



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Jelena Holovati
Sandeep Agrawal
Chris Andersen
Laura Beard (delegate)
Heather Bruce
Shannon Erichsen
Anas Fassih

Todd Gilchrist
Vadim Kravchinsky
Jacqueline Leighton
Runjuan Liu
Abner Monteiro
Melissa Padfield
Milan Regmi
non-voting:
Brad Hamdon

REGRETS:

Peter Berg
Kate Peters
Aminah Robinson Fayek
Sargun Sokhi
Yan Yuan

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged, "we are located on Treaty 6 territory. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community."

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)

Motion: Leighton/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair thanked everyone for making the time for this special meeting.

S Dew stepped out of the chair and J Holovati assumed the role.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Fall 2023 International Tuition Fee Proposal for Incoming Students

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion:

S Dew noted that the student consultation requirements set out in the Tuition Regulation Framework required that the University of Alberta Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association be consulted on tuition proposals. He further noted that he had scheduled two additional meetings to include the President of the International Students' Association as a result of the tabling of the motion on May 18, 2022. S Dew noted that he was committed to continuing to compare U15 benchmarks and student demand for programs, revisiting the consultation process for tuition proposals and following up with the Registrar regarding International Student Financial Aid. He spoke about monitoring inflation and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and taking a program-duration differentiated approach if CPI is expected to remain high for a longer duration. He explained that the program based tuition model required the university to assume inflation for future years and the increase was based on those assumptions over 4 years.

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

- a disagreement with the principle of basing the increase on inflation and an opinion that 6% was too high given the unusually high inflation rate right now;
- that predictable, program-based tuition was important but that predictability should not cost more;
- the methodology backing up the 6% increase;
- whether graduate funding packages would increase to reflect inflation and higher tuition rates;
- the impact on students in course-based programs where there was no funding package commitment;
- the \$4000 offset that was added to tuition and then discounted;
- the data table in the materials that showed that after the 6% increase, the UofA had lower tuition than many other U15 institutions; and
- the variable cost of living and desirable locations of institutions across the U15.

A member proposed to amend the proposal to include a 5% increase in tuition rather than a 6% increase.

S Dew noted that a 5% increase rather than a 6% increase would put the university at risk of being offside with the tuition regulations and balancing the budget. He explained that 6% was on the low end of an increase given current costs and inflation.

Members discussed striking the right balance between fiduciary responsibility under the tuition framework and making decisions in the best interest of students and how increasing the availability of financial supports for students would contribute to that balance.

A member asked what the 1% would look like on average across the programs. S Dew and Vice-Provost and Registrar Melissa Padfield replied that it would be a difference of \$200 - \$400 per student per year and \$1 Million in tuition revenue for the university.

The motion to amend the proposal was defeated.

Motion: Bruce/Dew

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee take the Fall 2023 International Tuition Fee Proposal for Incoming Students from the table.
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CARRIED

Motion: Monterio/Fassih

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee amend the attachment in the proposed motion to a 5% increase.
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DEFEATED

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs, as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect for the Fall 2023 intakes.

CARRIED

4 opposed (S Agrawal, A Fassih, A Monteiro, M Regmi)

CLOSING SESSION

4. Adjournment

-Next meeting of GFC: June 6, 2022

-Next meeting of APC: June 22, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.