



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Chair
Sandeep Agrawal
Chris Andersen
Laura Beard (delegate)
Chris Beasley
Heather Bruce
Shannon Erichsen
Anas Fassih
Todd Gilchrist

Jelena Holovati
Vadim Kravchinsky
Jacqueline Leighton
Runjuan Liu
Melissa Padfield
Sanhita Pal
Yan Yuan
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Rowan Ley
Brad Hamdon

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Assistant
Secretary to GFC

OPENING SESSION

Before opening the meeting the Chair read the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion: The Chair noted that a closed session would be held at the end of the open session meeting for the approval of the closed minutes from September 22 and that these minutes would be made available as soon as the information was public. The Chair further noted that while use of Closed Sessions is rare for GFC Standing Committees, in this case it will help to ensure that APC has the information it needs to make some important decisions on academic planning in the coming months.

Motion: Andersen/Leighton

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion: The Chair noted the Exceptional Tuition Increase proposal approved by APC on October 6 had since been approved by the Board and would now be submitted to the Ministry for approval by mid-December. The

Chair also acknowledged the University continues to respond to evolving health regulation and recognized the cooperation and collaboration in the University to keep everyone safe. In addition, the Chair noted that the Killam Laureates had recently been celebrated at the University recognizing excellence in both faculty and student scholarship.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Gilchrist

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 22 & October 6, 2021

Discussion: Members asked for a correction to the minutes present and asked if it would be appropriate to amend minutes to reflect information that received since the meeting. The Chair noted that the minutes should reflect discussions at APC on September 22.

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of September 22 and October 6, 2021.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Emily Ball, Director, Community Relations, University Relations; Ben Louie; University Architect, Office of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend the university's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) by removing Sector 14, located on South Campus.

Discussion: The Proponents provided information on the consultation process to amend the long range development plan to remove Sector 14 and plans for transfer to the University of Alberta Property Trust Inc (UAPT). The Committee was asked to approve that consultation had been conducted as set out in the LRDP and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA).

Members, proponents, and the Chair discussed:

- The importance of agricultural research and teaching to the University, and plans to accommodate the needs of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science (ALES);
- The background on the process to change the University's LRDP, the advocacy efforts of the Faculty of ALES to retain access to Sector 14, and potential alternatives for the Faculty of ALES research and teaching;
- The purpose of consultation and the documentation of concerns of faculty and community members that will be included in the final package provided to the Board and the Ministry and used to inform future development plans;
- The accessibility of South Campus for Faculty and students and the use of Sector 14 to support the research and teaching on South Campus;
- Questions about plans to compensate the Faculty of ALES for their loss and for the impact on teaching and research and the history of Sector 14 including its purchase by the University in the 1930s and 1941;

- Future approvals for development by the UAPTI including sub-divisions of the land, revenues in comparator institutions, and that it was not possible at this point to anticipate lease income for the developed lands.

Motion: Padfield/Erichsen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from GFC, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the removal of South Campus – Sector 14 (Section 6.3) from the Long Range Development Plan 2002.

CARRIED
2 opposed (H Bruce, Y Yuan)

Dr Dew stepped out of the chair and Dr Holovati assumed the role.

5. Proposed Non-Credit International Support Fee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar, Office of the Registrar; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the establishment of a Non-Credit International Support Fee (NCISF) and to approve the fee proposal for the 2021-2022 academic year that is indexed to the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) Health and Wellness Fee.

Discussion: Ms Padfield explained that the University is a designated learning institution as set out in the Government of Alberta Designation Requirements (ADR). A recent change now requires that the University provide international students obtaining a study permit for non-credit offerings to be provided with certain services. APC is asked to approve the creation of a new fee that will cover the cost of these services. The approval of the new Non-Credit International Support Fee (NCISF) is set at the same rate as the Student Health & Wellness MNIF.

Members raised questions and received answers about the proposal, including:

- If there was error in the motion in the referral to an attachment and how to correct as a friendly amendment;
- Whether the Student's Union and the Graduate Student's Association represented non-credit international students and the difference between this new fee and the MNIF;
- How non-credit programs requiring a study permit are defined by the ADR, including a program duration of greater than six months, or of less than six months but requiring an internship, practicum or work component;
- How many students may be accessing this fee and whether the funds would be sufficient to support the needs of students;
- The role of different university units in providing these supports for international students; and
- The eligibility of other international students to access these services and the requirements for programs to be accepted by the ADR.

