

General Faculties Council
Council on Students Affairs (COSA)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Verna Yiu (Chair)
Helen Vallianatos
Adrian Wattamaniuk
Bishoi Aziz
Dhir Bid
Daniela Carbajal
Roger Epp
Keith King
Adrian Wattamaniuk

Tuesday Young
Lionel Liu
Precious Majekodunmi
Abner Monteiro
Jennifer Passey
Norma Rodenburg
Srivathsan Shanmuganathan
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Brad Hamdon
Ariane Lamoureux
Chantel Akinneah
Pien Steinbusch
Subrat Sharma
Abdual Abassi

Staff
Faiza Billo

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people, for the University for Tomorrow.

1 Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, COSA

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the agenda.

CARRIED

The Chair asked members to introduce themselves in a round table.

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 3, 2022

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, COSA

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Council on Student Affairs approve the open session minutes of November 3, 2022.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, COSA

Discussion: The Chair shared the following updates:

- Free vaccinations are available on campus;
- Additional university operating funding has been provided to enhance student Mental Health Supports;
- Dr Andy Knight has been named the inaugural Provost Fellow in Black Excellence and Leadership; and
- The First Peoples' House Annual Round Dance taking place on January 28, 2023.

Members asked questions and made comments including:

- The significant demand for mental health supports among graduate students and which supports would be strengthened;
- The need for mental health supports to avoid structural ableist perspectives;
- An increased demand in medications for Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD);
- The need to streamline and consolidate different student support services to increase access; and
- How communication and awareness can be built in throughout the student experience, for example through eClass, and that students need to see this information to normalise the need for mental health resources;

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Tuition Proposal

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost, Office of the Provost

Discussion: M Padfield summarized the consultation process and the role of the Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC). She noted there was still time to offer feedback and shape proposals and pointed to changes to eliminate the instalment fees made in response to advice from student leaders. She provided a high level overview of the proposal which includes the proposal for Fall 2023 Domestic Tuition; the Fall 2023 International tuition for students; and the Fall 2024 International Cohort Based proposal.

Students asked questions and made comments including:

- The challenges facing students;
- How the extension period of one year would be implemented for course-based and thesis-based graduate students;
- A request to advocate for change to the government-imposed model for guaranteed tuition for a duration of four years to support students who finish earlier;
- Whether the tuition offsets were confirmed and that students are looking for additional funding for financial aid in the forthcoming proposals;
- That the University should reconsider tuition offsets in their budget planning process;
- Impacts of the 50% increase in tuition over the past four years an observation that reporting on exceptional tuition increases could be more robust;
- That the increased consultation was appreciated and that students will continue to advocate to keep this top of mind;

- Whether consultation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments had taken place as requested in the November 3, 2022 meeting of COSA and that the consultation with these Nations was critical in resetting the relationship between the University and First Peoples;
- That consultation with the International Students' Association (ISA) should be required as part of the consultation process;
- A response that consultation with the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) and the Graduates Students Association, the representative student associations for the University, remains the primary mechanism for consultation and that any agreements around consultation need to happen between the ISA, the UASU and the GSA;
- That increasing tuition is in conflict with the University's values and that the offset is insufficient to mitigate the impact on access for students;
- Whether the moderate standard of living set by the Government and the one set by the University could be revisited given that they fall below the federal standard of living and the provincial Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) rate;
- That students may go beyond that expected time to completion through no fault of their own and that there may be barriers in the program itself which can lead to delays; and
- The rates for international PhD fees in comparator institutions is at parity with domestic tuition and that the University is an outlier in having alternate fees for international PhD students.

5. Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost, Office of the Provost

Discussion: M Padfield presented the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) proposals and the framework for proposed changes. She noted that over time, students had agreed to three MNIFs - Athletics and Recreation; Health and Wellness; and Academic Support. She explained that in consultation with students, the off-campus fee category was proposed to be removed, and that revenue increases resulting from the elimination would be offset by a reduced fee increase. She explained how this change would impact the three fees. V Yiu noted that the Joint Tuition committee had asked that the proposal be brought to COSA and that the approval would come through APC who would recommend it to the Board of Governors.

