



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Robert Bilak
Katy Campbell
Shannon Erichsen
Gitta Kulczycki
Susanne Luhmann
Christopher Mackay
Pirkko Markula

Roger Moore
Melissa Padfield
Matthias Ruth
Susan Sommerfeldt
Sasha van der Klein

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Reed Larsen

Jerine Pegg
Ding Xu

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary
Marion Haggarty-France, University
Secretary
Heather Richholt, scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: van der Klein/Luhmann

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 13, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Moore/Campbell

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of March 13, 2019.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair mentioned the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition that occurred the previous evening and noted that it was a great event with many impressive presentations.

The Chair discussed the upcoming provincial election and noted that this was the first time that the university has fallen under election period restrictions. Members asked about political discussions; the Chair noted that the restrictions related to use of university resources and referred members to the Vice-President University Relations for specific questions.

The Chair noted that the President indicated that he would complete his appointment in June 2020 and not seek a second term. He also noted the recent reappointment of Pierre-Yves Mocquais as the Dean of Faculté Saint-Jean, and the appointment of Brooke Milne as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

The Chair commented on the Federal budget which was announced on March 19th and discussed funding for the graduate scholarship program, international education, work integrated learning, stem cell and space research, Indigenous learning initiatives, cyber security, and lifelong learning.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference-GFC Academic Planning Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to approve the revised terms of reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee.

The Chair noted that the terms of reference had been discussed at GFC and members had questioned whether the name of the committee should include 'research' as academic affairs would be considered to include research.

Discussion:

Members discussed the academic implications of the areas of responsibility. The chair thanked the small working group of APC that worked through many of the recommendations.

Motion: van der Klein/Moore

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2019.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for substantive revisions to the curriculum of the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) thesis-based program in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Toni Samek, Chair, School of Library and Information Studies; Ali Shiri, Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator, School of Library and Information Studies; Victoria Ruetalo, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because the School of Library and Information Studies wants to reduce the course-load for the thesis-based MLIS program by *9 in elective courses, reducing the total course-load from *39 to *30 plus submission of a thesis.

The presenters indicated that APC had approved the reduction of course load in the course based Masters in Library Science (MLIS) in December 2018 and that the current proposal would reduce the course load of the thesis based MLIS in an equivalent manner. They noted support from stakeholders and the accrediting body as well as alignment with other programs across the country.

Discussion:

Members expressed several comments and questions, including but not limited to: the benefits of a reduced course load; financial and time commitment related barriers; the fact that MLIS students are primarily (90%) a female identified cohort; professional development within the program and the capping exercise; flexible experiential learning including volunteer and work experience opportunities; the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's requirements and exemptions for professional development; the credit weight equivalent of a thesis; and how the selection of electives is determined in consultation with a student's supervisor.

Motion: Campbell/van der Klein

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for revisions to the curriculum of the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) thesis-based program in the School of Library and Information Studies, as proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2019 (to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar).

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Budget Update (no documents)

Presenter(s): Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

The Chair noted the uncertainty regarding provincial funding because of the upcoming election and noted that the budget planning cycle would resume in the summer.

Discussion:

In response to a question regarding the new budget model, Ms Kulczycki noted that administration would meet with the Deans to discuss Faculty budgets and the figures would come back to APC in the fall.

7. Report from APC cross-representative on Facilities Development Committee (FDC) (no documents)

Presenter(s): Christopher Mackay, APC cross representative on FDC

Discussion:

Dr Mackay updated the committee on the recent FDC approval of the Dentistry Pharmacy Building Core and Shell Schematic Design Report which included selective demolition of all but the original 1922 building. He noted the design for construction and plans to restore the original building. Dr Mackay also mentioned the consultations regarding the 89 Avenue multi-modal students' boulevard and the Diwan and Entry Pavilions at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.

Members discussed timelines for the demolition and construction and asked how the brick from the demolished sections would be disposed of.

8. Question Period

A member asked about the governance approval route for the new budget model.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by e-mail Ballots

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.