



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 03, 2014
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Indira Samarasekera	Chair, President, Statutory
Carl Amrhein	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Joanna Auger	Member, Academic Staff, Sessional Staff Representative
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Gary Barron	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Arts
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Ed Blackburn	Member, Acting Dean, Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Alice Bouchard	Member, Non-Academic Staff, Nominated by NASA
Norman Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Philip Bryden	Member, Dean, Law, Statutory
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Patrick Cajina Cortez	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Faculte Saint-Jean
Dustin Chelen	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic)
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Roy Coulthard	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Maxwell Douglas	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Raj Gupta	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robert Haennel	Member, Acting Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine, Statutory
James Hwang	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Kaori Kabata	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brent Kelly	Member, Board of Governors Representative, SU Appointee
Katherine Koch	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Greg Kondrak	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Petros Kusmu	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
William Lau	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, Vice-President (Student Life)
Robert Lederer	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Yongshen Ma	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jennifer McGetrick	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, School of Public Health
Kelsey Mills	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Yasser Mohamed	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by Grad Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic), GSA
Norma Nocente	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
O'Neil Outar	Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Ray Patterson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Wendy Duggleby (Delegate)	Member, Acting Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Krista Reich	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Medicine and Dentistry
Wayne Renke	Member, Board of Governors Representative, AASUA Appointee
Jeremy Richards	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Frank Robinson	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan Schaeffer	Member, Dean, Science, Statutory
Stephen Schiavone	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Mazi Shirvani	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Statutory
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Chloe Speakman	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kent Stobart	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sukhprett Tamana	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Navjot Thind	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pravin Wedage	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Engineering
David Whalen	Member, APO (AASUA) Representative
Richard Zhao	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science
<u>Presenter(s):</u>	
Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Ed Blackburn	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Garry Bodnar	Director of General Faculties Council (GFC) Services and Secretary to GFC
Dustin Chelen	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Lana Cuthbertson	Student Event Risk Management Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students
Deborah Eerkes	Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs
Robin Overall	Associate Dean of Students, Office of the Dean of Students (and Past Provost Fellow)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Senior Advisor to the President
Petros Kusmu	President, Students' Union

Steven Penney
Frank Robinson
Indira Samarasekera
Jay Spark

Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee
Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
President and Chair, General Faculties Council
Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resource Services)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Director of General Faculties Council (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.

Motion: Belosevic/Cormack

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of November 25, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Shirvani/Rodgers

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of November 25, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

President and Chair Dr Indira Samarasekera welcomed all to the 393rd meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and commented on:

- The return of Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr Carl Amrhein to the institution following his leave. Dr Amrhein was invited to address Council, and he congratulated members on moving the University of Alberta through a difficult year. He reported on the international trend of governments challenging post-secondary institutions on their continued existence, noting that this trend falls in line with some of the current challenges being faced by the University of Alberta. He stated that governments are increasingly expecting tight alignment between their priorities and those of the institutions which they support. He added that the lack of a federal minister of education as well as the absence of a national strategy on post-secondary education are not serving Canadians well. He reported that two current academy-wide priorities include drafting student competencies and preparing graduate students with skills for careers outside of higher education. Dr Samarasekera noted that more discussion is needed with regard to these topics to elicit appropriate institutional direction.
- An update regarding the recent activities of the President's GFC Task Force and acknowledgement of the Students' Union Discussion Paper regarding academic governance at the institution.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

There were no members at this time.

5. Proposed Student Groups Procedure (in UAPPOL) and Corresponding Rescission of Student Groups from the Code of Student Behaviour

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; Steven Penney, Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee; Deborah Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs; Lana Cuthbertson, Student Event Risk Management Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students

Purpose of the Proposal: This purpose of this proposal from the Offices of the Dean of Students and Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) is to make the administration of Student Groups more clear, to acknowledge the management of Student Groups as a purely administrative function, and to remove Student Groups from the Code of Student Behaviour and to provide a process for determining Student Group status or intervening in unacceptably risky Student Group Events or Activities. Any decisions regarding the conduct of the Group are assessed in relation to the status of that Student Group.