Members discussed:

- The costs born by students and how students in different situations may not access services equitably (for example in co-ops);
- That the fees are not "user fees" but "access fees" and that the underlying principle is to support common access for all students in the community equitably.
- Whether student needs are being met, especially through online resources, and whether the increase will support service quality enhancement; and
- The salaries of recreation support staff.

6. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy, Revised Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Associate Dean of Students (Acting), Dean of Students; Provost Fellow, Experiential and Work-Integrated Learning

Discussion: V Yiu noted that the proposal would be coming to GFC for consultation on January 30th and the important role that COSA had played in developing the proposed questions over the years. K Mündel provided updates based on feedback from COSA including access to student data.

Members discussed students using the data to inform their course choices and asked whether results would be available from the mid-term evaluations. They explained the value both to students enrolled in the course and to the broader student community. Members discussed the possibility that instructors could use the feedback to improve the course over the semester, especially to make improvements related to course content and delivery.

A member asked why there was no question about the fairness of student assessment of learning and the perception in some programs that evaluation is not aligned with learning outcomes. Members discussed the option of adding additional questions.

7. Draft Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Discussion: J Causgrove Dunn noted that the proposed framework had been through a process of consultation that included students. She presented the findings of an environmental scan and pointed members to design principles to ensure that certificates are as accessible as possible and strategically aligned with institutional priorities. She explained how the Framework emphasizes the value of student demand in guiding development of certificates. She pointed to the proposed change removing the awarding of certificates at convocation. The Chair requested that members present their feedback on the presentation by email to the GFC Secretary.

8. Update on the Student Accessibility Action Plan and the new COuncil on Structural Ableism (no documents)

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost; Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion); Allen Ball, Provost Fellow (Student Accessibility and Implementation Lead); Ravina Sanghera, Associate Dean, Student Services

Discussion: V Yiu thanked COSA for their feedback at the September meeting and informed the committee that a new position had been created to support equity, diversity, and inclusivity in the University. M Padfield provided context for the project, which builds on the Accessibility Report. A Ball explained that the first meeting of a group looking at student accessibility had concluded that the scope could be broadened to include structural ableism. The Council on Systemic Ableism has been established to ensure that disability advocacy is not left to work in a silo. The Council will take robust intersectional focus looking at structural ableism with working groups focusing on different initiatives. The proponents emphasized that building a council is a step to ensuring that this work is more visible on campus and R Sanghera noted that the approach to the work will be attentive to structural ableism.

Members expressed support for the approach and the holistic approach being adopted. The Chair offered to bring the terms of reference back to COSA at a future meeting.

9. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2022-2023

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Office of the Registrar

Discussion: N Rodenburg presented the report beginning with the enrolment policy framework and the cycle of enrolment. She noted this was the 10th report which allows for longitudinal analysis of student enrolment. She spoke to the impacts of COVID, especially delays in the Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) permit processing.

Participants discussed the data and noted that it speaks to sex, not gender and asked if in the future, the report could provide more analysis on the impact on student identity on progression. Members suggested triangulating with data drawn from SPOT surveys related to the student experience in the classroom. They noted the experience

of Indigenous students who report frequent experiences of racism. The work of the Indigenous recruitment in the Office of the Registrar was described in relation to the report. Members asked about the possibility of exploring how inclusivity in recruitment practices could be applied to how the University welcomes non-binary students. Participants asked how this report ties to a broader phenomenon of decreasing graduate enrolment and members observed that student completion rates have increased and asked how the University was interpreting that data.

10. Student Updates (no documents)

Students reported difficulties recruiting students to take on volunteer opportunities. V Yiu committed to taking away the issue to think about what the institution can do to reduce barriers to participation. The SU offered to circulate a report to members of COSA with data on what students are looking for in volunteer opportunities.

11. Question Period

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Chair, COSA

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- University of Alberta Mail - Presentations at COSA
 - Building for Purpose
 - SFS Annual Report

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next meeting of COSA: March 30, 2023
- Next meeting of GFC: January 30, 2023