



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Academic Planning Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, June 14, 2017  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Steven Dew	Chair, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research)
Marina Banister	Member, President, Students' Union
Darcy Bemister	Member, Graduate Student-at-Large
Nadir Erbilgin	Member, Academic Staff-at-large
Florence Glanfield	Member, Department Chair representative
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean Representative
Roger Moore	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Babak Soltannia	Member, President, Graduate Students' Association
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Academic Staff, Member of GFC

#### Non-Voting Members:

Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
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#### Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee  
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: Glanfield/Erbilgin

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

#### 2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 10, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Glanfield/Mocquais

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of May 10, 2017.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on the recent Convocation activities occurring on campus and congratulated the Registrar's team for another successful convocation season. He noted the opening of Peter Lougheed Hall and that the review of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College was available online.

He thanked departing members for their service to the committee.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Proposed Increase to Required English Language Proficiency (ELP) Scores for Undergraduate Admissions

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Lisa Collins

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To make changes to the minimum overall TOEFL score and the minimum band score for the IELTS Academic to better support student success and increase the likelihood of improved academic outcomes. The proposed changes are supported by research undertaken by the Office of the Registrar.

*Discussion:*

Vice-Provost and University Registrar Lisa Collins provided members with a summary of the proposal noting that the correlation between higher ELP scores and student success in first year courses. She added that the proposed requirements align with those of the other U15 institutions. Ms Collins noted that students not admitted due to the increased requirement would still be able to apply to the university through the bridging program.

During the discussion, a member expressed concern that the data may have bias and that the use of first year GPA may skew the outcome since some students struggle in their first year of studies. A member suggested that some current students may not meet the new thresholds. Members discussed other options to improve proficiency such as a required English courses

Motion: Erbilgin/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve:

- the minimum overall TOEFL score be increased 4 points to 90, with no change to the required score of 21 on each band.
- the minimum band score for the IELTS Academic be increased from 5.0 to 5.5, with no change to the required minimum overall score of 6.5

**CARRIED**

5. Budget Model Principles

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To recommend for approval by GFC the principles that will guide and inform the development and application of a new budget model for the University of Alberta.

*Discussion:*

Dr Nadir Erbilgin assumed the role of Chair.

The Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Steven Dew, provided a summary of the proposal. He reported that the new budget model moves from the current incremental-based model to one that is more sophisticated and based on activities and performance.

Members, during the ensuing discussion, suggested that *For the Public Good* should be added to the principles, to ensure alignment with the academy's academic goals and aspirations. Members also discussed: how the new budget model would impact services available to all Faculties and Units, such as libraires; quality assurance indicators; the difference between the words "equal" and "equitable"; and levels of accountability to stakeholders.

Motion: Stroulia/Erbilgin

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council approval of the budget model principles as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. Government roles and credentials

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To receive input from GFC APC on the attached discussion questions from the agencies, boards and commissions (ABC) review (Phase 3). To discuss the Alberta credential framework.

*Discussion:*

The Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Steven Dew, assumed the Chair.

The Chair reported that the provincial government has asked the university for input on a number of reviews including the tuition framework and the funding model; as part of this, there is also a review of institutional mandates and roles.

He indicated that government is reviewing the six sector model into which all 26 post-secondary institutions are differentiated as part of the funding model review. He noted that six institutions have put forward requests to change the category they are in.

The committee discussed the role of the Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions (CARI) and the link between research and graduate degrees. Members noted that differentiation is essential to promote the uniqueness of the educational experience offered at the University of Alberta and to avoid duplication within the sector. Members also discussed the unique position of the University of Alberta in offering post-secondary programming in French. Members discussed pure and applied research and the entrance of non-CARI institutions into federal funding competitions.

The Chair thanked the committee for their comments and invited them to contact him after the meeting with further thoughts. Mr Soltannia added that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) had also been asked for graduate student perspectives and would be providing input back to the province.

7. Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority with respect to the GFC Academic Planning Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To review and discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc committee and the impact on the mandate and responsibilities of the GFC Academic Planning Committee as reflected in the terms of reference.

*Discussion:*

University Secretary Marion Haggarty-France provided members with an overview of the four foundation documents approved by GFC on the role and responsibilities of members, committee composition, delegations of authority and procedural rules, and recommendations of the ad hoc Committee. She stated that although GFC endorsed the report and recommendations in principle on April 21, 2017, further work will be required by GFC's standing committees to refine Terms of Reference.

GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services, Meg Brolley, led members through a discussion on the draft Terms of Reference of the committee. Members engaged in discussion on: the addition of research into the committee's name and clarifying its mandate related to research; and several changes between APC and the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) surrounding authority to suspend and terminate programs. Ms Brolley clarified that further consultation would occur on the recommendation to move CCA programming from GFC APC to the GFC ASC terms of reference.

Members sought clarification on the recommendedation to include internationalization within the committee's mandate and it was noted that internationalization is a big area for the university which includes tuition, globalization, and the ways in which a global university incorporates this into its mission and research.

Discussion on membership composition included the recommendation to remove the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and to have the Dean member elected by GFC. Members also provided comments surrounding whether additional members might be needed with the addition of research to the mandate including a post-doctoral fellow.

The Chair noted that the discussion would continue well into the 2017-2018 academic year and would be a recurring one on future agendas.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. Graduate Degree Specializations approved by the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research – For Information

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Items Approved by GFC Academic Planning Committee by e-mail Ballots

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.