



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 06, 2013
2-31 SAB, South Academic Building
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Martin Ferguson-Pell (Delegate)	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee (delegate)
Colleen Skidmore (Delegate)	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Dustin Chelen	Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Colin More	Graduate Student Association Vice-President (Academic)
Ed Blackburn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Norma Nocente	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Wendy Rodgers	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Anita Molzahn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Duncan Saunders	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Kaori Kabata	Academic Staff, Member of GFC

Presenter:

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

Garry Bodnar	Director, General Faculties Council (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: Chelen/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 4, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Molzahn/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of March 4, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

Dr Ferguson-Pell updated members with regard to issues surrounding Lister Residence (as reported to the Committee over the past year), adding that matters have been settled and that the judicial review launched by the Students' Union (SU) is no longer going to be pursued by that organization. He reported that a residence advisory committee has been struck and that it includes significant student representation. He noted that Central Administration will consult with the SU if future changes to the policies surrounding student residences are being considered and will provide historical data to identify trends for data-driven discussions. Mr Chelen thanked Dr Ferguson-Pell for his comments on the issue.

Dr Ferguson-Pell reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be provided by the University of Alberta to and with the agreement of the Provincial Government will contain three sections that will cover the following: first, the University of Alberta will be represented as an individual institution; second, sector-specific information related to the Alberta Comprehensive Academic and Research-Intensive (CARI) Universities category; and third, how the University of Alberta contributes to the system as a whole. He noted that there will be close collaboration with other members of CARI while drafting the joint sections and, additionally, that the third section will be amalgamated into a sector section by the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE), once completed.

Dr Ferguson-Pell explained that despite repeated requests from the University to push it back, the deadline for the draft MOU remains September 1, 2013, as emphasized by the Deputy Premier and Minister of EAE, Mr Thomas Lukaszuk; however, the Acting Chair indicated he would strive to consult with members of the University of Alberta community over the summer months. He noted that the first section might be ready for review in June, but the remaining two sections will be completed too late in the summer for full governance consultation. He pledged that every attempt will be made to arrange review of the document once it is drafted.

Ms Haggarty-France clarified that the specific routing plan for the draft MOU through the governance process depends on the contents of the MOU and that special General Faculties Council (GFC) standing committee as well as Board of Governors meetings over the summer could be organized, if necessary. Mr Bodnar added that the GFC Executive Committee has delegated authority from GFC to handle routine and urgent matters and that the Committee could be gathered, if deemed necessary by the Chair.

Dr Ferguson-Pell informed members that Faculty-specific budget letters have been distributed to each Dean, and he noted that careful consideration was put into drafting the letters to ensure that positions could be protected, permanent harm could be minimized, and that the institutional support of excellence, as mandated by the Board of Governors, could be preserved in the process. He reported that Deans have been asked to communicate these issues to their own members, using methods that they deem most appropriate. He noted the processes being deployed during this challenging time are all intended to achieve a long-term, sustainable institutional budget in the next three years.

He stated that the Office of Advancement has been tasked with raising monies to help support any areas that may be negatively impacted by the funding cuts.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification about who will be the author(s) of the MOU; concern about the submission date; clarification about the governance routing process for the MOU; whether or not members could be gathered to review the draft MOU in the summer months; that the community is available and willing to participate in the consultation process despite the late summer deadline; the impact of consulting without students being available due to summer; whether there has ever been an MOU of this type in the past; that the impact of the budget on teaching assistantships and graduate assistantships is being misinterpreted because of lack of details and that the communication surrounding this could be improved; clarification about details for the 2014-2015 budget; and clarification about where funds raised by the Office of Advancement might be applied.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Draft Agenda for the June 3, 2013 Meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the Agenda for the June 3, 2013 GFC meeting.

Discussion:

Dr Ferguson-Pell informed members that a budget update would be added to the Agenda, and members discussed the documents presented by the President regarding academic governance at the April 26, 2013 meeting of the GFC Executive Committee. Upon invitation from the Chair, Mr Chelen commented that he supported the inclusion of President Samarasekera's document entitled "Academic Governance: Moving Forward" with meeting material for the June 3, 2013 GFC meeting, with appropriate student-recommended amendments, as the sole document for discussion on this matter at that time. [Dr Catherine Swindlehurst, Director of the Office of the President, stated from the sideline that she would arrange a meeting with Mr Chelen to discuss such amendments further.]

A member enquired about the timeline of posting approved Minutes to the University Governance website.

Motion: Blackburn/Rodgers

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the June 3, 2013 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC).

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

6. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

7. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.

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