



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 10, 2012
L1-490, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee (Delegate)
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic) (Delegate)
Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Dustin Chelen	Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Nathan Andrews	Graduate Student Association Vice-President (Academic)
Ed Blackburn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Norma Nocente	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Lise Gotell	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Chris de Gara	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Duncan Saunders	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Kaori Kabata	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Adam Woods	Undergraduate Student, Member of GFC

Presenter(s):

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee
Katy Campbell	Dean, Faculty of Extension
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Margaret Law	International Relations, University Libraries
Lory Laing	Interim Dean, School of Public Health
Heather McRae	Associate Dean (Engaged Learning), Faculty of Extension
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Emily Paulsen	Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Acting Chair stated that Item 9 (Green and Gold Week Proposal) was withdrawn from this agenda at the request of the proposers.

Motion: Woods/Skidmore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda, as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 4, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Chelen/Andrews

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of June 4, 2012.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

4. Orientation and Kick-off

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide new and continuing members of the GFC Executive Committee with an (annual) orientation to the legislative and administrative frameworks in which this standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) will operate during the Academic Year 2012-2013.

Discussion:

Ms Haggarty-France welcomed members to the new academic year and provided a general overview of the orientation process undertaken by University Governance. She reminded members that University Hall is now vacant and that many institutional academic governance activities will now be held in the South Academic Building (SAB) with Council Chamber, used for meetings of General Faculties Council, relocated to this meeting's venue in Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ie, Room L1-490, ECHA).

ACTION ITEMS

5. Faculty of Extension's Proposed New Course Designation of Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Katy Campbell, Dean, Faculty of Extension; Heather McRae, Associate Dean (Engaged Learning), Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: To introduce a new course designation, MACE (Master of Arts in Community Engagement). The Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research approved a proposal (May 16, 2012) from the Faculty of Extension to offer a new graduate degree, Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE). In proposing this new graduate program, the Faculty of Extension is responding to the need to study the engagement process, outcomes and impacts. It is anticipated that the impact of the proposed program will be positive:

- It will complement a range of offerings in which community engagement occurs by adding a reflective scholarly approach to the study of engagement;
- Results of work in the area will contribute to the emerging body of knowledge in the scholarship of engagement;
- Consultations with the broader community support the implementation of this program of study that will "... allow community and academics to work together to create a win-win situation" (Director, NGO), "... help deal with issues and provide support" (Director, NGO), "... this is a necessary issue as we talk about complex issues" (School district Representative),
- It will expand the elective choices related to the field of community engagement for students in graduate programs throughout Campus Alberta.

The introduction of the new course designator MACE is proposed. This is consistent with the course designation for the Master of Arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) which was established in the Faculty of Extension in 2000.

Discussion:

Dr Campbell provided a brief rationale for the proposed introduction of the MACE course designation, noting that it was designed to support the recently-approved MACE degree program in a manner similar to the way in which the MACT course designation was tied to its corresponding Master's program.

Members commented on how the naming of the course will affect navigation in the University Calendar and the complications of what is meant by "community."

Motion: Gotell/DeGara

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new course designation of MACE (Master of Arts in Community Engagement), as submitted by the Faculty of Extension, to take effect Winter Term, 2013.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Amendments to the Composition of the Selection/Review Committee for Librarian to the University

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Margaret Law, International Relations, University Libraries

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend UAPPOL Composition of Dean Selection and Review Committees for Individual Faculties (Appendix A), Librarian to the University, of the UAPPOL Selection of Faculty Deans

Procedure, updating categories as follows:

- Update the position title from that listed in Appendix A, Librarian to the University, to reflect the current position title, Chief Librarian;
- Update the Chair of the Committee to be the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) or designee and the Vice-Chair to be the Vice-President (Research) or designee;
- Update the name of the GFC Library Committee to reflect the new committee name with responsibility for this portfolio, this being the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE);
- Update the representation of Library Council members to include one from each of the Library ranks;
- Update the academic staff members elected by GFC to represent each of the Tri-Council granting agencies areas;
- Update the designation of the support staff representative to be from Categories S1.1 or S1.2 instead of the earlier designation of Category B1.0. Update, as well, that the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) will direct the election process of the support staff representative instead of the Vice-President (Research);
- Add two Committee members who are Deans where one is to be from a SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) area and one is to be from an NSERC/CIHR (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council/Canadian Institutes of Health Research) area; and
- Add one Committee member who will be a Director from the Bookstore, Museums and Collections, or University Press.

