# General Faculties Council

## Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2013  
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

## ATTENDEES:

**Voting Members:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indira Samarasekera</td>
<td>Chair, President, Statutory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Elio (Delegate)</td>
<td>Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marina Banister</td>
<td>Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts</td>
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<td>Gary Barron</td>
<td>Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Arts</td>
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<td>Gerald Beasley</td>
<td>Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory</td>
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<td>Ed Blackburn</td>
<td>Member, Acting Dean, Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory</td>
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<td>Norman Brown</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<td>Philip Bryden</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Law, Statutory</td>
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<td>Deborah Burstyn</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Cajina Cortez</td>
<td>Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Faculté Saint-Jean</td>
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<td>Katy Campbell</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory</td>
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<td>Rhada Chari</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<td>Phyllis Clark</td>
<td>Member, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Statutory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karly Coleman</td>
<td>Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences</td>
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<td>Lisa Collins</td>
<td>Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory</td>
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<td>Lesley Cormack</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Arts, Statutory</td>
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<td>Roy Coulthard</td>
<td>Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science</td>
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<td>Chris DeGara</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<td>Kathleen DeLong</td>
<td>Member, University Library Academic Staff</td>
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<td>Joseph Doucet</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Business, Statutory</td>
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<td>Maxwell Douglas</td>
<td>Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science</td>
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<td>Tarek El-Bialy</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Epperson</td>
<td>Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Statutory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Ferguson-Pell</td>
<td>Member, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory</td>
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<td>Raj Gupta</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<td>John Harris</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Hickey</td>
<td>Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Statutory</td>
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<td>Brendan Hokowhitu</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory</td>
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<td>Averi Iwaniuk</td>
<td>Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Education</td>
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<td>Kaori Kabata</td>
<td>Member, Statutory Academic Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Kehrer</td>
<td>Member, Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory</td>
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<td>Brent Kelly</td>
<td>Member, Board of Governors Representative, SU Appointee</td>
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</table>
Terence Kersch  Member, St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee
Katherine Koch  Member, University Library Academic Staff
Jeffry Kochikuzhyil  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Greg Kondrak  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jill Konkin  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Petros Kusmu  Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union
William Lau  Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, Vice-President (Student Life), Students' Union
John Law  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre Lemelin  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bernard Lemire  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Qiang Li  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Engineering
Mark Loewen  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
David Lynch  Member, Dean, Engineering, Statutory
Godfrey Man  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jennifer McGetrick  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, School of Public Health
Misha Miazga-Rodriguez  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science
Kelsey Mills  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Arts
Colin More  Member, Student Nominated by Grad Council of Students, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students’ Association
Kerry Mummery  Member, Dean, Physical Education & Recreation, Statutory
Norma Nocente  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
O'Neil Outar  Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Steve Patten  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Ray Patterson  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Debra Pozega Osburn  Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Wendy Duggleby (Delegate)  Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Krista Reich  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Medicine and Dentistry
Patrick Reid  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Physical Education and Recreation
Jeremy Richards  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Frank Robinson  Member, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students and Additional Appointee
Wendy Rodgers  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Beamish (delegate)  Member, Dean, Science, Statutory
Mazi Shirvani  Member, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Statutory
Kim Solez  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Chloe Speakman  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Marcia Spetch  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kent Stobart  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sukhprett Tamana  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Guillaume Tardif  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Navjot Thind  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Education
Mirko van der Baan  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Andrew Vela  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Education
Dilini Vethanayagam Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pravin Wedage  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Engineering
David Whalen  Member, APO (AASUA) Representative
Bill Whelton  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kue Young  Member, Dean, School of Public Health, Statutory
Dawson Zeng  Member, Undergraduate Student Member, Science
Richard Zhao  Member, Graduate Student at-Large, Science

Presenter(s):
Ed Blackburn  Chair, GFC Nominating Committee
Phyllis Clark  Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Garry Bodnar  Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC
Martin Ferguson-Pell  Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Indira Samarasekera  President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair, GFC

Staff:
Garry Bodnar, Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC
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: Lynch/Kusmu

\[
\text{THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.}
\]
CARRIED

2.  Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Bryden/Cormack

\[
\text{THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Open Session Minutes of October 28, 2013.}
\]
CARRIED

3.  Comments from the President

President and Chair Dr Samarasekera welcomed members to the 392nd meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and commented on the following:
- The successful and inspiring Fall 2013 University of Alberta Convocation.
- Accolades to members of the University of Alberta community for various prestigious professional and personal achievements.
- The final Renaissance Committee (REN) Report. Dr Samarasekera thanked members of this committee for their hard work and effort.

