



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Chair, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Brent Epperson	Member, President of the Graduate Students' Association
Lise Gotell	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Member, Academic Staff-at-large, Cross-Representative from FDC
Petros Kusmu	Member, President of the Students' Union
John Law	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Larry Prochner	Member, Department Chair-at-large
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Academic Staff Elected By and from GFC
Alexander Schlacht	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large

Non-Voting Members:

Ed Blackburn	Member, Faculty Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Bill Connor	Member, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction)

Presenter(s):

Ed Blackburn	Acting Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
James Kehrer	Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

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/Clark

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Prochner/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of December 11, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

The Acting Chair commented on a number of relevant issues to members.

Mr Kusmu was invited to introduce student colleagues attending as observers as part of the Students' Union Job Shadow Program.

During the discussion surrounding comments made by the Acting Chair, members expressed the following comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that cross-institutional comparisons with regard to individual academic units, especially smaller Faculties, do not reflect the true uniqueness of those Faculties at the University of Alberta; support for the idea of a project aimed at professional development for graduate students; support for the development of a model for graduate student funding; a suggestion to further explore partnerships with industry to create more employment opportunities for University graduates; and that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) would be interested in discussing the possibility of a graduate residence as part of the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed Conversion of the Clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) Degree to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: James Kehrer, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: To convert clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degrees to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees for eligible graduates of the MPharm program.

Discussion:

Dr Kehrer provided members with a brief summary of the proposal to convert MPharm degrees to PharmD degrees, noting that there are approximately a dozen individuals eligible for the conversion and that, in his opinion, only four to five will apply. He added that even though it may seem an unusual circumstance, PharmD is an increasingly well-recognized professional degree within North America, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences wanted to honour a prior commitment made to the clinical MPharm graduates that, if and when the Faculty offered a PharmD, it would be prepared to convert their previously-conferred degrees accordingly.

Members, during the discussion surrounding this proposal, expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification about the existence of a national pharmacy examination prior to licensure; clarification about the process of handling double parchments; clarification surrounding notations of the conversion on the students' official transcripts; whether eligible individuals will be contacted to apply; and whether there is a time limit attached to the conversion 'offer'.

Motion: Kline/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to convert clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degrees to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees, as set forth in the attached proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to be effective upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Summary of the Presidential Academic Review and Renewal Committee's Review of Faculté Saint-Jean

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic); Ed Blackburn, Acting Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), following the procedures set out in the Presidential Academic Review and Renewal Committee, Faculté Saint-Jean, Procedures and Guidelines, reports to GFC APC and the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) for their information and discussion. These reviews are to evaluate quality and productivity of academic programs and research in realizing the aims of the University. Recommendations received from the Presidential Academic Review and Renewal Committee will be considered and operationalized as possible, thus ensuring quality sustainability and enhancement.

Discussion:

Dr Skidmore thanked members of Faculté Saint-Jean for their cooperation during the Presidential Academic Review and noted that the manner in which academic units reviews were conducted had been revamped recently, along with a change of name around the review process. She also explained that, as part of this new model, the review committee composition had been expanded. She stated that the Committee members were deeply engaged in the process and had agreed to come together again in two years time to consider the progress made at the Faculté.

Dr Blackburn reported that the amended composition of the Committee was beneficial and that the review resulted in a very useful summary of Faculté Saint-Jean's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. He noted that the self-study was completed quickly and that attaining comparable data from similar institutions within the Canadian U15 group had been difficult, given Faculté Saint-Jean's uniqueness. He noted that most of the recommendations within the Summary have already been handled.

Dr Skidmore provided members with a brief outline of 'next steps' following this review.

During the extensive discussion surrounding this review, members expressed numerous comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is pleased with the report and that Faculté Saint-Jean is a valuable, unique part of the University of Alberta; that the lack of data from comparable institutions reflects the true uniqueness and value of Faculté Saint-Jean; a suggestion for the inclusion of a graduate student on the current Decanal Selection Committee for Faculté Saint-Jean; that a move of Faculté Saint-Jean to North Campus would not be prudent; clarification surrounding the recommendation related to strengthening relationships with the Francophone community; that students have expressed the need for more resources at Faculté Saint-Jean; clarification that a "pre-

law stream” does not exist; clarification surrounding the expanded scope of the review related to Faculté Saint-Jean’s education programs; clarification surrounding the relationship between the recommendation to foster more student-initiated research at Faculté Saint-Jean and the extra teaching loads on current faculty members; that there might be additional opportunities for collaborative research based on the unique needs of the Francophone community; clarification about the recommendation suggesting that certain areas of Faculté Saint-Jean be fully externally funded; and clarification surrounding cross-affiliation, as suggested within the Committee’s report.

6. Budget Update

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Ms Clark provided members with the governance timeline for consideration and approval of the 2014 University of Alberta Budget and Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP). She added that she continues to work on planning in anticipation of the Provincial budget announcement in early March, 2014. She reported that the budget objectives will reflect decisions made by the President, Vice-Presidents, and Deans at the Deans’ Retreat held in the Summer of 2013, which suggested a focus on sustainability and addressing the structural deficit. She stated that the budget is being built on the assumption of a 0% institutional grant increase.

She noted that changes have been made to the budget reporting structure vis à vis the Provincial Government and that the previous method, that is, to report by object, has been changed to report by function, which poses some difficulty.

Ms Clark commented that planning surrounding the allocation of the in-year funding of \$14.4 million provided late last year by the Provincial Government has been underway and that the funding could be used towards graduate assistantship funding, seed funding for Faculties, and support of digital learning and information technology initiatives. She stated that more details surrounding these priorities will be forthcoming.

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that, as part of the focus on Faculty-generated revenue as a means to mitigate the budget cuts, a model for this type of reinvestment has been constructed and, although it is still considered high level, it has been discussed with the Provincial Government. He explained that this model is based on an existing one utilized elsewhere within the North American post-secondary educational context.

During the discussion surrounding this topic, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether this information could be provided in writing; clarification on how anything above 0% in the Provincial grant might be used within the budget; whether the in-year funding will be used to assist Faculties with revenue-generating plans; an expression of strong opposition to the practice of disclosing employee salaries within the so-called ‘Sunshine List’ published by the Provincial Government and commentary that the institution should inform employees of this plan, its impact on wage inflations, and clarification of how such disclosure played itself out in the Province of Ontario; and whether the in-year funding will directly benefit students.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning 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 Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.