



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Campus Law Review Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, June 06, 2013  
3-77, Central Academic Building  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Steven Penney	(Elected from at-large) Staff Member and Appointed by the GFC Executive Committee
Deborah Eerkes	Discipline Officer
Frank Robinson	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Chris Fukushima (Delegate)	Director, University of Alberta Protective Services
Sarah Wolgemuth	Director of Resident Services
Jayson MacLean (Delegate)	Student OmbudService
Monty Ball	Graduate Students' Association
William Lau	Students' Union Executive
Elaine Geddes	Academic Staff
Adrienne Wright	Staff from A1.0, A2.0 and/or B1.0

#### Non-Voting Members:

Michael Peterson	Appeals Coordinator
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#### Staff:

Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary and Acting Coordinator, GFC Campus Law Review Committee
Andrea Patrick	Scribe

#### Presenters:

Deborah Eerkes	Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs
Chris Hackett	Discipline Officer, Office of Student Judicial Affairs
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Steven Penney	Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee

### **OPENING SESSION**

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Eerkes/Robinson

THAT the GFC Campus Law Review Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 25, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Geddes/Fukushima

THAT the GFC Campus Law Review Committee approve the Minutes of April 25, 2013.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

Professor Penney welcomed new members to the Committee.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. 'Readmission After a Suspension – Clarifying Proposed Changes to the Code of Student Behaviour

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Deborah Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide clarification to that section of the Code of Student Behaviour regarding readmission to the University of Alberta after a suspension (Section 30.4.2(13)(f) (Suspension) of the Code)

*Discussion:*

Ms Eerkes briefed members on the history of the proposal, noting that it was previously presented to members at the GFC CLRC meeting of April 25, 2013 and that, following suggestions from members for further revisions, the item was withdrawn for consideration. She explained that the intent of the proposal was to ensure that this section of the Code of Student Behaviour clarified the impact of suspension on readmission.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several questions and comments in relation to these changes, including, but not limited to: clarification about suspensions that exceed one year; clarification on the language used within the proposal; and a suggestion to include a hyperlink to the online version of the University Calendar within the proposal.

The Mover and Seconder agreed upon the friendly amendment to include a hyperlink to the University Calendar within the proposed changes.

Motion: Eerkes/Lau

THAT the GFC Campus Law Review Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed revisions to Section 30.3.2(13)(f) (Suspension) of the Code of Student Behaviour, as submitted by the Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) and as set forth in

Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Report from the Working Group on the Use of Text-Matching Software for Detecting Plagiarism in Student Work

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Chris Hackett, Discipline Officer, Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA); Deborah Eerkes, Director, OSJA

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide the above-named report to the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) for discussion.

*Discussion:*

Mr Hackett briefed members on the history of the Working Group and provided a brief overview of the contents of the report, adding that the report of the Academic Integrity Task Force included reference to several concerns from members about text-matching software and that it had recommended further examination of the issue by establishing a General Faculties Council (GFC) working group.

Mr Hackett provided members with the final recommendations of the Working Group, including the role of proper timing and consultation prior to the adoption of an institution-wide text-matching software program; the importance of retaining traditional forms of cheating and plagiarism deterrents; that there is no need to adopt a specific policy on text-matching software unless the University of Alberta mandates a single platform; that guidelines for best practices should be developed for the usage of text-matching software; that academic integrity resources should be updated to include information and guidance on the usage of text-matching software; that students should be formally advised if a professor utilizes text-matching software and that students should be allowed to opt out of participating in text-matching software that stores student work; and that any professors who utilize text-matching software must ensure that it complies with existing policies and laws.

Members expressed a number of comments and questions in relation to this report, including, but not limited to: whether there should be mandatory training regarding the use of text-matching software; clarification on procedure and process for students who may have complaints or concerns regarding the usage of text-matching software; that professors already utilize text-matching software and other methods to detect plagiarism, although specific data on institution-wide usage does not exist; whether information on text-matching software should be included within the University Calendar along regulations concerning course outlines; that there are already strict rules about plagiarism within course outlines and syllabi; that communicating with students through the course outline or syllabus is not ideal; clarification about how data might be deployed and/or stored when used within certain text-matching software programs and the implications of this data being identifiable; that there are existing privacy laws that protect intellectual property; that there may be heightened risk to privacy for text-matching software databases located outside of Canada; that the University Writing Committee provides information to students about proper citation so that students do not inadvertently commit plagiarism; whether students have the choice to opt out of participation in text-matching software; that a number of academics within the Working Group opposed certain types of text-matching software; that the University's Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) could review this issue with an aim to formally address it within their curriculum; clarification about whether data exists to prove that text-matching programs successfully identify plagiarism; that adopting text-matching

software measures on a widespread basis punishes all students; clarification on how the report should be used; that the report should be disseminated to CTL, all Faculties, members of General Faculties Council (GFC), members of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) for discussion, and that information could be posted on the University of Alberta webpage; and that several large national post-secondary institutions have accounts with turnitin®.

Professor Penney thanked members for their detailed report, adding that the report is extremely valuable.

6. Chart of Proposed Changes to Appeal Regulations

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To ensure stakeholders connect and share the status of contemplated changes and, where possible, coordinate efforts.

*Discussion:*

Ms Haggarty-France briefed members on the Chart of Proposed Changes to Appeal Regulations. She noted that most items have now been completed, and others have transformed into larger, more complex projects. She explained that revising the Appeal Regulations can be confusing for students and others who reference it often, and she suggested that there would be consideration of making consolidated changes, perhaps by an omnibus Motion, in the future. She reported that another pressing issue is how to effectively communicate these changes across the University of Alberta community. She reported that at the next meeting, a work plan will be presented. She thanked members for their continued hard work.

A member thanked Ms Haggarty-France for her efforts.

7. Question Period

Ms Haggarty-France reminded members to review the recent blog post on Colloquy from President Samarasekera, detailing a summertime audit of GFC and the GFC Standing Committees. She reported that a report on this subject will be circulating through the governance process in the fall.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

8. Items Approved by the GFC Campus Law Review Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.