General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 26, 2012
L1-490, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Amaral, J. Nelson  Science
Andrews, Nathan  Graduate Council of Students
Arbuckle, Kathryn  Libraries
Beckie, Mary  Extension
Belosevic, Mike  GFC Appointee
Bernier, Ashlyn  GSA President
Blackburn, Ed  Faculté Saint-Jean
Bouchard, Alice  Non-Academic Staff
Brown, Norman  Arts
Chelen, Dustin  Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Chen, Chris  Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Clark, Brenda  Medicine and Dentistry
Clark, Phyllis  Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
DeGara, Chris  Medicine and Dentistry
Eccles, Russell  President of NASA
Ferguson-Pell, Martin  Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Goble, Erika  Graduate Student at-Large
Gordon, Ann  Arts
Harrington, Joanna  Law
Harris, John  Arts
Haeubl, Gerald  Business
Hickey, Don  Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Hodgson, Cory  Science
Hong, Jason  Education
Hwang, James  Science
Ingles, Ernie  Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies
Ives, Jack  Arts
Jensen, Louise  Nursing
Johnston, Lindsay  Libraries
Joseph, Sam  Arts
Kabata, Kaori  Arts
Kang, Jimmy  Science
Kendal, Gerry  Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kennelly, John  Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Koch, Katherine  Libraries  
Kochikuzhiy, Jeffry  Science  
Lee, Matt  Science  
Lemelin, Pierre  Medicine and Dentistry  
Lemire, Bernard  Medicine and Dentistry  
McGetrick, Jennifer  Graduate Student at-Large  
Meston, John  Graduate Student at-Large  
Milner, Rachel  Medicine and Dentistry  
Mitra, Sushanta  Engineering  
Mohamed, Yasser  Engineering  
Molzahn, Anita  Dean, Nursing  
Nocente, Norma  Education  
Odoom, Isaac  Graduate Student at-Large  
Outar, O’Neil  Vice-President (Advancement)  
Renke, Wayne  AASUA Appointee  
Richards, Jeremy  Science  
Robertson, Sean  Native Studies  
Robinson, Frank  Vice-Provost and Dean of Students  
Rodgers, Wendy  Physical Education and Recreation  
Samarasekera, Indira  President and Chair, GFC  
Saunders, Duncan  Public Health  
Shchepetkina, Alina  Graduate Student at-Large  
Shirvani, Mazi  Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research  
Shores, Sandra  Library Academic Staff  
Smiley, Jim  Medicine and Dentistry  
Snart, Fern  Dean, Education  
Sumar, Saadiq  Student Nominated by the Undergraduate Council of Students  
Swanson, Ruby  APO  
Tardif, Guillaume  Arts  
Van der Baan, Mirko  Science  
Whelton, Bill  Education  
Williamson, Deanna  Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences  
Wilson, Donna  President of AASUA  
Woods, Adam  Arts  
Yamagishi, Colten  Students’ Union President  
Zhang, Hao  Engineering  
Zielinski, Michal  Graduate Student at-Large

Presenters/Proposers:

Ed Blackburn  Chair, GFC Nominating Committee  
Mike Belosevic  Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors  
Garry Bodnar  Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee  
Martin Ferguson-Pell  Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee  
Marion Haggarty-France  University Secretary  
Anastasia Lim  Executive Director, University Relations  
Indira Samarasekera  President and Chair, GFC
OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Shirvani/Amaral

| THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda. | CARRIED |

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 1, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Belosevic/Shirvani

| THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of October 1, 2012. | CARRIED |

3. Comments from the President

President and GFC Chair Indira Samarasekera reported:

