



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Planning Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Council Chamber, UHALL
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Gerry Kendal	Vice-President (Finance and Administration) (Delegate)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Nathan Andrews	President, Graduate Students' Association (Delegate)
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Susan Barker	Department Chair at-large

Presenters:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Walter Archer	Associate Dean (Engaged Learning) (Interim), Faculty of Extension
Fiona Bamforth	Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Jim Bohun	Manager, Student Services, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Katy Campbell	Dean, Faculty of Extension
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Al Cook	Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Extension
Lois Harder	Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies), Faculty of Arts
Nat Kav	Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Jonathan Martin	Associate Professor (and Graduate Coordinator), Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Michelle Meagher	Undergraduate Advisor, Women's Studies Program
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Michael Splinter	Assistant Dean, Faculty of Extension
Lihong Yang	Acting Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar

Staff:

Garry Bodnar Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning 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.

Motion: Kline/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.	CARRIED
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2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 23, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rinaldi/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of May 23, 2012.	CARRIED
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3. Comments from the Chair

Given the large number of agenda items and guests, there were no comments from the Chair.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposal for a Master of Arts (MA) in Community Engagement Degree Program (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Extension)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Katy Campbell, Dean, Faculty of Extension; Al Cook, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Extension; Walter Archer, Associate Dean (Engaged Learning) (Interim), Faculty of Extension; Michael Splinter, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: The goal of the Master of Arts (MA) in Community Engagement is to enable graduate students to explore the key concepts associated with community engagement and develop their understanding of the historical and contemporary perspectives that are shaping this field. These include: social theory on knowledge and power, social change theory, the process of public engagement, and critical pedagogy literature. The proposed 21 units of course weighted thesis-based graduate program will consist of five required courses, two of which are new courses and two electives. It is interdisciplinary in nature and will appeal to students with backgrounds in education, the humanities and social sciences, health sciences, human ecology, community development and environmental sustainability. Academics

within the Faculty of Extension will provide the academic leadership drawing upon the growing literature that will anchor the proposed program: engaged scholarship; and the study of the engagement process (often referred to as the scholarship of engagement).

In proposing an MA in Community Engagement, the Faculty of Extension is responding to the need to study the engagement process, outcomes, and impacts. The need for scholarly collaboration has become more acute and pervasive. Although community engagement in North America has roots in the land-grant colleges and the extension movement, scholarship and fields of practice have begun to emerge to fill the need for some theoretical grounding and disciplinary rigour regarding the nature of co-created knowledge.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani introduced the proposal to members by explaining that the MA in Community Engagement is a thesis-based program with stable enrolment projected at 12 full-time students and 12 part-time students. Dean Campbell continued, noting that there is a citation in community engagement included in this program, which is a non-credit, 100-hour work experience component. She emphasized the emerging interest internationally in the field of community engagement, giving the University of Alberta an opportunity to become a leader.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments including, but not limited to, the following: ongoing plans for future program evaluation; the flexibility of the 12 full-time and 12 part-time student ratio/enrolment; the support this program has gained from the Faculty of Education; and the overlap of suitable courses, particularly for the elective options, which are already available in the Faculty of Education.

Motion: Kline/Williamson

THAT GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for a (new) Master of Arts (MA) in Community Engagement Degree Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Extension and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect January, 2013.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for a Master of Arts (MA) in Women's and Gender Studies Degree Program (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Arts)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Lois Harder, Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies), Faculty of Arts; Michelle Meagher, Undergraduate Advisor, Women's Studies Program

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of the proposal is to establish a Master of Arts (MA) in Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Alberta. The new program will include a thesis-based route and a course-based route, with an annual intake of 10 – 12 students. The new MA program is a response to ongoing student demand for graduate education in Women's and Gender Studies. It has been designed in reference to four founding principles: the program should be transparent (ie, easy to navigate); it should have systems built in to enable students to move through it in a timely way; it should recognize that the discipline often attracts non-traditional students; and the program must offer meaningful and rigorous training to students who plan to continue to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) as well as those who plan to enter the workforce.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani noted that the proposed MA in Women's and Gender Studies is a precisely-designed full-time program intended for eight course-based and eight thesis-based students. It was explained that resources for this program will be allocated from existing funds in the Faculty of Arts. Professor Meagher continued, explaining that a recent unit review conducted for the Faculty of Arts' Women's Studies Program had recommended this graduate-level program be brought to fruition. She also noted that there is a community service portion to this Master's program which makes it unique in Canada. As an undergraduate advisor, she explained that she is continually seeing students who have expressed interest in continuing with graduate studies in this field. She concluded her remarks by stating this program is an excellent way to retain excellent students.

