General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, June 03, 2013
L1-490, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Amaral, J. Nelson  Science
Arbuckle, Kathryn  Acting Chief Librarian
Auger, Joanna  Sessional Staff (Academic)
Banister, Marina  Arts
Belosevic, Mike  GFC Appointee to the Board of Governors
Berger, Allen  Dean, Augustana Faculty and Executive Officer of Augustana Campus
Bouchard, Alice  Non-Academic Staff
Brown, Cary  Rehabilitation Medicine
Brown, Norman  Arts
Bryden, Philip  Dean, Law
Chelen, Dustin  Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students
Clark, Brenda  Medicine and Dentistry
Clark, Phyllis  Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Coulthard, Roy  Graduate Student at-Large
Deyholos, Michael  Science
El-Bialy, Tarek  Medicine and Dentistry
Epperson, Brent  GSA President
Ferguson-Pell, Martin  Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Haennel, Robert  Acting Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine
Harrington, Joanna  Law
Harris, John  Arts
Hokowhitu, Brendan  Dean, Native Studies
Holte, Robert (Delegate)  Dean, Science
Ingles, Ernie  Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Interim Director, Library and Information Studies
Ives, Jack  Arts
Iwaniuk, Averi  Education
Jensen, Louise  Nursing
Johnston, Lindsay  Library Academic Staff
Kehrer, James  Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kelly, Brent  Students’ Union (SU) Appointee to the Board of Governors
Kendal, Gerry  Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Koch, Katherine  Library Academic Staff
Kusmu, Petros  Students’ Union President
Laing, Lory  
Interim Dean, Public Health

Lau, William  
Student Nominated by Undergraduate Council of Students

Lederer, Robert  
Arts

Lemelin, Pierre  
Medicine and Dentistry

Loebenberg, Raimar  
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science

Milner, Rachel  
Medicine and Dentistry

Mohamed, Yasser  
Engineering

Molzahn, Anita  
Dean, Nursing

More, Colin  
Student Nominated by Graduate Council of Students

Odoom, Isaac  
Graduate Student at-Large

Obsburn, Debra Pozega  
Vice-President (University Relations)

Outar, O’Neil  
Vice-President (Advancement)

Pang, Harold  
Nursing

Patterson, Ray  
Business

Preksaitis, Jutta  
Medicine and Dentistry

Reich, Krista  
Graduate Student at-Large

Reid, Patrick  
Graduate Student at-Large

Renke, Wayne  
AASUA Appointee to the Board of Governors

Richards, Jeremy  
Science

Robertson, Sean  
Native Studies

Robinson, Frank  
Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

Samarasekera, Indira  
President (Chair)

Saunders, Duncan  
Public Health

Shao, Peng  
Graduate Student at-Large

Shirvani, Mazi  
Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research

Shores, Sandra  
Library Academic Staff

Speakman, Chloe  
Science

Sturdy, Christopher  
Science

Tamana, Sukhpreet  
Graduate Student at-Large

Tinic, Serra  
Arts

Tse, Amy  
Medicine and Dentistry

Van der Baan, Mirko  
Science

Vela, Andrew  
Education

Whelton, Bill  
Education

Williamson, Deanna  
Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Wilson, Donna  
President of AASUA

Wright, Rob  
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Zhang, Hao  
Engineering

Zhao, Richard  
Graduate Student at-Large

Zwicker, Heather  
Dean, Arts

(Delegate)

Presenters/Proposers:

Ed Blackburn  
Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

Mike Belosevic  
Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors

Allen Berger  
Dean, Augustana Faculty

Garry Bodnar  
Secretary to General Faculties Council and Coordinator, GFC Replenishment Committee

Phyllis Clark  
Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Martin Ferguson-Pell  
Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC
OPENING SESSION

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

Dr Samarasekera asked that the Agenda be reorganized to accommodate a presenter's schedule.

Motion: Belosevic/Amaral

**THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda, as amended.**

CARRIED

2. **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 14, 2013**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Berger/Lau

**THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of March 14, 2013.**

CARRIED

3. **Comments from the President**

President and Chair, Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 389th meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and reported:

- On the retirement of several longstanding GFC members, notably Mr Gerry Kendal, University Registrar, and Mr Ernie Ingles, Vice-Provost and Director, School of Library and Information Studies. She thanked all departing members of GFC for their dedication and hard work.

