



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 28, 2013
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell (delegate)	Member, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory, and Acting Chair, President, Statutory
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Arts
Gary Barron	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Mike Belosevic	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Ed Blackburn	Member, Acting Dean, Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Norman Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Philip Bryden	Member, Dean, Law, Statutory
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Katy Campbell	Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory
Dustin Chelen	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic)
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Michael Deyholos	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Maxwell Douglas	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Science
Lise Gotell	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robert Haennel	Member, Acting Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine, Statutory
Cory Hodgson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Science
James Hwang	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Science
Averi Iwaniuk	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Education
Lindsay Johnston	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Kaori Kabata	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Walter Dixon (Delegate)	Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Statutory
Terence Kersch	Member, St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee

Katherine Koch	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Greg Kondrak	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Petros Kusmu	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
William Lau	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life
John Law	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robert Lederer	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Qiang Li	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
David Lynch	Member, Dean, Engineering, Statutory
Yongshen Ma	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Godfrey Man	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jennifer McGetrick	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Misha Miazga-Rodriguez	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kelsey Mills	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Arts
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by Grad Council of Students, VP Academic, GSA
Majd Mouzaffar	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Arts
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education and Recreation, Statutory
Norma Nocente	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Isaac Odoom	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
O'Neil Outar	Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Joanne Profetto-McGrath	Member, Acting Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Christopher Pu	Member, Board of Governors Representative, NASA Appointee
Krista Reich	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Patrick Reid	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Frank Robinson	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Beamish (delegate)	Member, Dean, Science, Statutory
Mazi Shirvani	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Statutory
Chloe Speakman	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Science
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sukhprett Tamana	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Guillaume Tardif	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Navjot Thind	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Richard Uwiera	Member, APOs/FSOs, FSO
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Andrew Vela	Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Education

Dilini Vethanayagam Member, Statutory Academic Staff
David Whalen Member, APO (AASUA) Representative
Bill Whelton Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan White Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Rob Wright Member, Undergraduate Student Member-Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Richard Zhao Member, Graduate Student at-Large

Presenter(s):

Mike Belosevic Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Ed Blackburn Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Garry Bodnar Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC, University
Governance
Phyllis Clark Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell Acting President and Acting Chair, General Faculties Council
(and Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting
Chair, GFC Executive Committee)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Profetto-McGrath/Cormack

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of September 16, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Cormack/Chelen

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of September 16, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

Acting Chair Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell welcomed members to the 391st meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and commented on the following:

- Updates regarding the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 University of Alberta budget.
- The extension of congratulations to several members of the University of Alberta community including Professor Tim Caulfield, Board of Governors Chair Douglas Goss, Professor Anne McLellan, and Dean John Kennelly for recent personal and professional accolades.
- Updates about the University of Alberta's international rankings.
- Updates about recent meetings with the the Premier of Alberta and the Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) regarding Campus Alberta, tuition, funding models, results-based budgeting, the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), and the Alberta Institute concept.
- An update about the Letter of Expectation (LOE). Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that the Board of Governors had reviewed the LOE and approved it for signature by the Chair of the Board of Governors. He thanked members of the community for their feedback on and engagement surrounding the drafting of the LOE.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC), and Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Shirvani/Mummery

MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:

The following graduate student representative, to serve on GFC for a term beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

Misha Miazga-Rodriguez Faculty of Science

The following non-academic staff representative nominated by the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2014:

Rod Loyola President, Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) and
University of Alberta International

The following academic staff member to represent administrative professional and faculty service officers, for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2014:

David Whalen Buildings and Grounds Services, Facilities and Operations

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. University of Alberta Budget 2014-15 – Update

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC) and Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

At this point in the meeting, Vice-President (Research) Babiuk assumed the Chair.

Aided by a PowerPoint presentation, Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Clark provided a brief outline to frame discussion surrounding the 2014-2015 University of Alberta budget. She explained the elements of the consolidated budget of the institution, which is required to be reported to the Provincial Government, the largest funder of the University of Alberta. She pointed out that the information within the presentation could be found in the 2012 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP). She highlighted for members the differences between restricted *versus* unrestricted activities and listed the University's actual expenditures. She noted that there were differences in reporting this year due to the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) changes. Ms Clark detailed the elements of the University's operating budget and discussed ways in which operating budgets are determined.

Ms Clark continued by explaining the issues associated with the University's structural deficit. She provided data to highlight the budget cuts for 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, broken down into 'Faculties' and 'Support' categories. She noted that the information, at this point, is provisional and that further work is required to finalize the numbers.

Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that the figures contained in the presentation are complex and discouraged members from making blind comparisons across units. He stated that, while there has been an increased focus on transparency surrounding budget planning, there is also a responsibility to use the data correctly. He invited those with questions or concerns to contact his Office to discuss them in greater detail, rather than jumping to conclusions. He reminded members to reference Change@Ualberta.ca for budget primer information and updates.

Dr Ferguson-Pell outlined the core budget table planning assumptions, noting that the assumptions may change between now and final approval of the budget. In terms of the 2014-2015 provisional cuts, he noted that each Dean was individually consulted before final figures were determined, and the range of cuts to Faculties average between 6%-7.5%, but that up to 2% of this can be mitigated by approved revenue generation. He stated that 121 applications for the Voluntary Severance Program (VSP) were approved across the institution and highlighted relevant data from each Faculty.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Ferguson-Pell provided members with a key decision timeline including meeting dates and those bodies delegated to consider, recommend on, and approve the budget.

