



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Committee on the Learning Environment  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, May 02, 2018  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Sarah Forgie, Chair  
Masoud Aliramezani  
Janice Causgrove Dunn  
Kathleen DeLong  
Robert Desjardins  
Janice Miller-Young  
Norma Rodenburg  
Jennifer Tupper

Mani Vaidyanathan  
Stanley Varnhagen

**REGRETS:**  
Akanksha Bhatnagar  
Samer Adeeb  
Eva Lemaire  
Jeff Rawlings

Samina Sana  
Janet Wesselius

**STAFF:**  
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary  
Heather Richholt, Coordinator

### **OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: DeLong/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 4, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: DeLong/Aliramezani

THAT the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment approve the Minutes of April 4, 2018.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed Masoud Aliramezani, the new Graduate Students' Association member, and those members present introduced themselves.

The Chair mentioned that the Festival of Teaching and Learning is on May 4th and noted that Dr Miller-Young will give the committee more information in her update.

The Chair noted that the McCalla Professorships, the Awards for Teaching Excellence, and the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) Seed Grant recipients have been posted on the Centre for Teaching and Learning website.

### **EARLY CONSULTATION**

4. Proposed Changes to Course Outlines section within the University Calendar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

*Discussion:*

Dr Hopper noted that ongoing concerns with the purpose and utility of course outlines in general were being explored by the Course Outlines Working Group and asked the committee for feedback on this issue. She encouraged members to contact the chair, Dr Forgie, with any further thoughts or advice after the meeting.

During the discussion members expressed several comments and questions including but not limited to: the student experience; information for the purpose of registration; outlines and syllabi and their usefulness as well as the difference between the two; the inclusion of links to standard information; course objectives and learning outcomes; intellectual property; accessibility of content; essential information; and the responsibility of students inform themselves.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Libraries' Accessibility Project

*Presenter(s)*: Kirsti Van Dornick; Sharon Murphy, University of Alberta Libraries

*Discussion:*

Ms Murphy explained that this project was meant to identify areas for improvement, make recommendations, and enhance and optimize access for all library users. Ms Van Dornick explained how the Libraries' Accessibility Project measured accessibility in the following four areas: Physical/Built Environment; Electronic Resources; Programs and Services; and Staff Awareness and Training. She noted that changes have already been made to online resources as a result of usability testing and that more research regarding programs and services would be undertaken in the fall.

There was no further discussion.

6. Libraries' Digital Scholarship Centre Update

*Presenter(s)*: Geoff Harder, Associate University Librarian; Kathleen DeLong, Interim Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian

*Discussion:*

Mr Harder outlined the plans to renovate the 2nd floor of Cameron Library for the Libraries' Digital Scholarship Centre. He noted that the space is projected to open in January 2019.

During the discussion, members expressed comments and questions regarding: digital scholarship trends across Canada and the world; the importance of digital fluency for our community; advancement opportunities; different applications for new technology; and availability for community use.

7. Update on Policy Development - Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Sarah Forgie, Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives)

*Discussion:*

The Chair reminded members that the transition of GFC Policy 111 into UAPPOL was one of the recommendations that the committee made to GFC as part of its review of teaching, learning, and teaching evaluation. She noted that the new policy would contain a high level view and associated procedures would provide the detail on how the policy would be implemented.

Members discussed the language of the draft policy; the importance of requiring both formative and summative data; Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) evaluations; the feasibility and frequency of multifaceted, diverse and holistic reviews; and encouraging and recognizing innovation and development in teaching.

## 8. Updates

### A. Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Dr Miller-Young noted that there were currently 414 people registered for the May 4th Festival of Teaching and Learning and the keynote for the event was *Teaching Naked* author José Antonio Bowen.

Dr Miller-Young also mentioned the following upcoming spring and summer workshops and noted that full details can be found on the CTL website:

- Drafting and Refining your Teaching Philosophy Statement
- Concepts in Course Design: Mapping Out a Learner Centred Course
- Changing the Way we Look at Assessment: Blogging as an Assessment Tool

### B. Information Technology

There was no update.

### C. Learning Services

Dr DeLong noted that a number of members of the Libraries' staff had been recognized locally and nationally with honours and awards. Chuck Humphrey was honoured with the Award of Merit from the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to Canadian research librarianship. Denise Koufogiannakis received the Pat Jobb Service Award which recognizes outstanding service and significant contribution to Alberta's library community. Anne Carr-Wiggin was awarded with the Library Association of Alberta President's Award in recognition for her major impact province-wide in the library field. Members of the Greater Edmonton Library Association Prison Libraries Project (which includes many Libraries' staff) were honoured with the Punch Jackson Award of Excellence in Library Service for achieving excellence with their project. Sarah-Jeanne Bélec and Elisabet Ingbergsson from the Campus Saint-Jean were selected by the graduating class of 2018 as two people who have had the greatest impact on their studies.

She also noted that the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library was honoured with the 2018 Leab Award from the American Library Association's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) for their digital exhibition: *Tinctore's Foul Treatise*. She noted that this is the fifth Leab Award won by the Peel team (1989, 2004, 2014, 2015, and 2018), and the first in Division Five (Electronic Exhibitions).

### D. General Faculties Council

The GFC Secretary reported that the seventh GFC meeting of the 2017-2018 Academic year was held on April 30 as per the recommendation of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority to increase the number of GFC meetings.

Ms Brolley noted that there was a robust discussion about the honorary degree for Dr David Suzuki. She noted that the terms of reference for a free-standing GFC Nominating Committee were approved. She also told members about presentations to GFC on the development of a Transparent Governance application as well as the university's response to the TRC Calls to Action. She also noted that University Counsel gave an update on the draft Code of Conduct: Employees' Obligations Respecting Conflicts of Interest.

### E. Student Success Centre

Dr Desjardins announced the name change from "Student Success Centre" to "Academic Success Centre". He noted that the new name encompasses the academic copy editing that is offered by the centre as well as individual consultation and workshops for undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr Desjardins noted that registration is open for spring workshops on thesis writing and thesis planning.

#### 9. Question Period

There were no questions.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### 10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

#### 11. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

#### 12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.