Motion as amended: Dew/Andersen

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a new Non-Credit International Support Fee (NCISF), with fees to be indexed to the Health and Wellness Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee currently set at \$63.80, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

Dr Dew stepped back into the role as chair and thanked Dr Holovati.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to determine readiness for early consultation at the GFC meeting of October 20, 2021.

Discussion: The Chair welcomed Dr Glanfield and noted the responsibility of APC over Indigenous Policies. She introduced the commitment to Indigenous Initiatives, especially in light of the Truth and Reconciliation, Commission Calls to Action and noted the convergence between the long history of teaching and research in this area and the opportunity to advance work during a critical time in the history of Indigenous relations.

Dr Glanfield invited members as leaders in the University to participate in developing and implementing a long-term vision for the University that will consider the next "seven generations". As leaders in the institution, Dr Glanfield encouraged members to be learners and to be humble in that learning, especially in the University's work on Reconciliation. The Chair thanked both Dr Glanfield and her colleague Nella Sajlovic for their work on the document.

Members asked questions and discussed the proposed content including:

- The history of work on an Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan and the comprehensive nature of the document to present;
- Accountability mechanisms in the plan and the intention to ensure that there are annual reporting mechanisms as well as an implementation plan;
- The role of university leaders to support accountability and the is a collective responsibility to ensure the plan is implemented;
- The role of faculty members and instructors who want to make respectful contributions to achieving the objectives of the plan in their classrooms;
- The need to resource each of the portfolios to achieve their objectives and to put in place tactics within individual unit strategic plans to equip individual stakeholders in each unit;
- That the plan represents an effective blueprint for moving forward institutional strategies and the need for alignment between the overarching goals set out in the IISP and each unit's work;
- Whether there was a determined pathway for involvement of the Office of the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) at different levels of the University and the need for broader integration of the IISP into university processes; and
- The important role of the Centre for Teaching and Learning to implement the plan and the establishment of dedicated staff members to support this work.

The Chair thanked Dr Glanfield and her team once more for their work and noted the item would be on the GFC agenda on Monday.

7. Budget Update - standing item (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: Mr Gilchrist noted that they are working towards the anticipated cuts for the next fiscal year in the annual budget. He explained there are also anticipated changes to the Strategic Management Agreements including the likelihood of additional performance indicators.

Members asked questions on deconsolidation including the anticipated timelines and the possibility of accessing flex funds. Mr Gilchrist reminded members that to enact these changes would require legislative changes and expressed hope that it would be reasonable to anticipate that this would come forward for the next budget cycle. He also explained that changes to legislation may also include changes to government controls over the University such as the appointment of Board members and potentially, on the University's ability to run a deficit. If these changes were made, the University could make its own decisions about its budget within the constraints of accounting policies approved by the Board. Mr Gilchrist noted that the 2020 annual report included an estimate that the total unrestricted assets at the end of March 2021 was \$212 million in flex funds.

8. Question Period

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

Discussion: Members asked questions and received answers to the following:

- Whether the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) will find sufficient savings to meet their Service Excellence Transformation (SET) targets, and about the model developed to facilitate decision-making. Mr Gilchrist clarified that FoMD presents a level of complexity that makes it difficult to move quickly through the SET restructuring process and that preliminary work included investigating the complex funding arrangements and functioning of the Faculty. The Provost added that there was a systematic and detailed work through of all of the positions in the faculty and that there was a common understanding of their impact within the SET program. Though this is not a "model", it would potentially fit the description articulated in the question.
- What "Campus Ready" meant, and in particular, whether masking would continue to be required once everyone was vaccinated on Campus. The Provost explained that the University is following public health regulation and that currently, where physical distancing is not possible, masking is required. Members further inquired whether there was a possibility of an exemption program noting the challenges of getting to know students in large classes. The Provost noted that the University works to comply with health and safety requirements and to balance decisions with those constraints and with what works best for the most people on Campus.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of APC: November 3, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 25, 2021

The Chair adjourned the open session meeting at 3:50 p.m. and the Committee moved into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

10. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of September 22, 2021

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

Motion: Padfield/Leighton

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the closed session minutes of September 22, 2021.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Update - Growth Strategy (no documents)

The Chair reminded members of the materials shared in closed session format and reiterated his request for feedback from members to inform the plan. Members asked questions about the level of their involvement and how they should provide feedback. The Chair noted APC's feedback on the high level strokes of the plan would be appreciated.

The Chair adjourned the closed session portion of the meeting at 4:00 p.m.