Discussion:

Professor Penney introduced this proposal by stating that its intention is to provide a proper administrative process for handling Student Groups at the University of Alberta, including the concurrent removal of such groups from the Code of Student Behaviour. He made note of the considerable effort that went into this proposal, including a substantial amount of consultation, and added that the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) had recommended the proposal unanimously at its meeting of November 28, 2013.

Dr Robinson reported, over the course of two years, that staff members working on this proposal consulted widely on the issues surrounding its implementation and that approximately 75 meetings had been held to gain proper perspective and feedback on the draft proposal. He stated that a series of changes were made to the draft proposal during the process of this consultation.

Ms Eerkes commented that, based on issues and difficulties in handling Student Groups under the current Code of Student Behavior, the changes set out in the proposal clarify decision-making processes in relation to such groups, something that the current Code of Student Behaviour does not contain; serve to streamline processes for Student Groups; clarify current practices; and address related risk management issues. She stated that, if approved, the Procedure would be reviewed in two years' time to ensure that it is appropriate and solvent.

During the discussion regarding this proposal, members provided various comments and questions, including, but not limited to: the perceived lack of practicality in expecting thorough reporting of all activities from the approximately 400 student groups at the University of Alberta; clarification about the types of activities which would require approval; clarification surrounding the approval process in relation to guest speakers presenting to groups of students; clarification surrounding the processing time for event approval; clarification surrounding the methods by which events could be submitted for approval and whether there are different categories of events; an expression of concern that this poses an administrative burden on and extra bureaucracy for groups; commentary that the wording of the procedure is perceived as not reflective of the approval process; a suggestion to revisit the issue in a few years to ensure that the language within the procedure is accurate; expression of concern with past approval situations and that an influx of events might hinder timely processing; concern that informal student events, by definition within the procedure, will now be considered formal student group functions; an expression of gratitude for the process of developing this procedure; and clarification on how events which were not previously approved will now be handled.

Motion: Amrhein/Cormack

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed Student Group Procedure (in UAPPOL), as set forth in Attachment 1, and the concurrent rescission of reference to 'Student Groups' from the Code of Student Behaviour, as set forth in Attachment 2, both as submitted by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA), to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Martin Ferguson-Pell, Senior Advisor to the President

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide GFC with an update about the progress made on the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative; to give GFC the opportunity to provide feedback on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College; and to discuss the broader theme of student leadership development.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera invited Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Amrhein to comment on the opportunity to develop a leadership program at the University of Alberta. Dr Amrhein reported that there is an extensive history regarding some of the ideas surrounding leadership-based education and that it is referenced in several institutional documents including *Dare to Deliver*. He stated there have been discussions in the past with the Students' Union (SU), the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), and certain Faculties about the possible implementation of leadership initiatives at the University of Alberta. He continued by noting that while other universities have developed leadership programs, it is a unique idea to create an academy-wide leadership program offered throughout all years. He commented that two of the big considerations in relation to developing this initiative include resources and the proper delivery of this type of programming. He added that while there are current plans within other Canadian post-secondary institutions to implement similar programs, the University of Alberta is a bit ahead of the conversation and that this exciting endeavor is being formulated carefully and with great deliberation.

Dr Ferguson-Pell, aided by a PowerPoint presentation, briefed members on highlights from current discussions surrounding the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, noting that those regarding the development of the programming are ongoing and that feedback from the community is still being sought in terms of final details. He addressed the issue of the underlying purpose of the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative; provided an explanation of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College; set out the vision of the College; commented on the attributes, skills, and competencies essential for leadership; noted the reasons for the theme of leadership and for the timing of the program; commented on why the University of Alberta is the place to offer this program; explained the student leadership competencies offered at the University of Arizona and the development of University of Alberta-specific competencies; and spoke to an organizational chart of the College.