- on the results of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where a University of Alberta team, consisting of nine students from the Faculties of Engineering and Science, won the international competition for their project to create a biotechnology company that turns paper that normally cannot be recycled into usable chemicals, including a key ingredient in the drug Tamiflu.
- on the recent passing of current GFC member, Dr Piotr Rudnicki, who was a dedicated professor in the Faculty of Science’s Department of Computing Sciences for over 25 years.
- on the activities and plans surrounding The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and the Renaissance Committee (REN), explaining that the focal point for action has been the roughly 400 suggestions the Administration received from across the University community following her ‘State of the University’ presentation in 2011. She clarified that the role of the REN Committee will be to reinvigorate the institution and to move the University forward in terms of, amongst other matters, compensation, benefits, and FEC (Faculty Evaluation Committee) processes. She thanked members for their suggestions and comments and assured them they would be addressed.
- on the delivery of education, another item currently being reviewed by the University. She explained that while several online learning initiatives have been available for a long time, an important shift has occurred involving the blending of online and classroom instruction that has warranted the University’s rapid attention and response. A Visioning Committee was struck earlier this year to determine the University’s preparedness to respond to these changing trends and to formulate a strategic plan to keep the University current and to move it forward in this
A member enquired about the sustainability of Udacity, copyright ownership, and whether or not Harvard
and Yale Universities have plans to partner with a software company (like Udacity) or develop their own online learning software. Dr Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean, Faculty of Science, replied that authors retain ownership of their intellectual material posted deployed Udacity on behalf of the University; that Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) are using a company called edX; and that there are no guarantees that Udacity will remain a long-term entity.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. **New Members of GFC**

There were no new members on this occasion.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. **The Umbrella Committee (TUC) - Update**

There were no documents.

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

*Discussion:*
Dr Ferguson-Pell stated that the purpose of this presentation was to provide GFC with an opportunity to hear from Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), on an update regarding the activities of The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and the Renaissance Committee (REN). He noted that the purpose of The Umbrella Committee (TUC) was to review different ideas to organize institutional planning and resources more efficiently, with an aim to improve the lives of students and staff at the University of Alberta. He added that the REN Committee will attempt to pick up where TUC left off in terms of strategy and will continue to operate with openness and transparency. In terms of membership on the REN Committee, he stated that the final membership list will be announced shortly and that he expects that this committee will begin meeting early in the New Year.

A member asked what will happen to those suggestions not addressed by REN, and Acting Provost Ferguson-Pell replied that members will review the work of TUC and all relevant commentary, and, in turn, apply them to REN’s Terms of Reference—anything not within their purview will go through the Strategic Initiatives Group for consideration.

6. **Community Connection Awards**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter: Anastasia Lim, Executive Director, University Relations*

*Discussion:*
Ms Lim presented GFC with information about the recent unveiling of the new Community Connection Awards. These awards, created by the Office of the Vice-President (University Relations), will be presented annually to recognize University-related community service activities such as public speaking, volunteer work, school visits, and/or other substantial community service work. The categories of the awards are: The Community Scholar Award, The Community Leader Award, and The UAlberta Advocacy Award. She concluded her remarks by noting the nomination deadline for these awards has been set at January 25, 2013.
7. **University Governance Electronic Voting Procedure (e-Vote), Phase I**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

*Discussion:*
Ms Haggarty-France introduced to members the newly-introduced electronic voting program undertaken by University Governance, explaining that e-Vote will be a useful tool deployed in relation to a number of the unit’s activities including committee population, nomination processes, and voting on contested elections where there are more nominees than available positions; she added that it is aligned with the relevant Cornerstones set out in the *Dare to Discover*. Further, she commented that e-Vote brings University Governance up to date with the latest technological capabilities around online voting and that making the transition from paper ballots to electronic voting is the most appropriate course of action for a multi-campus academy and a global community.

8. **Question Period**

8.1Q/8.1R **Question** from Faculty of Engineering Undergraduate Student Representative Lyndon Crone Regarding Residence Services’ Student Staff and **Response** from Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Frank Robinson to Question Raised by Lyndon Crone

8.2Q **Questions** from GFC Faculty Member Jeremy Richards (Faculty of Science) Regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Alberta
8.2R **Responses** from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (In Concert with the Office of the President) to Questions Raised by Professor Richards Regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Alberta

*Discussion:*
Dr Richards acknowledged the response to his question, as provided by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (in concert with the Office of the President), and asked how the issue of academic intellectual ownership might relate to the introduction of MOOCs at the University of Alberta. Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that he does not expect that the current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Udacity specifically addresses those issues, however, if there are contracts in the future, details about copyright and intellectual property rights would be specifically addressed within them.

Mr Cory Hodgson read a written statement directed at Dr Frank Robinson, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, regarding a recent incident report from Lister Centre. Mr Bodnar requested that the individual not read the written statement; rather, he invited the individual to pose his question succinctly and clearly. The student then asked why the evidence cited within Dr Robinson’s written response to Mr Crone’s query constituted a positive change at Lister Centre. Dr Robinson replied that, once more data is available, he will provide a response.

