



The following Motion and Document were considered by the GFC Academic Planning Committee at its September 11, 2013 meeting:

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Agenda Title: **Letter of Expectation 2013 (University of Alberta Section)**

CARRIED MOTION: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation (LOE) 2013 (to be provided to the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), as submitted by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (University Relations)), as amended, to take effect upon signing by the Minister of EAE and the Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of Alberta.

Final Amended Recommended Item: 5.

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**OUTLINE OF ISSUE**

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**Motion:** THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation (LOE) 2013 (to be provided to the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), as submitted by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (University Relations)), as amended, to take effect upon signing by the Minister of EAE and the Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of Alberta.

**Item**

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| Action Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information |
| Proposed by      | Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Office of the Vice-President (University Relations)  |
| Presenters       | Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations)  |
| Subject          | University of Alberta Letter of Expectation   |

**Details**

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| Responsibility                                      | Vice-President (University Relations)  |
| The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific) | To review and provide advice on the draft University of Alberta section of the Letter of Expectation with Enterprise and Advanced Education.   |
| The Impact of the Proposal is                       | This section, along with the Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions (CARI) section, the Campus Alberta section and the Government of Alberta section, will form the Letter of Expectation (LOE) between the University of Alberta and the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE). |
| Replaces/Revises (eg, policies, resolutions)        | N/A  |
| Timeline/Implementation Date                        | Upon signing by the Minister of EAE and the Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of Alberta.   |
| Estimated Cost                                      | N/A  |
| Sources of Funding                                  | N/A  |
| Notes   | N/A  |

**Alignment/Compliance**

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| Alignment with Guiding Documents   | University of Alberta <i>Mandate</i>   |
| Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please quote legislation and include identifying section numbers) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)</b> Section 60 (1)(a) states: "The board of a public post-secondary institution shall manage and operate the public post-secondary institution in accordance with its mandate."</li> <li>2. <b>PSLA</b> Section 80 states: "The board must submit to the Minister any reports or other information required by the Minister."</li> <li>3. <b>PSLA</b> Section 26(1) states: "Subject to the authority of the board, a general faculties council is responsible for the academic affairs of the university and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing has the authority to<br/>[...]<br/>(o) make recommendations to the board with respect to affiliation</li> </ol> |

with other institutions, academic planning, campus planning, a building program, the budget [...] and any other matters considered by the general faculties council to be of interest to the university [...] [...]"

**4. GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Terms of Reference:**

**"3. Mandate of the Committee**

The Academic Planning Committee (APC) is GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues. As such, it is not only responsible to GFC (or the Board) for the specific matters itemized below, but may also ask to consider or recommend to GFC on any academic issue, including 1) those issues under the purview of other GFC committees, 2) any academic issue related to restructuring, 3) any research-related issue, or 4) issues linked to academic service units where those issues have a significant academic impact. In like manner, the President, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) or other Vice-Presidents may refer any matter to APC for consideration or recommendation to GFC. APC is also responsible to GFC for promoting an optimal learning environment for students and excellence in teaching, research, and graduate studies. (GFC 29 SEP 2003) APC is responsible for making recommendations to GFC and/or to the Board of Governors concerning policy matters and action matters with respect to the following:

**1. Planning and Priorities**

To recommend to GFC and/or the Board of Governors on planning and priorities with respect to the University's longer term academic, financial, and facilities development. (GFC 29 SEP 2003) [...]"

**5. Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) Terms of Reference:**

**"3. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE**

Except as provided in paragraph 4 hereof and in the Board's General Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee shall, in accordance with the Committee's responsibilities with powers granted under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, monitor, evaluate, advise and make decisions on behalf of the Board with respect to matters concerning the teaching and research affairs of the University, including proposals coming from the administration and from General Faculties Council (the "GFC"), and shall consider future educational expectations and challenges to be faced by the University. The Committee shall also include any other matter delegated to the Committee by the Board.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing the Committee shall: [...]"

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|  | <p>g. undertake studies and review academic matters that pertain to the quality of the educational experience at the University;<br/>[...]</p> <p>k. consider future educational expectations and challenges to be faced by the University;</p> <p>m. review recommendations of GFC Academic Planning Committee concerning the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) and/or a similar document as required, and make recommendations to the Board in respect thereof;</p> <p>n. review and recommend to the Board any annual reports and any other major issues within the mandate of the committee[.] [...]</p> <p>The Committee shall review, evaluate, and provide information and recommendations to the Board where the Board is making decisions in areas generally related to areas of responsibility of the Committee.</p> <p>[...]"</p> |
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**Routing (Include meeting dates)**

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| Consultative Route<br>(parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity) | University of Alberta Community ( <i>via</i> Colloquy, Ideascale);<br>President's Executive Committee (PEC)-Strategic (August 29, 2013);<br>Deans' Council (September 4 and 18, 2013)   |
| Approval Route (Governance)<br>(including meeting dates)                        | GFC Academic Planning Committee (for recommendation) - September 11, 2013;<br>General Faculties Council (for recommendation) - September 16, 2013;<br>Board Learning and Discovery Committee (for recommendation) - September 30, 2013;<br>Board of Governors (final approval) - October 18, 2013 |
| Final Approver  | Board of Governors  |

