



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 28, 2012
2-1, UHALL, Council Chamber
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Amrhein, Carl	Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council
Adolphson, Mikael	Faculty of Arts
Amaral, J. Nelson	Science
Auger, Joanna	Sessional Staff
Beckie, Mary (delegate)	Dean, Extension
Berger, Allen	Dean, Augustana
Blackburn, Ed	Faculté Saint-Jean
Campenot, Robert	AASUA Appointee to the Board of Governors
Chelen, Dustin	Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Clark, Brenda	Medicine and Dentistry
Clark, Phyllis	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Coulthard, Roy	Graduate Student at-Large
Danko, Maggie	Nursing
DeGara, Chris	Medicine and Dentistry
Eccles, Russell	Nominated by NASA
Frishkopf, Michael	Arts
Goble, Erika	Graduate Student at-Large
Gordon, Ann	Arts
Gray, Murray	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Harde, Roxanne	Augustana
Harrington, Joanna	Law
Harris, Steven	Arts
Hetman, Tracy	Administrative Professional Officer
Hickey, Don	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Ingles, Ernie	Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies
Jensen, Louise	Nursing
Johnston, Lindsay	Library Academic Staff
Joseph, Sam	Arts
Kehrer, James	Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kelly, Brent	Students' Union (SU) Appointee
Kendal, Gerry	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kennelly, John	Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Kermoal, Nathalie	Interim Dean, Native Studies
Kersch, Terry	St Joseph's College Representative

Kochikuzhyi, Jeffrey	Science
Kumar, Chandan	Graduate Student at-Large
Law, John (delegate)	Dean, Law
Lemire, Bernard	Medicine and Dentistry
Luth, Bob	Science
MacLaren, Ian	President of AASUA
Martelle, Tanya	NASA Appointee
Martial, Hazel	Native Studies
McCutcheon, Andrew	Nursing
McGetrick, Jennifer	Graduate Student at-Large
Meston, John	Graduate Student at-Large
Mitra, Sushanta	Engineering
Molzahn, Anita	Dean, Nursing
Nikbakhtan, Babak	Graduate Student at-Large
Odoom, Isaac	Graduate Student at-Large
Outar, O'Neil	Chief Advancement Officer
Rathbone, Andy	Graduate Student at-Large
Richards, Jeremy	Science
Rinaldi, Christina	Education
Robinson, Frank	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Ruth, San	Arts
Salvado, Carla Maria Craveiro	Graduate Student at-Large
Saunders, Duncan	Public Health
Snart, Fern	Dean, Education
Sturdy, Christopher	Science
Sumar, Saadiq	Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students
Tse, Amy	Medicine and Dentistry
Willows, Noreen	Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Woods, Adam	Arts
Yacyshyn, Elaine	Medicine and Dentistry
Zielinski, Michal	Graduate Student at-Large

Presenter(s):

Amrhein, Carl	Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council
Berger, Allen	Dean, Augustana Faculty
Blackburn, Ed	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Bodnar, Garry	Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee
Cheeseman, Chris	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)
Clark, Phyllis	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Connor, Bill	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Francescutti, Louis	Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors
Law, John	Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law
Leskiw, Brenda	Senior Associate Dean (Student Services), Faculty of Science (and Vice- Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)
Spark, Jay	Vice-Provost (Faculty Relations)

Staff:

Bodnar, Garry Secretary to General Faculties Council
Haggarty-France, Marion University Secretary
Paulsen, Emily Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Dr Amrhein, as Acting Chair, extended to members President Samarasekera's regrets for this meeting of GFC.

Further, the Acting Chair explained to members that the item regarding establishment of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies (in the Faculty of Arts) was withdrawn from the agenda because the Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts both were unable to attend today's Council meeting and not because of any negative implications concerning the item.

Motion: Molzahn/Hetman

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda, as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 19, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kennelly/Snart

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of March 19, 2012.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

Dr Amrhein made note of several appointments at the University of Alberta including Dr Jonathan Schaeffer as the new Dean of the Faculty of Science and the new interim directors, Dr Geoffrey Rockwell (Kule Institute for Advanced Study) and Dr Michael O'Driscoll (Alberta Institute for American Studies).

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Carl Amrhein, Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council; Provost and Vice-President (Academic); and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

The Secretary to GFC asked that an amendment be made to the Motion to Receive (Motion II) to include Professor Blackburn's name with a term beginning July 1st of this year and ending June 30, 2015.

