of Alberta leaders "in confidence"; a suggestion to include an "unintended consequences" clause into the principles; a suggestion to include a principle that might address increasing workload and changing working conditions for existing staff; that there could be issues surrounding equity, as a large percentage of full professors are male; clarification about the details of determining Faculty-specific differential cuts; that the principles do not include information about process; clarification about what is being done to prepare for cuts in 2014-2015 and 2015-16; clarification about the future impact on tuition rates; and clarification about resource planning to ensure that international students maintain their health and wellness while at the University of Alberta.

Members discussed suggested revisions and the Mover and Seconder to the Motion before Council agreed to several 'friendly amendments' to the budget principles.

Motion: Belosevic/Ingles

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THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the budget principles that will guide the University in developing the strategies that will enable the institution to achieve a sustainable budget, as provided by the President's Executive Committee and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

10. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of March 4, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

11. Reports of the Board of Governors of March 15, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

12. E-Mail Report of the GFC Nominating Committee (April 2, April 23, and May 13, 2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

13. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee (April 26, 2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

15. Reports

There were no reports to date.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.