There were no questions.

Motion: Harrington/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for a (new) Master of Arts (MA) in Women's and Gender Studies Degree Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July, 2013.

CARRIED

6. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Proposal for the Formal Establishment of Independent Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Science (MSc) Degree Programs (Including the Addition of a New Course- and Practicum-Based Route to the Existing Thesis-Based MSc Program) in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Fiona Bamforth, Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology; Jonathan Martin, Associate Professor (and Graduate Coordinator), Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of the proposal is to grant independence to the existing graduate programs in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, which are currently co-administered by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's Medical Sciences Graduate Program (MSGP). In addition to offering an independent General Program (Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)), the Department proposes to offer new second-level specializations. Specifically, to reflect the diversity of research training, thesis-based specializations will be offered in "Analytical and Environmental Toxicology," "Biopreservation," and "Molecular Pathology." Furthermore, to address the joint needs of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, the proposers are also advancing the creation of a (new) course- and practicum-based route, with specialization in "Pathologist's Assistant," to the existing thesis-based MSc program.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani explained that, in the 1970s, there were a number of small graduate programs that were structured together under the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's umbrella MSGP. In this proposal, the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology seeks 'emancipation' from the MSGP as it has grown to almost fifty graduate students and, administratively, is already acting very independently.

Professor Martin noted that the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology is the largest within the MSGP and that it is time to separate its graduate programming. He stated that there are specializations available for the thesis-based program in three areas: analytical and environmental toxicology, biopreservation, and molecular pathology. Professor Bamforth continued, discussing the details of the "Pathologist's Assistant" specialization, a course-based Master's with a 16-month practicum. This program recognizes and fills a need that currently exists in the health services. She noted that AHS has agreed to provide funding for the program. She also stated that the program plans on being small, with a planned admission of two students. There are two required courses that already exist, Anatomy (ANAT) 600 and ANAT 604, but otherwise the additional courses offered to support this specialization will be new.

There were no questions.

Motion: Kline/Williamson

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for independent Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Science (MSc) Degree Programs (including the addition of a new course- and practicum-based route to the existing thesis-based MSc Degree Program) in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect in September, 2012.

CARRIED

7. Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) Proposal for the Restructuring of Academic Programs in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Nat Kav, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Michael Gaenzle, Chair of the Nutritional and Food Science Program Committee, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Jim Bohun, Manager, Student Services, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed changes set out in the documentation before members modify the administration of the current Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Nutrition and Food Science, a successful program with more than 500 students. The proposed revisions will make only modest changes to the program content but will change important aspects of program administration. The changes also respond to the growing number of students in the existing program (250 students in 2001/2002; 518 students in 2006/2007; 541 students in 2011/2012). The changes will result in: the establishment of honours programs to recognize and promote academic excellence and to enable preparation for a research career and graduate studies; improving the learning experience in the current "Nutrition and Food" major; the introduction of a "Dietetics Specialization" and administration of the internship as part of the structure of the program offered by the Faculty of ALES; and the introduction of a "Food Science and Technology Specialization."

The Faculty of ALES has a team of highly-skilled experts in the nutrition and food science fields who support the implementation of this proposed program to better cater to the training of new professional graduates in their chosen career paths. The demonstrated expertise and capacity of the University of Alberta is documented by the successful delivery of the current BSc in Nutrition and Food Science program. The proposed changes also build on existing programs and resources, so quality will be monitored as part of the University's ongoing assessment processes.

Discussion:

Dr Kav introduced the proposal to members, explaining that the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science has had issues with the Dietetics internships placing pressure on administration and on students. The changes introduced here would allow an easier process for internship admission. The proposal also introduces the first two honours programs in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

After a question from a member regarding the reasoning behind requiring a non-refundable deposit from students admitted to the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science (Dietetics Specialization) program, the presenters explained that this procedure is consistent with deposits required for similar programs and is meant to ensure serious applicants. The exact cost of the deposit is unknown at this point.

Motion: Williamson/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed reorganization of academic programming in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, as submitted by the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

8. Clarification of the English Language Proficiency (ELP) "Blended Grade" Requirement (Proposed Revisions from the Office of the Registrar to Section 13.3.1(3) of the University Calendar)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lihong Yang, Acting Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To consider minor changes to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements, as set out in Section 13.3.1(3) of the University Calendar. These changes provide clarification and updates to existing procedures.

Discussion:

Ms Yang noted that this item is meant to clarify in the Calendar that students who take a matriculation English course but who do not write the diploma exam may use this course to fulfill University pre-requisites but may not use it to apply to their ELP requirements.