Motion I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT (Molzahn/Kennelly)

The following undergraduate student members to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013:

Ann Gordon	Faculty of Arts
Sam Joseph	Faculty of Arts
Kelsey Mills	Faculty of Arts
San Ruth	Faculty of Arts
Adam Woods	Faculty of Arts
Naomi Finseth	Augustana Faculty
Birkley Doll	Faculty of Business
Charles Dobranowski	Faculty of Business
Sarjenka Kuryliw	Faculty of Education
Lyndon Crone	Faculty of Engineering
Hazel Martial	Faculty of Native Studies
Maggie Danko	Faculty of Nursing
Andrew McCutcheon	Faculty of Nursing
Chris Chen	Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Jeffry Kochikuzhyil	Faculty of Science
Finbarr Timbers	Faculty of Science

The following graduate student members to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013:

Roy Coulthard	GS-Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Marianne Clark	GS-Physical Education and Recreation
Carla Maria Craveiro Salvado	GS-Medical Microbiology and Immunology
Erika Goble	GS-Secondary Education
Todd Kristensen	GS-Anthropology
Chandan Kumar	GS-Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jennifer McGetrick	GS-Public Health
John Meston	GS-Educational Policy Studies
Babak Nikbakhtan	GS-Civil and Environmental Engineering
Anna Nilson	GS-Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science
Isaac Odoom	GS-Political Science
Andy Rathbone	GS-Educational Policy Studies
Karen Turpin	GS-Public Health
Michael Zielinski	GS-Chemical and Materials Engineering and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

The incoming President of the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA), for a term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2014:

Donna Wilson	President, AASUA
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The incoming Chair of Chairs' Council, for a term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013:

Jed Harrison	Chair, Department of Chemistry
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CARRIED

Motion II: TO RECEIVE (Hetman/Molzahn)

The following *ex officio* members to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2012 and extending for the duration of their appointments:

D. Douglas Miller	Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Jonathan Schaeffer	Dean, Faculty of Science
Kathryn Arbuckle	Interim Chief Librarian

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected or re-elected by their Faculty to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015:

Norman Brown	Faculty of Arts
John Harris	Faculty of Arts
Kaori Kabata	Faculty of Arts
Robert Lederer	Faculty of Arts
Guillaume Tardif	Faculty of Arts
Norma Nocente	Faculty of Education
Bill Whelton	Faculty of Education
Pierre Lemelin	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Wendy Rogers	Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Ed Blackburn	Faculté Saint-Jean
Mirko van de Bann	Faculty of Science
Michael Deyholos	Faculty of Science
Piotr Rudnicki	Faculty of Science

CARRIED

5. Augustana Faculty's Proposed Termination of Augustana University College (AUC) Three-Year Bachelor of Arts (BA) (General) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) (General) Degrees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Allen Berger, Dean, Augustana Faculty

Purpose of the Proposal: To terminate the existing three-year Augustana University College (AUC) Bachelor of Arts (General) and Bachelor of Science (General) degrees.

Discussion:

Dr Berger noted that the termination of the AUC three-year degree programs was part of Augustana's original merger agreement with the University of Alberta. All students registered have completed the program.

There were no questions or comments.

Motion: Berger/Kehrer

THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal submitted by

Augustana Faculty for the termination of the existing three-year Augustana University College (AUC) Bachelor of Arts (General) and Bachelor of Science (General) degrees, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Assessment and Grading Policy Suite (in UAPPOL) and Proposed Revisions to University Calendar Section 23 (Academic Regulations) and Corresponding Rescission of Sections 52 (Examinations) and 61 (Grading System) of the GFC Policy Manual

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; John Law, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law; Brenda Leskiw, Senior Associate Dean (Student Services), Faculty of Science (and Vice-Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee)

Purpose of the Proposal: To rescind existing GFC Policy Manual assessment and grading policies and procedures (Sections 52 and 61) and provide, instead, relevant (and revised) assessment and grading policy and procedures in the UAPPOL environment and to revise accordingly current University Calendar assessment and grading regulations, as set out in Section 23 (Academic Regulations).

Discussion:

Dr Connor explained to members that the proposed item is an extension of a process to make the policy compatible with the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) environment. He noted that a great deal of the material now before GFC came from work done by Dr Bob Luth, Past Provost's Fellow (and Professor, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences), regarding normative-based grading. It was a goal of this proposed policy and attendant procedures to make it clear grading assessment and marking at the University of Alberta was not dependent upon "the curve." Dr Connor stated that, since marking on the curve is a contentious issue, it was understood by the policy makers that universal agreement on the new policy suite was unlikely.

Dr Leskiw noted that, in her senior administrative role in the Faculty of Science, she has regular communication with academic staff members and has witnessed common misconceptions about grading and the curve.

Professor Law added that they had attempted to provide consistency and flexibility in the policy in an acknowledgement of the diversity of assessment employed by instructors across the University.

At this point in the meeting, Mr Coulthard put forward proposed revisions to the proposal. After a brief discussion and a vote, during which the proposers indicated their concurrence with these modifications, the Amendment to the Motion passed.