During the extensive discussion surrounding this item, members expressed comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification on the costs associated with the College; whether the program will utilize current courses and teaching resources; a comment that the way in which leadership is being presented is intellectually vacuous and morally pernicious; clarification of the governance path for the College; clarification surrounding fundraising targets; whether former recipients of the Peter Lougheed

Scholarship will be included in the planning; that current teaching at the University of Alberta already prepares students to graduate with attributes and competencies; that the definition of leadership, in relation to this project, requires additional careful consideration; clarification about the relationship with the Banff Centre; that the values of the competencies associated with this initiative require articulation and that the focus should be on values which represent all of the campuses of the University of Alberta; an expression of disappointment with the iteration of competencies, as presented; reference to 'colleges' at other Canadian post-secondary institutions; concern that a separate leadership residence reinforces the type of leaders who are removed from their constituency; and that the theme of leadership needs to include the types of leaders who will challenge the *status quo*.

7. Fall Term Reading Week Proposal (Green and Gold Week)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Petros Kusmu, President, Students' Union; Dustin Chelen, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: To create a fall term reading week during which academic-, career- and community-based programming takes place to improve student mental wellness and academic success (also known as a Green and Gold Week).

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell introduced this item to members and thanked Mr Kusmu and his team at the Students' Union (SU) for the substantial amount of consultation and work that was undertaken as part of this project.

Mr Kusmu provided a brief summary of the Fall Term Reading Week to members, emphasizing that there was a real effort to collaborate extensively across the institution to gather the appropriate feedback in an attempt to accommodate all of the concerns raised about the proposal. He explained that, during this consultation, the proposal was fine-tuned, undergoing a series of changes as key stakeholders made suggestions throughout the process. He stated that implementation is targeted for Fall, 2015 and that this affords extra time to continue discussion on activities planned for the proposed week. He reported that the SU will continue to work with the Dean of Students to finalize the programming being planned for the proposed reading week and noted, specifically, that this week could offer special programs for international students.

Members provided a number of comments and questions in relation to this item, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding Faculties which may elect exclusion from participation in the Fall Term Reading Week; clarification about the timing of the break within the term; commendation to the members of the SU for their hard work and comprehensive consultation; that students are in support of this week; clarification on the next steps towards implementation of this proposal; that there has been considerable dialogue with Deans and with other Faculty representatives in relation to this proposal; clarification about the reasons why the week in which Remembrance Day falls was selected; clarification surrounding the approval route of the proposal; and clarification surrounding the status of the proposal once current SU executive members' terms end.

8. Change Agenda – Action Plan Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To update GFC and certain GFC standing committees on the Change Agenda approved by the Board of Governors in April, 2013, and the resultant Presidential Action Plan that was announced at the President's State of the University Address in September, 2013. The Change Agenda (which is outlined in the Action Plan) provides a number of goals that the Board has outlined for the President. In response, the President established an Action Plan, which consists of four objectives: Academic Transformation, Sustainable Financial Models, Efficient Administration and Culture Change. Each of the objectives has a number of goals associated with it that the President aims to have completed by July 1, 2015.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera briefly noted that the 'Change Agenda - Action Plan' was available for members to review and invited members to contact her with any questions or comments.

9. Review of the Recommendations in the Final Report of the Renaissance Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Senior Advisor to the President; Jay Spark, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resource Services)

Purpose of the Proposal: To update the GFC Executive Committee and General Faculties Council (GFC) on the University Administration's process for reviewing the recommendations contained in the revised final Report of the Renaissance Committee and to solicit the views of members on recommendations they believe are of strategic importance to the University.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that he is in the process of gathering input from the community regarding the recommendations of the Final Report of the Renaissance Committee. He stated that following this step, processes for discussing, prioritizing, and acting on the recommendations will be established.