- On the Provincial Government’s vision of Campus Alberta, the re-opening of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*, and a recent meeting with Mr Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE). She stated that she will be attempting to gather concrete objectives from the Provincial Government surrounding their plans for Campus Alberta. She noted that the *PSLA* serves the University of Alberta well, and it may not be beneficial to re-open it. At the request of Dr Samarasekera, Acting Provost Dr Ferguson-Pell was invited to comment on a recent meeting he had with Minister Lukaszuk. He reported that during this meeting, the Minister discussed results-based budgeting, plans for a possible institute that would foster commercialization opportunities across Campus Alberta, potential changes to Alberta Innovates, re-
opening the PSLA, and performance criteria for Campus Alberta. He noted that the discussion did not yield many specific details on these matters.

- On the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She reported that following a request from the Alberta Council of Presidents, citing the need for the document to be vetted through governance processes, the Ministry of EAE has agreed to move the deadline for completion of the MOU to October 31, 2013. She noted that the University of Alberta will collaborate with fellow Comprehensive Academic and Research Intensive (CARI) institutions of Alberta in completing certain sections of the MOU and provided members with a governance timeline of a draft MOU presentation at the June 21, 2013 Board of Governors meeting, a first draft in July, and then discussion of the draft MOU at the September 16, 2013 GFC meeting, with an aim to submit a final document by the stated deadline of October 31, 2013. She emphasized that the MOU will be a condensed document. She reminded members to monitor the posts on the University’s Colloquy blog for updates.

- On the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). She explained to Council that WUN is a group of 19 research-intensive universities which collaborate on global research topics. She reported that at the recent WUN meeting, members discussed ideas surrounding the Network’s areas of focus: climate change, understanding cultures, higher education, and public health. She noted that food security was determined to be the next area of focus and that proposals would be prepared for consideration by several international funding agencies.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion I: Shirvani/Molzahn

**MOTION I: TO APPOINT/RE-APPOINT** [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:

The following undergraduate student representatives nominated by the Students’ Union (SU) to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Faculty/School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Mills</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majd Mouzaffar</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Banister</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Schiavone</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafael Valdez</td>
<td>School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Mlynarski</td>
<td>School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Vela</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averi Iwaniuk</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranek Kiil</td>
<td>Faculty of Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following graduate student members nominated by the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erika Goble</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Barron</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Odoom</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer McGetrick</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Vera Lyn Turpin</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karly Coleman</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsta Reich</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navjot Thind</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Reid</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peng Shao</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qiang Li</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Zhao</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Coulthard</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukhpreet Tamana</td>
<td>Graduate Student at-Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARRIED

Motion II: Shirvani/Chelen
TO RECEIVE [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:

The following *ex officio* members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2013 and extending for the duration of their appointments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Ferguson-Pell</td>
<td>Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Beasley</td>
<td>Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected or re-elected by their Faculty to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lise Gotell</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Lowrey</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Patten</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni Samek</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John M. Law</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris de Gara</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (June 30, 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan White</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Solez</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Tse</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARRIED

5. **Merger of the Augustana Faculty’s Department of Fine Arts and Department of Humanities**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Allen Berger, Dean, Augustana Faculty

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To create administrative efficiencies and reduced expenditures and help facilitate improved faculty communication and new collaborations in teaching and research.

*Discussion:*

Dean Berger explained to members that in an attempt to review administrative savings within Augustana Faculty, the proposal speaks to the merger of two small departments, resulting in three equally-sized departments within the Faculty. He reported that the proposal was approved by Augustana Faculty Council unanimously—this serves as a reflection of support from the departments. He drew members’ attention to the corresponding letters of support for the proposal and noted that programs and courses would not be negatively impacted.

*Motion:* Amaral/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the proposed merger of Augustana Faculty’s Department of Fine Arts and Department of Humanities into a single Department of Fine Arts and Humanities, as submitted by the Dean of Augustana Faculty and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2013.