Attachments (each to be numbered 1 - <>)

- Attachment 1 (pages 1 – 3) – Letter of Expectation (LOE)/University of Alberta Section

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## **Institutional Level Outcomes**

Created by the University Act, 1906 of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, the University of Alberta is a board-governed, publicly-funded university that operates as a Comprehensive, Academic and Research Institution under the authority of Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act. The U of A is responsible for fulfilling its mandate, mission, and vision as set out in its approved Mandate Statement and Mandate and Roles Document (to be reviewed on an annual basis and amended as required in collaboration with the Minister and in compliance with the Post-Secondary Learning Act).

The Government and the U of A share a commitment to ensuring high-quality post-secondary education that fosters collaboration and innovation to build a strong economy and a diverse society, with a high quality of life and citizens engaged in the political, social and cultural life of the province, country, and world. To that end, the Government of Alberta acknowledges that a free and open academy is a vital safeguard for a democratic society, and thus respects principles of academic freedom and administrative autonomy essential to the ability of the university to fully realize its mission and mandate. The University and the Government agree that a free and open academy is a vital safeguard for a democratic society.

The University and Government work in partnership to provide education for Albertans that includes a broad range of perspectives in an open, thought-provoking environment, and to ensure that research and the application of new knowledge flourish in Alberta. The government understands and supports the University's responsibility for leadership in research and education at provincial, national, and international levels.

The University of Alberta's fundamental mandate is to advance knowledge and to offer a broad range of outstanding learning and research programs that prepare citizens and leaders who will make a difference and fuel a continuous flow of discovery and innovation.

Providing provincial, national, and global leadership in a knowledge driven economy and society, the U of A:

- Attracts scholars of international reputation (undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, staff and faculty) to foster, conduct and disseminate research and creative activity, both pure and applied, within and across all major program areas at an internationally recognized level of excellence.
- Engages in nationally and internationally recognized teaching, and in research and creative activity that produces qualified graduates as well as advances in knowledge, social and technological innovation, and public policy.

- Transfers new knowledge and creative activity to Alberta, Canada and the world for the public good, through various means including, where appropriate and feasible, the commercialization of intellectual property.
- Collaborates with other Campus Alberta institutions, government, industry, and the non-profit and cultural sectors to sustain a knowledge-driven economy, enhance the public good, and create societal benefits.
- Elevates the province's national and global profile by building top-level international partnerships and by transferring made-in-Alberta ideas and innovation to the global community and marketplace.

In a dynamic, integrated, and sustainable learning and research environment, the University of Alberta:

- Provides access to comprehensive, diverse, competitive, innovative, and high-quality learning opportunities that result in internationally respected credentials, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, university certificates and diplomas.
- Ensures this access to a broad and diverse demographic of undergraduate and graduate students, including international and interprovincial students and those from rural, Aboriginal, francophone, and other underserved communities in Alberta.
- Offers, develops, and renews programming that prepares students for global citizenship and employment in local, national, and international organizations, businesses, institutions, and industries; meets the demands of students with various interests and aspirations; and responds and is relevant to social and economic shifts in society.
- Creates, in partnership with Campus Alberta institutions, laddering opportunities from high school to post-secondary study to lifelong learning and professional development.
- Strives to attain and maintain student-to-professor and undergraduate-to-graduate student ratios comparable to provincial, national, and international peer research-intensive, medical-doctoral public institutions.

The U of A provides undergraduate and graduate learning experiences that are distinguished by:

- A balanced, interdisciplinary academy, with excellent arts and sciences programs that are foundational to and interconnected with excellent professional faculties.
- Student choice in pursuing degrees in programs and disciplines relevant to their talents, interests, and professional aspirations.
- Participation in original, ground-breaking research, scholarship, discovery, and creative activity that creates new knowledge, drives innovation and invention, and addresses global challenges.

- Mentorship from excellent faculty instructors and researchers who are acknowledged leaders and inspired mentors in their research fields.
- Opportunities for international experience through study abroad, internships, and work experience.
- A rich co-curricular slate of programs, clubs, activities, etc. which is largely student-driven and thus is a genuine reflection of diverse student communities, interests, passions, and activities.
- Innovative curricular and co-curricular programming that inspires, fosters and supports student leadership, entrepreneurship, and global citizenship.
- A comprehensive range of student services to ensure that students are fully supported from admission through to convocation and are able to successfully achieve desired academic outcomes.

### **University of Alberta Governance**

- Practice effective, autonomous governance that is authorized by the Post-Secondary Learning Act, Public Agencies Governance Framework, the Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (APAGA), and the approved Mandate and Roles Document.
- Provide ongoing professional development and training of board members.
- Continue to comply with government expense disclosure policies.
- Maintain and continue to identify strategies for student participation in governance.