10. Student Mental Health at the University of Alberta - Final Report of Provost Fellow Dr Robin Everall (Edmonton, Summer 2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; Robin Everall, Associate Dean of Students, Office of the Dean of Students (and Past Provost Fellow)

Purpose of the Proposal: Provide the final Report of the Provost's Fellow on Student Mental Health and Wellness for information/discussion. The Report advocates for changes within the University of Alberta and contains recommendations for improving the University's ability to support and advance the mental health and wellness of its students. More specifically, the Report advances a case for fundamentally changing the way the University approaches student mental health in the following ways: it is imperative that the University of Alberta demonstrates its ongoing commitment to student mental health and its importance as part of the core mission of the University; the University's programs and services need to be organized to be centred around the student, first and foremost; it follows that the impact will be felt in student retention, institutional reputation, *et cetera*; and that rather than solely a concern for health or student services, student mental health is an institutional responsibility.

Discussion:

Dr Everall reported that, in 2012, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Amrhein asked her to take on the role of reviewing student mental health endeavors and structures at the University of Alberta as well as practices at other institutions. She stated that during the course of her research, she discovered that the issue of student mental health is on the radar of nearly every post-secondary institution in North America and that to assume a dismissive stance to the issue would prove to be a mistake.

She explained that the 'Student Mental Health at the University of Alberta - Final Report' is meant to be a roadmap for future considerations and that all recommendations within it are equally important. She stated that many of the recommendations are already or close to being completed and that the academy has been responsive and has begun to make appropriate structural changes, such as moving services within Faculties so that students have easier access to them and the creation of a community social work team.

She emphasized that major challenges exist in terms of making the appropriate strides forward to address student mental health, including that there is no "one size fits all" solution and that there needs to be continued lobbying by Administration of the Provincial Government to ensure committed, sustained funding in support of this important issue.

Given time constraints, there was limited opportunity for questions or discussion. The Chair thanked Dr Everall for the important work she had undertaken in this arena and for the positive, constructive steps already taken by the Office of the Dean of Students and others to move the recommendations contained within the Report forward to the benefit of University of Alberta students. The Chair encouraged members to contact Dr Everall with any questions or thoughts they had on this important issue.

11. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

11.1Q Questions from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Undergraduate Student Experiences
and Curricula Development

11.1R and
Responses from President Indira Samarasekera to Questions Raised by Mr Chelen

11.2Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding eTextbook Availability and the
and Accessibility and Affordability of Textbooks and Course Materials

11.2R and
Response from Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian Gerald Beasley to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

11.3Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding a Proposed Student Residence
and (Leadership)

11.3R and
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

11.4Q Question from GFC Member Mr Richard Zhao Regarding Institutional Lobbying Strategies
and and

11.4R Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Zhao

Discussion:

Mr Chelen indicated that he would contact Dr Samarasekera in follow-up to her response regarding Item 11.3R.

During Question Period, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether the recommendations of the Final Report of the Renaissance Committee would be placed on the GFC Agenda for further discussion; clarification surrounding the official governance path for approval of the Fall Term Reading Week and, specifically, why GFC does not play a part in the approval; clarification of the approval route of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College and whether the academic components will be approved by GFC; and an expression of confusion surrounding how proposals work through the governance system.

Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that he would provide, in due course, more information to GFC with regard to approval processes concerning the academic components of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College as they became better known. Dr Samarasekera stated that University Governance would coordinate a response to the query regarding the approval process associated with the Fall Term Reading Week proposal.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of November 4 and December 2, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

13. Report of the Board of Governors of December 13, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Mike Belosevic, Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

14. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee (December 10 and December 17, 2013 and January 22, 2014)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Ed Blackburn, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

15. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There were no items.

Presenter: Garry Bodnar, Director of General Faculties Council (GFC) Services and Secretary to GFC

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

16. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

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

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

17. Reports

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

- University of Alberta Museums Annual Report to General Faculties Council (GFC) for the Period July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
- Waiver of Advertising Requirements: Report to General Faculties Council (2013)

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

18. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.