



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 04, 2013
3-07 SAB, South Academic Building
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell (Delegate)	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Colleen Skidmore (Delegate)	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Anna Vocioni (Delegate)	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Dustin Chelen	Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Colin More (Delegate)	Graduate Student Association Vice-President (Academic)
Ed Blackburn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Lise Gotell	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Norma Nocente	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Anita Molzahn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Kaori Kabata	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Adam Woods	Undergraduate Student, Member of GFC

Presenter(s):

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Lise Gotell	Chair, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
Joanna Harrington	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Director, 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: Rodgers/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 9, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Molzahn/Skidmore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of January 9, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

Dr Ferguson-Pell commented on a number of issues of interest to members.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Timing of the Public Availability of a Thesis: Proposed Change to Section 96.1.5 of the GFC Policy Manual

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Joanna Harrington, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, with the support of its Council, wishes to propose a change to the timing of the release of a thesis for public availability, currently governed by Section 96.1.5 in the "Research Policies" section of the GFC Policy Manual.

Discussion:

Dr Harrington explained that existing policy within the GFC Policy Manual relating to the public availability of a thesis once defended requires minor revision to allow time for students to make any necessary changes to their theses. She drew members' attention to Attachment 1 and the proposed changes in the wording. The proposal contains revisions to allow for public availability as soon as possible after a student's convocation, as opposed to immediately following successful defense.

A member expressed support of the proposal, noting that the current wording makes adherence impossible.

Dr Harrington expressed her thanks to Dr Skidmore for her assistance with this proposal.

Motion: Rodgers/Blackburn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposed revision to the Research Policies section of the GFC Policy Manual, specifically Section 96.1.5 (Withholding of Thesis), as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (and as set forth in Attachment 1), to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Arts Proposed New Course Designator – Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) to Replace Women’s Studies (W ST)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lise Gotell, Chair, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

Purpose of the Proposal: Change the names of our undergraduate degree programs from Bachelor of Arts (BA) (Honors) in Women’s Studies to BA (Honors) in Women’s and Gender Studies and from BA Major/Minor in Women’s Studies to BA Major/Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies (in Section 44.33 of the Calendar). Change the existing course subject name from “Women’s Studies” to “Women’s and Gender Studies” and course prefix from W ST to WGS (in Section 321.269 of the Calendar).

Discussion:

Dr Gotell explained that the proposal reflects changes to program names and course designators within the University Calendar to provide for consistency with the new name of the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies.

There were no questions or comments.

Motion: Woods/Rodgers

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new course designator of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS), as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, effective Fall Term, 2013.

CARRIED

6. Draft Agenda for the March 18, 2013 Meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the Agenda for the March 18, 2013 GFC meeting.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that, as the Committee meets again on March 4, 2013, the draft Agenda for General Faculties Council (GFC) will be reviewed and approved at that time. He added that the report on Graduate Studies at the University of Alberta, as well as the The Umbrella Committee (TUC) Report, will be available. He stated that, following a discussion with Dr Samarasekera, there may be thematic agendas at future GFC meetings. Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that a possible theme might be based on the issue of “international”.

Mr Bodnar asked if Mr Chelen could provide members with an update on the Students’ Union’s (SU’s) Fall Reading Week proposal. Mr Chelen replied that the proposal is in the consultation process but that the SU’s intention is to present it at the next GFC meeting for approval.

Mr Bodnar added that there are items working through institutional governance at the present time that will be included on the draft Agenda for the next GFC meeting, as well.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.