



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2013
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Indira Samarasekera	Chair, President, Statutory
Renee Elio (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Marina Banister	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Gary Barron	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Arts
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
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
Patrick Cajina Cortez	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Faculté Saint-Jean
Katy Campbell	Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory
Rhada Chari	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory
Karly Coleman	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Lesley Cormack	Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory
Roy Coulthard	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Maxwell Douglas	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brent Epperson	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Graduate Students' Association
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Member, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Raj Gupta	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Harris	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Statutory
Brendan Hokowhitu	Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory
Averi Iwaniuk	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Education
Kaori Kabata	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Brent Kelly	Member, Board of Governors Representative, SU Appointee

Terence Kersch	Member, St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee
Katherine Koch	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Jeffry Kochikuzhyil	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Greg Kondrak	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jill Konkin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Petros Kusmu	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
William Lau	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, Vice-President (Student Life), Students' Union
John Law	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Qiang Li	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Engineering
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
David Lynch	Member, Dean, Engineering, Statutory
Godfrey Man	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jennifer McGetrick	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, School of Public Health
Misha Miazga-Rodriguez	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science
Kelsey Mills	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Colin More	Member, Student Nominated by Grad Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education & Recreation, Statutory
Norma Nocente	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
O'Neil Outar	Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Ray Patterson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Wendy Duggleby (Delegate)	Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Krista Reich	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Medicine and Dentistry
Patrick Reid	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Physical Education and Recreation
Jeremy Richards	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Frank Robinson	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Wendy Rodgers	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
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
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Chloe Speakman	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kent Stobart	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sukhprett Tamana	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Guillaume Tardif	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Navjot Thind	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Andrew Vela	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Education
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pravin Wedage	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Engineering
David Whalen	Member, APO (AASUA) Representative
Bill Whelton	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kue Young	Member, Dean, School of Public Health, Statutory
Dawson Zeng	Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Richard Zhao	Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science

Presenter(s):

Ed Blackburn	Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Garry Bodnar	Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Indira Samarasekera	President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair, GFC

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: Lynch/Kusmu

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Bryden/Cormack

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Open Session Minutes of October 28, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

President and Chair Dr Samarasekera welcomed members to the 392nd meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and commented on the following:

- The successful and inspiring Fall 2013 University of Alberta Convocation.
- Accolades to members of the University of Alberta community for various prestigious professional and personal achievements.
- The final Renaissance Committee (REN) Report. Dr Samarasekera thanked members of this committee for their hard work and effort.

3.1 Leadership Initiative

Dr Samarasekera expressed her thanks towards Council for their continued interest in this issue and noted that, while it is still in the early stages of development, the Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has struck a committee to review the initial stages of the Leadership Initiative, with this body composed of broad representation from Administration, the Deans, faculty members, and students. She reported that this committee would preliminarily establish the framework for this project.

She thanked students for their comprehensive feedback on the Leadership Initiative and acknowledged their position paper on the matter.

She cautioned members to separate the proposed student residence from the idea of a leadership college and noted that the college will be broad and inclusive and will provide students with transformative leadership opportunities. She noted that there are still big decisions to be made surrounding the size of the college and how it will be both funded and managed. She stated that she will continue to consult with students (and, as necessary, Council) on these important issues. The President also commented that, generally, there needs to be more student residence spaces on the campuses of the University of Alberta.

Dr Samarasekera concluded by stating that this matter would again be discussed by GFC once further details have been established.

3.2 'Change Agenda' for the University of Alberta

Dr Samarasekera reported that she has been in the process of drafting an 'action plan' in response to the Board of Governors' reaffirmation of institutional excellence pledged at its April, 2013 strategic retreat. She noted that this action plan is centered around the themes of academic transformation, sustainable financial modeling, efficient administration, and fostering a culture of change. She stated that the plan will be presented to the Board of Governors at its December 13, 2013 meeting, followed by a presentation to GFC on February 3, 2014.

A member enquired about when GFC members will get an opportunity to debate the concepts of these issues and followed up with a question relating to the approval of colleges.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

Motion: Hickey/Shirvani

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

Pravin Wedage

Faculty of Engineering

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Dare to Discover (D2D) Report Card

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

Purpose of the Proposal: The primary audience for the D2D Report Card is the Board of Governors, but it is a public document that is distributed widely. This discussion is an opportunity for GFC to learn about some of the diverse University initiatives and the qualitative and quantitative indicators used to measure our progress against Board metrics.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera noted that, although this is the first time the D2D Report Card has been presented at GFC, it represents a broad overview, based on several measurements, of the state of the University of Alberta compared to other similar public research universities. She noted that the Report Card aligns with the four cornerstones of *Dare to Discover*, namely: talented people; learning, discovery and citizenship; connecting communities; transformative organization and support.

She reported that, across the spectrum, the University of Alberta has made gains in certain areas and remained stagnant or has gone backward in others but that the institution has maintained its standing overall. She added that the recent financial crisis faced by the University has added to this situation. Dr Samarasekera concluded by indicating that the final D2D Report Card will be presented next year to both the Board of Governors and to GFC.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether the figures surrounding graduate student support include scholarships; an update on the status of graduate student scholarships provided by and at the University of Alberta; and clarification about Figure 11 (ie, Provincial/State and Tuition and Fees Operating Revenue per FTE Student, University of Alberta and Selected Peers) within the Report Card.

6. University of Alberta Budget – Update

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC; Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide GFC members with an update about the University of Alberta budget.

