



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Closed Session Minutes

Wednesday, September 09, 2020
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Chris Andersen
Walter Dixon
Shannon Erichsen
Gitta Kulczycki
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Susan Sommerfeldt

Kisha Supernant
Marc Waddingham
Sheena Wilson
Ding Xu
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Amlan Bose
Jelena Holovati

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

Guests:

Catherine Swindlehurst
Wendy Rodgers
Tammy Hopper
Kathleen Brough
Giovana Bianchi
Anne Bailey

CLOSED SESSION

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Academic Restructuring and Service Excellence Transformation Update

Materials before members are contained in the official closed meeting file.

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

Discussion:

The Chair presented the considerations taken into account by the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG) for the consolidation approach, including the decoupling of administrative functions from academic ones, and the reduction in the number of leaders taken from teaching duties to serve administrative functions. The Chair noted that ARWG's scenarios include the retention of the autonomy of the three small community-specific Faculties, that they will not include proposed nomenclature; and the importance of retaining academic synergy.

The Chair explained that the scenarios were informed by proposed organizational models that will decouple the administrative and academic functions in units. Different levels of administrative functioning are being considered with distinct roles associated with them. The models remain flexible but include considerations such as reporting structures, academic and administrative responsibilities and membership in Dean's Council.

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

- The complexity of separating administrative and academic functions and explaining these functions for governance decision-making
- The importance of emphasizing the mission, vision and purpose of restructuring in the proposal;

- Suggestions concerning the statistics presented as a part of the proposal and the need to clarify assumptions for calculations;
- A request that impacts on students be addressed in the proposal;
- The need for clarity on layers of academic structures including departments, and the impact on budget;
- The need for a clear narrative on the benefits of restructuring; and
- A request that information from the EDI consultations be addressed directly.

The Chair requested that the committee come out of Open Session at 4:07