



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jason Acker
Chris Andersen
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Shannon Erichsen
Jelena Holovati
Gitta Kulczycki
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula

Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Matthias Ruth
Susan Sommerfeldt
Marc Waddingham (delegate)
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga

REGRETS:

Fahed Elian
Christopher Mackay
Samantha Tse

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Assistant
Secretary to GFC

OPENING SESSION**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Discussion:

The Chair noted that Item 5 would be deferred to the May 6, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Bhatnagar/Sommerfeldt

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda, as amended.
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CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)-EDI Update

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

Discussion:

The Chair asked Melissa Padfield, in her role as Chair of the Covid-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Subcommittee on Academic Impacts, to comment on some of the university's responses to the pandemic. Ms. Padfield highlighted points including, but not limited to:

- the move to a credit/no credit grading scheme for winter 2020;
- a transcript notation to explain the grading scheme;
- guidance for instructors to comment on student performance;
- the impact of the pandemic on the academic schedule and scenario planning for fall 2020;

The Chair acknowledged the work of the PHRT and its subcommittee to support the community during this difficult time.

During the ensuing discussion, members asked questions and expressed comments including, but not limited to:

- plans for increased support for instructors from the Centre for Teaching and Learning regarding online delivery;
- uncertainty in planning for fall 2020 especially regarding teaching staff who did not have assignments yet;
- the heightened pressures of budget cuts under a global pandemic;
- the future of online delivery once the pandemic is over;
- whether government will see increasing online delivery as a way to justify increased funding cuts in future;
- the increased workload for professors with online learning and the resulting negative effects on research output;
- projections for when non-essential research could re-start and whether minimum guaranteed funding models for graduate students could be extended;
- the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's work to support students who need leaves of absence or emergency funding support; and
- strategies to encourage instructors to evaluate the work they are doing and the support that they need.

The Chair noted that work was continuing on the addition of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) language to the Recruitment Policy and that it would be coming forward for approval when ready.

The Deputy Provost, Wendy Rodgers, noted that work on implementation of the EDI Strategic Plan was continuing as well.

The Chair also noted that he would keep APC informed on any academic restructuring plans as they arise.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Luhmann/Padfield

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 18, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of March 18, 2020.

CARRIED

4. Proposed New Combined Master of Business Administration/ Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program (MBA/MScOT), Faculty of Business, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the combined MBA/MScOT program, effective fall 2020.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new combined Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program (MBA/MScOT), as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2, to take effect for Fall 2020 admission, and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Name Change of the Master of Arts en Études canadiennes to the Master of Arts en Études interdisciplinaires canadiennes, Faculté Saint-Jean and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

The item was deferred.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Emergency Academic Governance Protocols - Decision Tracker Document

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC, Yimmie Sonuga, GFC Secretary

Discussion:

Ms. Sonuga gave an overview of the decision tracker document and noted that it would be updated as emergency academic governance decisions were made.

There were no questions.

7. Recommendations from GFC Executive's *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Executive's *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to close the loop and collect final feedback on consultations regarding proposed changes to program approval processes.

Discussion:

Dr. Hopper presented the results of the consultation and work to streamline the program approval process. She noted the distinction between program approval and program development and explained how the proposed structure would provide more administrative and consultative support during the development stage and a streamlined and clear governance focus for approval.

Members expressed general support of the proposal, noted that some adjustments may have to be made during the implementation of the changes, and asked for clarification of the different support and approval required for graduate and undergraduate programs.

8. Building Capacity in the Graduate Student Experience- Graduate Student Success- Excellence in the Graduate Student-Supervisor Relationship

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide an update on a suite of initiatives introduced by the office of the Vice-Provost and Dean (FGSR) in the fall of 2019 that, when operationalized, will lead to transformative changes to the graduate student experience at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Dr. Milne gave an overview of the changes and explained how they tied into the Institutional Strategic Plan, *For the Public Good*, and how clarity of expectations, roles, and obligations would benefit all of those involved. Dr Milne presented the pilot study parameters and noted that there had been a delay because of the Covid-19 pandemic but that the aim was to have everything ready for full implementation in winter 2021.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- the instances where Departments had a current system that they were using for this purpose;
- the challenges with meeting face-to-face in these extraordinary times;
- where the burden of reviewing these reports would fall;
- how the University of Alberta compares with other U15 institutions regarding graduate student satisfaction;
- whether the new system would be effective in dealing with "repeat offenders";
- how accountability would be enforced and whether Departments were willing to follow the regulations;
- how this system would increase accountability of both supervisors and students and was really formalizing existing regulations; and
- whether an increase in workload on supervisors related to graduate supervision would be detrimental to the supervisor-student relationship.

9. Budget Update (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC; Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Discussion:

The Chair noted that ministry approval of the university's budget was required and that there were restrictions imposed which meant that the use of carry forwards and revenue to off-set expenditures was not allowed. He noted that the expectations to reduce expenditures seemed incompatible with elements of the university's core mission and that the university had asked questions regarding these contradictions and was hoping for clarification to help work through their concerns.

A member asked a question about not being able to use carry forwards and the Chair confirmed that the university is not able to use those dollars to meet challenges caused by the budget cuts.

10. Question Period

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of APC

Discussion:

A member asked about the more than 1000 positions that were being lost at the university. The Chair responded that our inability to use carry forwards to pay severance costs resulted in this higher number of lay-offs. Ms Kulczycki confirmed that 235 positions could have been retained otherwise.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

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