Discussion:

Dr Samarasekera reported that for the first time in the University of Alberta's history, the Provincial Government has provided in-year funding of \$14.4 million to the institution, aimed towards enrollment pressures and quality student experiences. She thanked Mr Douglas Goss, Chair, Board of Governors, for his tireless efforts advocating for continued investment in the University of Alberta. She added that, while there is latitude to use the funding where needed, the Senior Administration as well as the Deans will be meeting to discuss its strategic application towards enrollment pressures and other relevant initiatives.

Dr Samarasekera continued by stating that the Government has indicated their desire for the University of Alberta to accommodate more graduate students, but she noted that the University must receive the appropriate financial support for more professors, support staff, laboratories, and library services to make this a reality. She explained that the amount of Government investment for next year's budget remains unknown, which is an additional complicating factor in budget planning for the University.

A member enquired about the usage of the in-year funding in relation to graduate teaching.

7. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

- 7.1Q Questions from GFC Member Mr William Lau Regarding International Student Fees and Services
and and
7.1R Responses from Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell and Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Questions Raised by Mr Lau
- 7.2Q Questions from GFC Member Mr Richard Zhao Regarding Consultation with Students on Tuition
and and Fees and
7.2R Responses from Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell and Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Questions Raised by Mr Zhao
- 7.3Q Question from GFC Member Mr Petros Kusmu Regarding Annual Submission of Enrolment Targets
and for Domestic and International Students
7.3R and
Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Mr Kusmu
- 7.4Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Student Concerns on Increases to
and International Student Tuition
7.4R and

Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.5Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Appropriateness and Timing of Items for and Discussion at General Faculties Council (GFC)

7.5R and

Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.6Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Institutional Morale and Pride and

7.6R Response from Vice-President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.7Q Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Donor Support for Undergraduate and Researchers

7.7R and

Response from Vice-President (Advancement) O'Neil Outar to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.8Q Questions from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding 'Dino 101' and the University's and Partnerships with Udacity and Coursera

7.8R and

Responses from the Senior Administration to Questions Raised by Professor Lowrey

7.9Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding Deployment of Cost Recovery and Revenue-Generating Programs at the University of Alberta

7.9R and

Response from the Senior Administration to Question Raised by Professor Lowrey

7.10Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding the University's Relationship and with Alberta Taxpayers

7.10R and

Response from the Senior Administration to Question Raised by Professor Lowrey

Discussion:

During the ensuing discussion within Question Period in relation to previously-submitted written questions, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether there can be more time afforded to discuss proposed increases to tuition fees so that students can adequately prepare for the discussion; whether additional consultation regarding proposed increases to tuition fees can be provided; clarification about how costs related to fee-supported services relate to the costs associated with educating international students; that students would be more understanding if there was, in their view, clear justification for the proposed increases in tuition and fees; whether the University of Alberta plans to increase international tuition and fees by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the future; clarification surrounding a break-down of the 5% increase to international student tuition and its deployment; clarification about the consultation process surrounding the proposal concerning increases to international student tuition; that the tuition increases negatively impact the lives of international students; that it may be difficult to retain international graduate students if costs increase; clarification about the use of the additional revenue generated by increasing international student tuition and fees; that in order to be

eligible for bursaries, students must already be experiencing financial hardship; clarification about the University of Alberta's relationship with Udacity; that it takes time for new revenue generation in Faculties to be impactful; that the endeavors of a publicly-funded institution should not singularly include initiatives around frank revenue generation; that Administration could do more to express gratitude towards Albertans for their significant financial contributions toward the University of Alberta; that there needs to be more advocacy done publicly surrounding the fact the University of Alberta was established in 1908 by the Province of Alberta as an independent academic-research institution; clarification surrounding the impact of recent budget cuts on the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI); clarification surrounding the true costs of educating a student; that, in a member's opinion, the provision of incorrect figures surrounding the costs associated with educating students taints ensuing discussions; whether there could be an increase of services and bursaries for international students in light of the proposed tuition increases; and clarification surrounding the definition of what is meant by a "transitory document."

Given that Question Period had reached its 30-minute limit, Mr Kusmu proposed a Motion to extend Question Period.

Motion: Kusmu/Epperson

THAT General Faculties Council extend the length of Question Period at its November 25, 2013 meeting.

CARRIED

During the discussion within the extended Question Period, members expressed a number of comments and questions including, but not limited to: whether international tuition and fees could be grandfathered for affected students currently at the University of Alberta; that various publications distributed to international students provide advanced warning that the University of Alberta has a right to and may choose to increase tuition and fees and that the students should anticipate this may occur during their time at the institution; that the proposed 5% increase in international student tuition is reasonable; that the University Calendar has not been updated to reflect the new proposed tuition rates; that Administration did not properly consult with all relevant parties before proposing the tuition increases; that graduate fees at the University of Alberta only seem low in comparison to institutions in Ontario and that, regionally, they are not that low; and that the focus of the academy should not be on targeting a vulnerable group of students for revenue generation but, instead, the focus should be on strongly advocating for more public funding, overall.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of October 7, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

There was no discussion.

9. Report of the Board of Governors of October 18, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

10. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee

There were no documents.

Presenter: Ed Blackburn, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

There was no discussion.

11. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There were no documents.

Presenter: Garry Bodnar, Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC

There was no discussion.

12. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no documents.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

13. Reports

There were no documents.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.