Motion: Kline/Rinaldi

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed revisions to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) "blended grade" requirement (University Calendar Section 13.3.1(3)), as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval (with publication in the 2013-2014 University Calendar).

CARRIED

9. Use of SAT Reasoning Test Results and ACT Scores to Fulfill Undergraduate Admission Requirements for High School Applicants from the American Education System (Proposed Changes to University Calendar Section 17.2.2 (Admission from the United States and Other Countries and

Schools That Offer American-Based Curricula))

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lihong Yang, Acting Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To adjust the options available to students under American-based high school curricula for meeting University of Alberta admission requirements. Currently, admission for these students depends on equating specific matriculation subjects to the Alberta system by examining level and years of study. This does not work well for students under American-based curricula as the curricula in the American system vary from state to state. For example, some curricula only include one full year of study in each of the sciences (biology, physics, and chemistry) which may be taken in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. The transcripts from high schools alone do not always present the academic competency of applicants. The proposed standardized test results are better indication of the students' academic preparedness to the undergraduate programs at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Ms Yang explained to members that since the United States has been targeted for University of Alberta undergraduate student recruitment, and considering that there is tremendous variation in the high school systems between states, it was proposed the University of Alberta move to the use of standardized test results for admission. She noted that requiring standardized test results for admission to post-secondary schooling is a common practice elsewhere that will not deter potential applicants to this institution. She added that it is possible that students do not view the University of Alberta as competitive for not having this standard admission requirement; she also commented that by having the University conform to these new admission standards, communication with both high school students and high school counsellors will become much clearer and easier.

A 'friendly amendment' was made in which the implementation date for this proposal was changed from that noted in the material before members, that is, 2013-2014, to the intended date of implementation, 2014-2015.

Motion: Harrington/Barker

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing undergraduate admission requirements for high school applicants from the American Education System (University Calendar Section 17.2.2 (Admission from the United States and Other Countries and Schools That Offer American-Based Curricula)), as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

10. Proposed Name Change for the Institute for Land Use Innovation (ILUI) to the Alberta Land Institute (ALI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Research)

Purpose of the Proposal: It is proposed that the name of the Institute for Land Use Innovation (ILUI) be changed to the Alberta Land Institute (ALI).

Discussion:

Dr Babiak informed members that the proposed name change for the Institute for Land Use Innovation (ILUI) to the Alberta Land Institute (ALI) is to reflect on the current and actual purpose and use of the Institute.

Members discussed that the endowment for this institute is now across several Faculties, rather than solely in the Faculty of Science; therefore, it was acknowledged that, for this reason, the ALI will now reside in the Office of the Vice-President (Research).

Motion: Babiak/Harrington

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change of the Institute for Land Use Innovation (ILUI) to the Alberta Land Institute (ALI), as submitted by the Vice-President (Research) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. The Umbrella Committee – Update

There were no documents.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Amrhein spoke to the relative roles and responsibilities of The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and the three committees reporting up to this umbrella body; the Renaissance Committee that was formally created through a ratified agreement with the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA); and the Provost's Academic Policy and Process Review (APPR) Task Force, which is already producing results through such initiatives as the new institutional grading and assessment policy suite, the Alternative Academic Pathways Project, the portability of credits and credit alignment, and work on issues related to admissions criteria.

Dr Amrhein noted that some items currently before TUC will migrate to the Renaissance Committee, such as discussion around the possible introduction of a teaching-intensive stream for faculty. Other items in which TUC is interested include pressures upon University Libraries to meet the requirements of open source publishing and different funding/fee arrangements and a range of issues associated with pensions and benefits. TUC's Administrative Efficiency Group's interests include electronic signatures, archiving and documents mapping.

Dr Amrhein stated it was important that the Renaissance Committee clarify its relationship with TUC. He also emphasized the importance of internationalization for the University of Alberta which is continuing to seek connections with major international Universities. He also encouraged the University community to look forward in terms of what we want the University to look like in ten years.

12. Question Period

Mr Bodnar noted that this would be the last meeting of GFC APC for this Academic Year and that it is the last meeting for Dr Susan Barker, who will be leaving the University of Alberta to take up a senior administrative role at the University of Calgary, and for Dr Carl Amrhein, until he returns from his sabbatical.

Dr Amrhein explained that during his time off he will be travelling to universities in China, Australia, and Germany to view their structures and plans for the future.

Members also expressed gratitude to Mr Bodnar for the immense background work he carries out that goes into these meetings of GFC APC.

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.