Discussion:

Ms Law explained to members that the changes recommended for the composition of the Selection/Review Committee for the Librarian to the University would provide comparability to Deans' selection and review processes. She noted the proposed amendments were taken to Library Council where they were unanimously accepted.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenter addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to the following: the complexity of the position of the Chief Librarian as s/he, unlike a Faculty Dean, serves the entire University community; the logistical challenges that could be faced by University Governance in replenishing the academic staff positions on this selection/review committee, as elected by GFC to represent each of the Tri-Council granting agencies areas; and the need to engage the Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee in the process of replenishing this particular committee.

Motion: Skidmore/Blackburn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, acting under delegated authority from the Board of Governors and the General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the composition of the Selection and Review Committee for the Librarian to the University, as submitted by the Office of the Provost and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Amendments to the Composition of the Dean Selection/Review Committee for the School of Public Health

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Lory Laing, Interim Dean, School of Public Health

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend UAPPOL Composition of Dean Selection and Review Committees for

Individual Faculties (Appendix A), School of Public Health, of the UAPPOL Selection of Faculty Deans Procedure, updating categories as follows:

- Update representation of full-time continuing faculty members from two to four;
- Update the student representation to reflect both students being named by the sole student organization instead of the earlier structure of two student organizations;
- Update the listing of professional organizations to reflect changes resulting from reorganization and name changes:
 - Related to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the representative will now come from Alberta Ministry of Health,
 - Related to Alberta Health Services (Public Health Division), the representative will now come from Alberta Health Services;
 - Update the designation of the support staff representative to be from Categories S1.1 or S1.2 instead of the earlier designation of Category B1.0.

Discussion:

Dr Laing provided a brief rationale for the proposed changes to the composition of the Dean Selection/Review Committee for the School of Public Health, noting that membership increased from 14 to 16 individuals.

There were no questions.

Motion: Kendal/Saunders

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, acting under delegated authority from the Board of Governors and the General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the composition of the Selection and Review Committee for the Dean of the School of Public Health, as submitted by the Office of the Provost and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

8. Draft Agenda for the October 1, 2012 Meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To consider the order of items on the draft Agenda for the General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting of October 1, 2012 and, upon doing so, approve the Agenda in its final form.

Discussion:

Mr Bodnar explained that President Samarasekera would be unable to attend the October 1, 2012 meeting of GFC; therefore, Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell would be Acting Chair on this occasion. It was determined that, during discussion on those agenda items in which Dr Ferguson-Pell has some significant involvement, he would step out of the chair and ask a senior administrative colleague serving on GFC to take on the role of Acting Chair.

Motion: Kabata/Chelen

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the draft Agenda, for the October 1, 2012 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC).

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. The Umbrella Committee – Update

There were no documents.

Presenters: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To update members of the GFC Executive Committee on the status of The Umbrella Committee (TUC).

Discussion:

Dr Skidmore explained to members that, over the summer, one of the three subcommittees of TUC had looked at the possibility of a teaching-intensive stream at the University of Alberta. She noted that the Renaissance Committee is due to meet in November, 2012 at which time they will be called upon to ratify their priorities; TUC, in turn, will determine if there are other priorities that warrant attention.

Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that the University wishes to continue the momentum that TUC has generated, possibly creating a TUC 2. He encouraged members to continue to submit ideas for consideration.

10. Question Period

After a question from a member regarding the procedure for deciding whether a Dean's selection would be an open or closed process, Dr Skidmore explained that while open processes are usually preferred, some selections are sensitive enough that, upon consultation with the current Dean and with the relevant Faculty Council, the Provost may make the decision to have a closed selection process.

Upon a request from a member, Dr Ferguson-Pell provided a detailed outline of recent events that concern changes made to rules around alcohol consumption at Lister Hall Residence. He noted that over a number of years, concerns had been raised about alcohol-related incidents that had occurred at Lister Hall. Recent disturbing events were brought to the attention of the Vice-Provosts' Group (also known as the Vice-Provost's Meeting) and, upon hearing these, the Senior Administration deemed this to be an urgent matter as it posed health and safety risks for students and for the employees of Residence Services. Alcohol consumption rules were changed, along with how Floor Coordinators (now called Residence Assistants) were deployed. The Students' Union (SU) and the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA) were concerned that the changes did not result from adequate student consultation. Discussions between the two sides continue.

The Acting Chair noted that the impact of the closure of the Iranian Consulate is being monitored closely to ensure University of Alberta students affected by this closure were supported appropriately.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Cancellation of the August 27, 2012 Meeting of the GFC Executive Committee (and Confirmation of the September 10, 2012 GFC Executive Committee Meeting) [E-Mailed to Members on July 6, 2012]

Approved Motions and Final Documents from the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee (UASC) (E-Mail Vote of June 14, 2012) [E-Mailed to Members on July 5, 2012]

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.

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