



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
University Teaching Awards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Friday, June 10, 2016
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Uwe Hacke	Chair, Academic Staff (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6)
Leanne Garon	Member, U of A Alumni Association Representative
Helen Vallianatos	Member, Academic Staff (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6)
Aleksandra Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student-at-large
Vanessa Marensi	Member, Graduate Student-at-large
Zizhao (Finn) Wang	Member, Undergraduate Student-at-large

Presenter(s):

Uwe Hacke	Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) and Chair, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)
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Staff:

Andrea Patrick, Coordinator, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Vallianatos/Marensi

THAT the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the *In Camera* Session Minutes of April 8, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Marensi/Vallianatos

THAT the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee approve the Minutes of April 8, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed new members of the Committee and invited all to provide introductions.

He emphasized the importance of the Strategic Initiatives Manager, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), in screening all incoming nomination packages for accuracy and compliance prior to the adjudication process.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed Revisions to the Awards for Teaching Excellence Procedures (in UAPPOL)

- **Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**
- **Teaching Unit Award**
- **William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**
- **Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Uwe Hacke, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) and Chair, GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To address concerns and issues raised with the content of the UAPPOL procedures of the Awards for Teaching Excellence, based on feedback provided by members of GFC UTAC. Specifically, proposed revisions aim to remove outdated reference to the eligibility of members of Augustana Faculty in the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; better clarify eligibility/definitions within the Teaching Unit Award; to emphasize the focus on sessional instructors in the William Hardy Alexander Award For Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; and to clarify USRI score utilization across several of the Procedures, including the Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Discussion:

The Chair provided an overview of the proposed changes, adding that some were minor while others would require further consideration by members. He reminded the Committee that any proposed changes would be recommended forward to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for final approval.

Members began the discussion by debating the definition of “external peer review”, specifically as it might relate to former trainees or learners of those being nominated. Members determined that anything within the UAPPOL procedures which might impact decision-making should be clearly outlined within the procedures, and therefore drafted revisions to the standardized paragraph in each procedure outlining external peer review criteria.

On the subject of the Teaching Unit Award, the Chair explained that the lack of clarity within this procedure might be the reason why so few nominations are submitted under this category. He added that this award is unique and timely, and encourages innovative approaches to teaching.

Members discussed the definition of “collaboration”, as well as implications related to broadening the definition of “team teaching”. Members concluded that the proposed revisions added additional clarity to the procedure’s definition and scope, and as well, recommended removing references to yearly application guidelines for ‘coordinated’ courses and ‘team teaching’ courses.

Members discussed the proposed changes to the William Hardy Alexander Award procedure, and it was noted that the teaching quality of sessional members of the faculty could be appropriately reviewed externally. On this point, the Chair suggested that changes could be made in future years if this is a problematic area.

Members considered proposed changes to the Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching procedure, and recommended against including USRI scores in the criteria as well as the nomination checklist.

Motion: Vallianatos/Garon

THAT the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) recommend to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) proposed changes (submitted by the Committee) to the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (set forth in Attachment 1); the Teaching Unit Award (set forth in Attachment 2); the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (set forth in Attachment 3); and the Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching (set forth in Attachment 4), as amended, all for implementation upon the Provost's final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Question Period

In response to a question about the Awards for Teaching Excellence Procedures in UAPPOL not discussed at the meeting, the Chair noted that only items requiring discussion or revisions come forward for consideration, and as well, that the Committee utilizes efficient adjudication guidelines.

Members engaged in discussion surrounding alternate format of USRI scores submitted in certain nomination packages, and the Chair clarified that it is the percentile that matters most.

INFORMATION REPORTS

6. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

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 2:45 p.m.