CARRIED
DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. **Academic Governance – Moving Forward**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC*

*Purpose of the Discussion: For information.*

**Discussion:**

President Samarasekera explained to members that she will be creating an arm’s length GFC Task Force to review GFC and its Standing Committees, noting that the review will examine Terms of Reference for GFC and each GFC Standing Committee, compare them with the Terms of Reference and activities of other GFC Standing Committees, and ensure that there is a clear delineation between governance and administration. She stated that now is the time to ensure that processes at the University of Alberta are streamlined, effective, and strategic, and she added that GFC should be a forum in which substantive discussions and debates occur. She added that she hopes to decrease the level of repetition within the governance process, ensuring that members’ time is utilized efficiently in an environment when there is a need to do more with fewer resources.

She reported that the GFC Task Force will be populated by two faculty members with expertise in governance as well as one graduate student representative who, similarly, has some expertise in this area. She stated that a report from the GFC Task Force will be presented to the GFC Executive Committee and to GFC in the Fall.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that it is beneficial to routinely review governance processes for efficiency; clarification on whether the University of Alberta has faculty members with an expertise in university governance; how the review aligns with *Dare to Deliver*; clarification of the scope of the review; that GFC is seen by some to be a “rubber stamp”; that the GFC Executive Committee retains a lot of power and is seen to be operating beyond GFC; concern that some GFC Standing Committees report to the Board of Governors and, seemingly, not GFC; that all GFC Standing Committees should report directly to GFC; that the material on this item, provided to members, did not contain information on the inclusion of the graduate student representative on the GFC Task Force; a suggestion to include an undergraduate student representative on the GFC Task Force; concern that the summer months would not be enough time to complete the review; and clarification about the cross-over between administrative issues and governance.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr Samarasekera noted she was amenable to this Task Force including an undergraduate student representative.

7. **The Umbrella Committee (TUC) Report**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter: Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*

*Purpose of the Discussion: For information.*

**Discussion:**
Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that ‘The Umbrella Committee (TUC) Report’ represents the final report for TUC, adding that the Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG), under the direction of its Chair, Dr Erasmus Okine (who was in attendance at this meeting of GFC), will address any remaining topics not considered by TUC during the time in existence. He noted that all other matters are being considered by the Renaissance Committee (REN).

Members expressed several comments and questions in relation to this item, including, but not limited to: clarification with regard to the role of REN; and clarification about Central Administration’s plan to address the issue of indirect costs of research.

**ACTION ITEM**

8. **Budget Principles (and Update)**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Phyllis Clark, Vice President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Section 3(4)(a) of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Terms of Reference on budget matters states that GFC APC is to “recommend to GFC on budget principles.” The budget principles as recommended by GFC APC at its meeting of May 22, 2013 are attached for GFC’s consideration.

*Discussion:*
Dr Ferguson-Pell explained to members that in an effort to provide clear guidelines for the University of Alberta to direct future academy-wide changes, a set of budget principles had been drafted.

Members expressed a number of comments and questions in relation to the budget principles, including, but not limited to: a suggestion to include the words “publicly funded” within principle 1; clarification about the meaning of “demonstrable excellence”; a suggestion to amend punctuation within the document; that Central Administration may not be able to minimize job losses because certain losses will be directed and decided by individual Faculties; clarification about increasing international student enrolments but not the number of Canadian students; that Central Administration may have minimal control over increasing the number and quality of graduate students; clarification about how the costs of new initiatives will be weighed against the need to maintain existing programs and staff in the current financial climate; clarification about communicating with frequency and openness in relation to releasing each Faculty’s budget letter publicly; whether Central Administration could release the budget letters to University of Alberta leaders “in confidence”; a suggestion to include an “unintended consequences” clause into the principles; a suggestion to include a principle that might address increasing workload and changing working conditions for existing staff; that there could be issues surrounding equity, as a large percentage of full professors are male; clarification about the details of determining Faculty-specific differential cuts; that the principles do not include information about process; clarification about what is being done to prepare for cuts in 2014-2015 and 2015-16; clarification about the future impact on tuition rates; and clarification about resource planning to ensure that international students maintain their health and wellness while at the University of Alberta.

Members discussed suggested revisions and the Mover and Seconder to the Motion before Council agreed to several ‘friendly amendments’ to the budget principles.

*Motion:* Belosevic/Ingles
THAT General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the budget principles that will guide the University in developing the strategies that will enable the institution to achieve a sustainable budget, as provided by the President’s Executive Committee and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEM

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of March 4, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

11. Reports of the Board of Governors of March 15, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.


Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.


Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

15. Reports

There were no reports to date.

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.