3.1 Leadership Initiative

Dr Samarasekera expressed her thanks towards Council for their continued interest in this issue and noted that, while it is still in the early stages of development, the Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has struck a committee to review the initial stages of the Leadership Initiative, with this body composed of broad representation from Administration, the Deans, faculty members, and students. She reported that this committee would preliminarily establish the framework for this project.

She thanked students for their comprehensive feedback on the Leadership Initiative and acknowledged their position paper on the matter.

She cautioned members to separate the proposed student residence from the idea of a leadership college and noted that the college will be broad and inclusive and will provide students with transformative leadership opportunities. She noted that there are still big decisions to be made surrounding the size of the college and how it will be both funded and managed. She stated that she will continue to consult with students (and, as necessary, Council) on these important issues. The President also commented that, generally, there needs to be more student residence spaces on the campuses of the University of Alberta.

Dr Samarasekera concluded by stating that this matter would again be discussed by GFC once further details have been established.

3.2 ‘Change Agenda’ for the University of Alberta

Dr Samarasekera reported that she has been in the process of drafting an ‘action plan’ in response to the Board of Governors’ reaffirmation of institutional excellence pledged at its April, 2013 strategic retreat. She noted that this action plan is centered around the themes of academic transformation, sustainable financial modeling, efficient administration, and fostering a culture of change. She stated that the plan will be presented to the Board of Governors at its December 13, 2013 meeting, followed by a presentation to GFC on February 3, 2014.

A member enquired about when GFC members will get an opportunity to debate the concepts of these issues and followed up with a question relating to the approval of colleges.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

_Presenter:_ Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

_Motion:_ Hickey/Shirvani
MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:

The following undergraduate student representative to serve on GFC for a term beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2014:

Pravin Wedage                           Faculty of Engineering

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.  Dare to Discover (D2D) Report Card

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

Purpose of the Proposal: The primary audience for the D2D Report Card is the Board of Governors, but it is a public document that is distributed widely. This discussion is an opportunity for GFC to learn about some of the diverse University initiatives and the qualitative and quantitative indicators used to measure our progress against Board metrics.

Discussion: Dr Samarasekera noted that, although this is the first time the D2D Report Card has been presented at GFC, it represents a broad overview, based on several measurements, of the state of the University of Alberta compared to other similar public research universities. She noted that the Report Card aligns with the four cornerstones of Dare to Discover, namely: talented people; learning, discovery and citizenship; connecting communities; transformative organization and support.

She reported that, across the spectrum, the University of Alberta has made gains in certain areas and remained stagnant or has gone backward in others but that the institution has maintained its standing overall. She added that the recent financial crisis faced by the University has added to this situation. Dr Samarasekera concluded by indicating that the final D2D Report Card will be presented next year to both the Board of Governors and to GFC.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether the figures surrounding graduate student support include scholarships; an update on the status of graduate student scholarships provided by and at the University of Alberta; and clarification about Figure 11 (ie, Provincial/State and Tuition and Fees Operating Revenue per FTE Student, University of Alberta and Selected Peers) within the Report Card.

6.  University of Alberta Budget – Update

There were no documents.
Presenter(s): Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC; Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide GFC members with an update about the University of Alberta budget.

Discussion:
Dr Samarasekera reported that for the first time in the University of Alberta’s history, the Provincial Government has provided in-year funding of $14.4 million to the institution, aimed towards enrollment pressures and quality student experiences. She thanked Mr Douglas Goss, Chair, Board of Governors, for his tireless efforts advocating for continued investment in the University of Alberta. She added that, while there is latitude to use the funding where needed, the Senior Administration as well as the Deans will be meeting to discuss its strategic application towards enrollment pressures and other relevant initiatives.

Dr Samarasekera continued by stating that the Government has indicated their desire for the University of Alberta to accommodate more graduate students, but she noted that the University must receive the appropriate financial support for more professors, support staff, laboratories, and library services to make this a reality. She explained that the amount of Government investment for next year’s budget remains unknown, which is an additional complicating factor in budget planning for the University.

A member enquired about the usage of the in-year funding in relation to graduate teaching.

7. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

7.1Q and 7.1R Questions from GFC Member Mr William Lau Regarding International Student Fees and Services and Responses from Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell and Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Questions Raised by Mr Lau

7.2Q and 7.2R Questions from GFC Member Mr Richard Zhao Regarding Consultation with Students on Tuition and Fees and Responses from Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell and Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Questions Raised by Mr Zhao

7.3Q and 7.3R Question from GFC Member Mr Petros Kusmu Regarding Annual Submission of Enrolment Targets for Domestic and International Students and Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Mr Kusmu

7.4Q and 7.4R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Student Concerns on Increases to International Student Tuition and
Response from Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.5Q and 7.5R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Appropriateness and Timing of Items for Discussion at General Faculties Council (GFC) and Response from President Indira Samarasekera to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.6Q and 7.6R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Institutional Morale and Pride and Response from Vice-President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.7Q and 7.7R Question from GFC Member Mr Dustin Chelen Regarding Donor Support for Undergraduate Researchers and Response from Vice-President (Advancement) O’Neil Outar to Question Raised by Mr Chelen

7.8Q and 7.8R Questions from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding ‘Dino 101’ and the University’s Partnerships with Udacity and Coursera and Responses from the Senior Administration to Questions Raised by Professor Lowrey

7.9Q and 7.9R Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding Deployment of Cost Recovery and Revenue-Generating Programs at the University of Alberta and Response from the Senior Administration to Question Raised by Professor Lowrey

7.10Q and 7.10R Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey Regarding the University’s Relationship with Alberta Taxpayers and Response from the Senior Administration to Question Raised by Professor Lowrey

Discussion:

During the ensuing discussion within Question Period in relation to previously-submitted written questions, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether there can be more time afforded to discuss proposed increases to tuition fees so that students can adequately prepare for the discussion; whether additional consultation regarding proposed increases to tuition fees can be provided; clarification about how costs related to fee-supported services relate to the costs associated with educating international students; that students would be more understanding if there was, in their view, clear justification for the proposed increases in tuition and fees; whether the University of Alberta plans to increase international tuition and fees by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the future; clarification surrounding a break-down of the 5% increase to international student tuition and its deployment; clarification about the consultation process surrounding the proposal concerning increases to international student tuition; that the tuition increases negatively impact the lives of international students; that it may be difficult to retain international graduate students if costs increase; clarification about the use of the additional revenue generated by increasing international student tuition and fees; that in order to be
eligible for bursaries, students must already be experiencing financial hardship; clarification about the University of Alberta’s relationship with Udacity; that it takes time for new revenue generation in Faculties to be impactful; that the endeavors of a publicly-funded institution should not singularly include initiatives around frank revenue generation; that Administration could do more to express gratitude towards Albertans for their significant financial contributions toward the University of Alberta; that there needs to be more advocacy done publicly surrounding the fact the University of Alberta was established in 1908 by the Province of Alberta as an independent academic-research institution; clarification surrounding the impact of recent budget cuts on the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI); clarification surrounding the true costs of educating a student; that, in a member’s opinion, the provision of incorrect figures surrounding the costs associated with educating students taints ensuing discussions; whether there could be an increase of services and bursaries for international students in light of the proposed tuition increases; and clarification surrounding the definition of what is meant by a “transitory document.”

Given that Question Period had reached its 30-minute limit, Mr Kusmu proposed a Motion to extend Question Period.

Motion: Kusmu/Epperson

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<th>THAT General Faculties Council extend the length of Question Period at its November 25, 2013 meeting.</th>
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CARRIED

During the discussion within the extended Question Period, members expressed a number of comments and questions including, but not limited to: whether international tuition and fees could be grandfathered for affected students currently at the University of Alberta; that various publications distributed to international students provide advanced warning that the University of Alberta has a right to and may choose to increase tuition and fees and that the students should anticipate this may occur during their time at the institution; that the proposed 5% increase in international student tuition is reasonable; that the University Calendar has not been updated to reflect the new proposed tuition rates; that Administration did not properly consult with all relevant parties before proposing the tuition increases; that graduate fees at the University of Alberta only seem low in comparison to institutions in Ontario and that, regionally, they are not that low; and that the focus of the academy should not be on targeting a vulnerable group of students for revenue generation but, instead, the focus should be on strongly advocating for more public funding, overall.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. GFC Executive Committee Minutes of October 7, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

There was no discussion.


Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.
Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

10. E-Mail Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee

There were no documents.

Presenter: Ed Blackburn, Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

There was no discussion.

11. E-Mail Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee

There were no documents.

Presenter: Garry Bodnar, Director of GFC Services and Secretary to GFC

There was no discussion.

12. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no documents.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

13. Reports

There were no documents.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair, GFC

There was no discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.