

General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee (APC)  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Verna Yiu (Chair)  
Heather Bruce (Vice Chair)  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Zengtao Chen  
Christian Fotang  
Tammy Hopper  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Adrian Lam

Heather Seyl Miyashita  
Aminah Robinson Fayek  
Norma Rodenburg  
Chris Sprysak

Non-Voting Members:  
Kate Peters

Regrets  
Bishoi Aziz  
Chetan Dave  
Todd Gilchrist  
John Lemieux  
Ola Mabrouk

Staff  
Carley Roth

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

The Chair welcomed members and observers.

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the Academic Planning Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 6, 2024

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the Academic Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of March 6, 2024.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

*Discussion:* V Yiu provided comments including:

- An update on international enrolment;
- The forthcoming approval of revisions to the Terms of Reference for APC; and
- Thanks for the service of the departing students, A Lam; O Mabrouk, C Fotang and B Aziz.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 4. College Model Update (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (Vice-Provost and College Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences); Brenda Hemmelgarn (Vice-Provost and College Dean, College of Health Sciences); and Marvin Washington (Vice-Provost and College Dean, College of Social Sciences and Humanities)

*Discussion:* The Chair reminded members of their responsibility over establishment of academic units and about the College Review in 2023. M Kalcounis-Rueppell and B Hemmelgarn presented an overview of the current initiatives and future plans for the colleges.

Members asked questions and made comments regarding:

- The Colleges' role in managing space, especially research space, and plans for the coming year;
- A caution that centralised space decision-making can have both immediate and longer term implications and a comment that autonomy in decision-making at the department level is beneficial;
- The work of the Space Optimization Strategy committee and the value of balancing autonomy and finding efficiencies;
- A comment that there have been numerous benefits within the Research and Innovation portfolio and the example of increased applications for research funding and the increased collaboration.
- The downward trend in funding individual researchers and the need to quickly mobilize researchers to put together proposals for interdisciplinary projects;
- An opinion that the College Model is working well to support graduate education especially by fostering connections between faculties and individual researchers;
- A suggestion that numerical measures on how the Colleges are supporting initiatives across the university could be valuable and that a committee might support development of those metrics;
- That an annual report on College implementation could be valuable;
- Appreciation for the example of the mobilization to respond to the Humanities shut-down that was profiled in the College Corner article and a request for other examples;
- Confusion around language used to describe common spaces and student spaces; and
- How metrics that articulate the value of the college model might be articulated and the importance of measuring the right things.

The Chair noted the value of bringing the Space Optimization Strategy conversation to APC.

### 5. Centres and Institutes Annual Report

*Presenter(s):* Andre McDonald, Associate Vice President (Strategic Research Initiatives and Performance)

*Discussion:* A McDonald introduced J Bell, the lead for Centres and Institutes in the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation). He noted the role of the Centres and Institutes Committee as well as the governance process to approve new academic centres. He reminded members about the recent report from a Task Force on Centres and Institutes and the intention to ensure that centres are supporting the One University Strategy. He provided an overview of the content of the report and A Robinson-Fayek committed to bringing an update on the implementation of the Task Force Report to APC.

Members discussed:

- The structure for the Centres and Institutes Committee and the Task Force recommendation to reconstitute the Committee with guidelines for membership categories;
- That Colleges can now create centres and institutes and these units can support strategic directions of the university and a comment that, moving forward, there may be impact on core facilities;
- Whether centres and institutes can offer microcredentials in the future to generate revenue to support their long-term stability;
- That there are examples of well-established centres that currently lie within faculties that may be leveraged to support the University's strategic directions; and
- That the budget model clearly outlines financing of centres sitting within the faculties.

6. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC

*Discussion:* Members asked questions about:

- The numbers for the potential increase in international enrolment at the undergraduate level;
- How the redistribution of the international students may impact the University;
- What provinces had received additional numbers of students and the rationale for moving students around;
- The efforts by the President and Vice-President (External Relations) to advocate for maintenance or increasing the allocation of attestations;
- How the application and yield rate can help to inform who is being offered an attestation and the risk of students not accepting their offers; and
- How the advocacy efforts have supported the higher approval rate for attestations than other U15.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

7. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings:
- March 20 Meeting Cancellation and Consultation on APC Terms of Reference

**CLOSING SESSION**

8. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of APC: May 1, 2024
  - Next Meeting of GFC: April 29, 2024