During the lengthy ensuing discussion, members expressed comments and questions in relation to this presentation, including, but not limited to: clarification surrounding the exact definition of a 'unit'; clarification about changes to the pension plan; clarification about the exact percentage of the budget that is allotted to the education of students; clarification surrounding changes to the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); gratitude for the increased level of transparency related to the budget; commentary that there appear to be duplication of services across the academy which warrant further review; commentary that there is a lack of necessary networking available to foster certain areas of research across the institution; clarification about the consolidated budget; clarification about the provisional cuts; a request for the models used to determine the percentages; clarification about the 2% revenue generation concept; commentary that other opportunities to save money exist which could be rolled out quickly and that these opportunities are being missed; a query whether increasing the international student differential is being considered; clarification about the role of the Renaissance Committee; whether the University of Alberta, following in the footsteps of the University of Calgary, will be striking a committee to review long-term budget issues; how Central Administration will be responding to comments and suggestions provided in such forums as IdeaScale; commentary that the numbers within the presentation appear to not match up; commentary that the documentation outlining each Faculty's cut is not being provided, as had been stated; clarification about what exact percentage of Faculty-generated revenue will remain within Faculties; whether Central Administration has discussed increasing international students with the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE); whether international tuition covers the actual costs associated with educating international students; clarification about the process of Faculty-led revenue generation; and clarification about the relationship between charged student fees and the related student services.

Dr Ferguson-Pell thanked members for their consideration and noted that any updates relating to the budget would be communicated to members.

Dr Ferguson-Pell reassumed the chair.

6. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC), and Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

- 6.1Q/6.1R Question from GFC Member Professor Pierre Lemelin Regarding Figures on the Total Number of Staff Contained in the 2012 and 2013 Financial Statements *and*
Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Professor Lemelin
- 6.2Q/6.2R Question from GFC Member Mr William Lau Regarding International Student Fee Differentials *and*
Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Mr Lau
- 6.3Q/6.3R Question from GFC Member Mr Petros Kusmu Regarding Consultation Regarding and GFC Involvement in the Edmonton Downtown Arts and Cultural Centre *and*
Response from Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey to Question Raised

by Mr Kusmu

- 6.4Q/6.4R Question from GFC Member Professor Jeremy Richards Regarding GFC's Consideration of a Fall Term Reading Week Proposal *and*
Response from Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Martin Ferguson-Pell to Question Raised by Professor Richards
- 6.5Q/6.5R Question from GFC Member Professor Jeremy Richards Regarding the Availability of Budget Letters Sent to Deans *and*
Response from Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Martin Ferguson-Pell to Question Raised by Professor Richards
- 6.6Q/6.6R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Provision of Budgetary Information to the University Community *and*
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen
- 6.7Q/6.7R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Student Participation in the Provost's Digital Learning Committee *and*
Response from Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Martin Ferguson-Pell to Question Raised by Mr Chelen
- 6.8Q/6.8R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding a Potential Hiring Freeze for Administrative Units *and*
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen
- 6.9Q/6.9R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Consultation Timelines on the Leadership College *and*
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen
- 6.10Q/6.10R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding University Community Involvement in Institutional Messaging *and*
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen
- 6.11Q/6.11R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Membership of the Lougheed Leadership Initiative Advisory Board *and*
Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

Discussion:

Regarding Item 6.1Q, Dr Lemelin expressed confusion about the reported numbers, and Ms Clark replied that the numbers are submitted at different times and from different sources. She pledged to work off-line with Dr Lemelin to better explain the alleged discrepancy.

Regarding Item 6.9Q, Mr Chelen asked if the building of the Leadership College will be a future topic for General Faculties Council (GFC) consideration. Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that he will have more updates about this project as more information becomes available.

Mr Kusmu enquired about the lack of separation between domestic and international students in relation to funding within the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that due to the complexity of the answer, a full response would be provided later.

Professor Lowrey complimented Mr Chelen on the calibre of his submitted questions, while noting that the provided answers were, in her opinion, "terrible," and asked Mr Chelen the reasoning for submitting them. Mr Chelen replied that, in his opinion, GFC is a great venue for discussion and debate and that adding more questions regarding various issues is important to him. Dr Ferguson-Pell noted that he is interested in providing good answers to submitted questions and welcomed any feedback GFC members may have regarding the nature of the written responses provided.

Professor Burshtyn enquired what the University of Alberta's response will be to the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) regarding their recent denial of the University of Alberta's proposal calling for the establishment of a Master's program in Women's and Gender Studies. Dean Cormack replied that the Faculty of Arts was working on a coordinated response to this issue and gathering additional information and that she will be organizing a meeting with the Ministry of EAE to discuss their specific concerns. She noted the Faculty was still very much committed to the offering of this graduate-level program.

INFORMATION REPORTS

7. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of August 26, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

8. Report of the Board of Governors

There was no report to date.

9. E-Mail Report of the GFC Nominating Committee (October 9, 2013)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

10. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There was no report to date.

11. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

12. Reports

- Annual Report of the Residence Community Standards Review Committee (RCSRC)

- Office of Student Judicial Affairs 2012-2013 Annual Report and Statistics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.