Motion to Amend: Coulthard/Chelen

THAT General Faculties Council provide for the addition within the proposed Assessment and Grading Policy Suite (in UAPPOL), of a new sentence at the end of the existing paragraphs entitled "GRADING" in the Assessment and Grading Policy and "PROCEDURE/1. GRADING" in the Grading Procedure that reads, as follows: "Such (i.e., Faculty- or department-specific) guidelines must be brought to the Academic Standards Committee for information and communicated to students through the University Calendar."

CARRIED

Professor Luth voiced concern that there was a lack of discussion around this draft of the policy. He also noted concern regarding substantive items being considered by GFC in the Spring during a changeover in student leadership and the use of permissive language (eg, use of the word “should”) in the Policy.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to, the following: using this policy as a progressive step rather than as a final act; clarifications regarding the concerns of the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA); concern that there was not enough student consultation on the final iteration of this policy suite considering how important grades are to students; clarification regarding the policy on how long an instructor must retain papers; and concern that the curve does not reflect student performance.

Members agreed to a ‘friendly amendment’ to page 5 of Attachment 6 to remove from University Calendar Section 23.4.2.ix the (proposed) sentence that reads “If a Faculty has a [*sic*] Faculty-specific Grading Procedures, the details of that Procedure are contained [*sic*] in the appropriate Faculty section of the Calendar.” Members acknowledged that by removing this sentence, there ceases to be redundancy between the (proposed) Calendar entry and the (proposed) Assessment and Grading Policy (as set out in UAPPOL).

Motion: Gray/Kendal

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed Assessment and Grading Policy Suite (in UAPPOL) and proposed revisions to University Calendar Section 23 (Academic Regulations), as provided by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and as set forth in Attachments 1 (as amended), 2 (as amended), 3, 4, 5, and 6 (as amended), and the corresponding rescission of GFC Policy Manual Section 52 (Examinations) and Section 61 (Grading System), all to be effective for the Fall Term, 2012.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Access Copyright – Update

There were no documents.

Presenter: Carl Amrhein, Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council

Purpose of the Proposal: To update General Faculties Council on the status of Access Copyright.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein explained to members that the previous agreement between the University of Alberta and Access Copyright included a *per* student fee of around three dollars, with an additional ten cents pagination fee, an important indemnity clause, and audit provisions. He added that this plan cost the University around \$800,000 a year. When that regime ended, Access Copyright proposed a contract that consisted of a \$45 *per capita* fee, no pagination fee, no indemnification clause, and an invasive audit procedure. The University of Alberta, along with several other major institutions, opted out of this agreement.

After challenges from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Access Copyright has now come forward with a contract that consists of a \$26 *per capita* fee, no pagination fee, an indemnity clause, and no audits. The University generally considers the conditions acceptable and forecasts that it will cost \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 annually.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenter addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to the following: the future of course packs and e-publishing; materials that are already licensed to the University that would overlap with the new Access Copyright agreement; comparisons between the University of Alberta's agreement with Access Copyright and other post-secondary institutions' agreements; clarification regarding the changes in the indemnification clause; concern regarding the retroactive payments that the University would be making to Access Copyright; and the availability of the materials in electronic form.

8. The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and TUC Working Groups Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Chris Cheeseman, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resources); Jay Spark, Vice-Provost (Faculty Relations)

Purpose of the Proposal:

Reporting to the President's Executive Committee-Strategic (PEC-S), The Umbrella Committee (TUC) provides oversight and coordination to its three working groups leading to the preparation of a final report on options. The final report will outline strategies, plans, and recommendations that provide greater flexibility to the academic community in support of their contributions to the University's cornerstone of learning, discovery, and citizenship; align models for the provision of benefits with more flexible structures within the academic community; and leads to the delivery of administrative services in ways that provide greater flexibility to the academic community.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein informed members that, considering the current state of the University of Alberta, it is expected that the institutional budget's deficit between income and expenditures will be around 4% with the potential to get as high as 7%. It is the job of TUC to compile ideas, evaluate them, and encourage changes. Some of the feedback received will be made public, conditional to the approval to disclose by submitters. TUC is interested in several areas including the introduction of a possible teaching-intensive stream for faculty, policies around maternity leave, the adoption of electronic signatures, and the adoption of a number of other administrative 'best practices'. Dr Amrhein noted that TUC has until October, 2012 to provide information for review while still allowing enough time to effect change this fiscal year.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to the following: TUC's relationship with the Renaissance Committee; making entry-level positions at the University more desirable; and changes that would require negotiations with the staff associations.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of March 5 and April 2, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Reports of the Board of Governors of February 10 and March 16, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. E-Mail Report of the GFC Nominating Committee (April 5, April 6, and May 7, 2012)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

Dr Blackburn noted that 46 vacancies on GFC standing committees and bodies to which GFC elected members had been filled, but, with that, there remained a number of outstanding vacancies. He encouraged members interested in service to approach him after today's Council meeting for more information.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

15. Reports

There were no reports.

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.