Mr Chelen asked what types of specific incidents contributed to the net increase of reported incidents within the same report. Dr Robinson replied that once the appropriate data has been gathered, he will provide a response.

Mr Adam Woods enquired as to why statistics were still being gathered after the decision was made.

Dr Samarasekera responded that this issue was addressed at the President’s Town Hall, held recently on
November 16, 2012. She stated that, based on urgent issues of health and safety, backed by evidence that those health and safety issues needed to be addressed urgently, she made a decision for an immediate course of action. She added that data is currently being gathered to ensure that the appropriate course of action was taken. Once the data is available, it will be made available to the community. She stated that the Board of Governors had delegated the authority to her, as President, to make these types of decisions when there is evidence to suggest imminent danger to staff and students. She concluded that she is certain that the data will prove that the right decision was made at the time.

Mr Sumar asked if it would be possible to provide responses to Dr Robinson’s replies to the question put to him, and Mr Bodnar replied that the Terms of Reference for GFC clearly state rules around “Question Period” and that this period is intended to provide a question and answer period without large statements of opinion being read to all members in Chamber or for debate thereof. Mr Sumar replied that he believed the Terms of Reference are not clear in this regard.

Dr Wilson asked if the Udacity Coordinator has been named, and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that his Office is in the advanced stages of obtaining a coordinator but the name is not available yet. He added that the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA) will be consulted on the project.

Mr Yamagishi read from a written statement about Lister Centre, and asked Dr Robinson when additional data would be made available. Dr Robinson replied that he hoped to have a report available for January or February, 2013.

Dr Milner asked if Administration would be open for feedback about MOOCs, and Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that they would.

Mr Sumar read from a written statement about incident reporting at Lister Centre. The Chair requested that Mr Sumar ask his question and refrain from reading a prepared statement.

Mr Sumar asked Dr Robinson if he could expand upon the assertion within his responses on the Lister Centre that non-residence life staff do not report incidents or do not report at an appropriate level. Dr Robinson replied that he was unable to hear the question being posed. Mr Bodnar stated that there is a recurring trend at recent GFC meetings where individuals bring prepared, written statements (with embedded queries) to meetings and read from them. He requested that, out of fairness to those in Chamber and to encourage meaningful responses to questions posed, that these written questions be forwarded to him before the meeting. Mr Sumar replied that since they received Dr Robinson’s responses late, they were unable to provide their questions in advance of the meeting. Mr Bodnar replied that even if the questions are submitted late, they can always be made available to members and that this type of practice ensures that respondents have an opportunity to be adequately prepared.

Mr Andrews enquired about the timeline of possible changes to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr Ferguson-Pell replied that Ms Catherine Swindlehurst, on behalf of his Office, is currently conducting campus-wide consultation through a series of focus groups on the issue, fine-tuning objectives for the project to move forward. He expects roll-out of possible changes throughout 2013.

Mr Yamagishi enquired about the possibility of receiving a summary report from the Festival of Ideas, and the Chair stated that she will discuss the idea with the Office of University Relations.

Dean Schaeffer was asked what is being done to facilitate the professional development of undergraduate students within the Faculty of Science. Dr Schaeffer replied that, although a more detailed response could be provided by Dr Brenda Leskiw, Senior Associate Dean (Student Services), Faculty of Science, there is a
new centre in the Faculty, the CCIS Career Centre, which provides students with career resources and planning activities. He added that the Faculty has plans to launch a new entrepreneur endeavor as well.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

9.  **GFC Executive Committee Minutes of September 10 and October 9, 2012**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

10. **Reports of the Board of Governors of October 19, 2012**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

11. **E-Mail Report of the GFC Nominating Committee**

There was no report to date.

There was no discussion.

12. **E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee**

There was no report to date.

There was no discussion.

13. **Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings**

There were no items to date.

There was no discussion.

14. **Reports**

- General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012)
- Annual Report on Enrolment from the Vice-Provost and University Registrar

**Discussion:**

Mr Yamagishi enquired about the status of the proposal to rescind Section 50 (Enrolment Management) of the GFC Policy Manual, and Mr Kendal replied that a proposal is being prepared for presentation at GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Mr Yamagishi asked if there could be a detailed presentation about enrolment data, and Mr Kendal replied that he would have to consult with Dr Samarasekera first regarding the matter.

**CLOSING SESSION**
15. **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.