



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 09, 2013  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Ex-Officio Chair, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Brent Epperson	Ex-Officio Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Renee Elio	Ex-Officio Member, Vice-President (Research)
Petros Kusmu	Ex-Officio Member, President of the Students' Union
Phyllis Clark	Ex-Officio Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Alexander Schlacht	Elected Member, Graduate Student-at-Large
D. Douglas Miller	Elected Member, Dean Representative, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
John Law	Elected Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Keith McKinnon	Elected Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Lise Gotell	Elected Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Elected Member, Academic Staff-at-large, Cross-Representative from GFC FDC
Wendy Rodgers	Elected Member, Academic staff elected by and from GFC

#### Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member, Faculty Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

#### Presenter(s):

Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Murray Gray	Vice-Provost (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research)

#### Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee  
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: Kline/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 11, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Law/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of September 11, 2013.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC), Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic): 2012-2013 Annual Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Murray Gray, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide the 2012-2013 Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) Annual Report for information to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC), in compliance with University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) procedure.

*Discussion:*

Dr Gray stated that the Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) 2012-2013 Annual Report was prepared in consultation with all Deans and contains a summary of relevant actions from the past year, including those centres and institutes that have undergone a five-year strategic review and renewal, are in the process of termination or have been terminated, have been reclassified, and/or have been renamed or transferred. He also updated members on the status of the affiliated centres and institutes as well as revisions to the UAPPOL procedures that relate to centres and Institutes. He noted that affiliated centres and institutes require careful and recurring reporting due to the financial relationship that exists between these entities and the University of Alberta.

During the discussing regarding this report, members expressed a number of comments and questions including, but not limited to: clarification about financial control of centres and institutes; whether a central form or template exists regarding the financial control of centres and institutes; that specifics regarding risks to the University of Alberta in relation to centres and institutes needs to be better communicated; clarification about leadership of the centres and institutes; and whether or not overseeing Deans and the leadership of centres and institutes collaboratively manage financial matters within these units.

5. Update on the University of Alberta Budget

There were no documents.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC APC; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Discussion:*

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that, in response to increased interest in viewing each Faculty's 2013-2014 budget, a composite spreadsheet containing this information will be made available sometime during the week of October 14, 2013. He urged members to consider the information carefully, as this is the first time that Central Administration has provided data on each Faculty budget, and he cautioned members against making blind comparisons of this data. He noted that the document contains a few general footnotes, but that, otherwise, the spreadsheet is not a lengthy document. He added that repeating this project in future years will depend on how the community responds to its presentation this year.

In relation to the 2014-2015 budget, Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that due to the lack of concrete funding information at this point, basic budget letters for 2014-2015 will be forwarded to Deans the week of October 14, 2013, adding that more specific letters will be drafted and distributed once more information is available between now and February, 2014. He noted that another composite spreadsheet for the 2014-2015 budget of each Faculty will be prepared and distributed once the details of the institutional budget are confirmed. He noted that despite the recent reports within local media about the possibility of receiving from the Provincial Government resources for increased enrolment, nothing has been substantiated or confirmed.

Members expressed several comments and questions in relation to this update, including, but not limited to: concern that Faculty and Department decisions regarding graduate programs will be made based on the current, unclear funding situation, resulting in harmful changes to the recruitment of graduate students and existing opportunities for graduate students; a suggestion for Deans to create secondary plans in the event that additional funding is received; that there is a need to track and plan carefully around funding advocacy for existing graduate students; that budget cuts impact Faculties differently; that the budget cuts negatively impact undergraduate students and programs; that undergraduate teaching plans have been negatively impacted by the budget cuts; a query whether members of GFC APC will receive the 2014-2015 Faculty budget letters for review; a request for an update regarding Senior Administration-level advocacy efforts with the Provincial Government; a request for an update regarding the cancellation of the Provincial Government financial review of the University of Alberta; and a question in relation to the impact of a possible Cabinet shuffle.

6. Question Period

A member enquired about the role of GFC APC in relation to the development of the Leadership Initiative.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

7. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.