



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, February 08, 2012
3-15, UHALL
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
George Pavlich	Vice-President (Research) (Designate)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Rory Tighe	President, Students' Union
Roy Coulthard	President, Graduate Students' Association
Deanna Williamson	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Joanna Harrington	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Ernie Ingles	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Christina Rinaldi	Academic Staff Member, Member of GFC
Loren Kline	Academic Staff Member-at-large
Nathan Andrews	Graduate Student-at-large
Jessica Zvonkovic	Undergraduate Student-at-large

Non-Voting Members:

Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Ed Blackburn	Member of the GFC Executive Committee
Murray Gray	Vice-Provost (Academic)

Presenter(s):

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Don Hickey	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Rory Tighe	President, Students' Union
Sandra Kereliuk	Senior Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Wade King	Advisor, Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights
Debra Pozega Osburn	Vice-President (University Relations)

Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Academic Planning Committee
Emily Paulsen	Scribe, GFC Academic Planning Committee

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Members agreed to a reordering of the Agenda to accommodate guests.

Motion: Kline/Pavlich

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Agenda, as reordered.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 25, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Tighe asked that his vote against the Motion with regard to the item concerning the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) proposal be added to the Minutes.

Motion: Williamson/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Minutes of January 25, 2012, as amended.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

ACTION ITEMS

4. University of Alberta's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) (2012)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Planning Committee; Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Don Hickey, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations)

Purpose of the Proposal: Under guidelines from Advanced Education and Technology (AET), the University of Alberta has prepared the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) that incorporates the University's access plan, research plan, capital plan, and budgets into one comprehensive document. The CIP is for approval by the Board of Governors and is then filed with the appropriate Ministries of the Provincial Government. The CIP is written in support of the University's vision and mission as outlined in *Dare to Discover* and its Academic Plan, *Dare to Deliver*. The CIP outlines the University's academic and research priorities as articulated in the Academic Chapter, which in turn drives the University's capital and resource allocation priorities.

Discussion:

The Chair explained to members that the CIP was previously a series of smaller documents that, since last year (ie, 2010-2011), have been compiled into one larger, comprehensive document for the review of the Provincial Government. He noted that the document before members is not quite finished and asked for members' indulgence in considering this item at this time. He noted the final document, which will account for whatever budget allocations are set for the post-secondary educational sector in Alberta in the upcoming Provincial Budget, will be considered, finally, by the Board of Governors at its March 16, 2012 meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Dr Amrhein passed the chair to Dr Pavlich.

Vice-President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn explained to members that there are other documents transmitted by the University to the Provincial Government to show what has been and is being done at the this institution, but it is the CIP that is meant to look ahead and set the tone for future priorities. The CIP is, then, an opportunity to show the Government a cohesive vision for the University. She continued that the University of Alberta is a flagship institution for the Province of Alberta, critical to the Province's success and linked to the Government's priorities. It was also noted that the CIP includes the University's commitment to the creation of increased access and programming for rural, immigrant, Aboriginal, and Francophone peoples.

Dr Amrhein stated that the CIP includes next year's institutional budget, which may require minor adjustments since, as noted earlier, the Provincial Government's budget for 2012 was yet to be released.

Dr Amrhein referenced several important elements included in the CIP, such as the University's 34 3M Teaching Fellowships and the environmental scan provided therein. He stated that professor/student ratios were up, which is a concern for the University. He added that it would be helpful if the Government acknowledged the vast differences in needs of the different post-secondary institutions in the Province, such as the greater resources required by research institutions that ultimately serve, in part, the needs of the Government and of industry. This issue is raised, he noted, in the 'Academic Chapter' of the CIP.

Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey spoke to the Capital Plan included in the CIP. The key messages included: a ten-year vision for capital-related projects and renewal; the Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP) funding levels; priority setting; deferred maintenance and access issues accommodated through renewal and repurposing projects; and partnering and innovative project delivery. Mr Hickey noted that the University has over 500 buildings, making property upkeep and renewal an important factor for budgeting. He added that there are recognized and unrecognized maintenance costs and that there is continued support from Lights-On-Funding.

Vice-President (Finance and Operations) Phyllis Clark explained that the consolidated budget will come in at a considerable deficit. She added that the most concerning year is 2012-2013. With revenues and expenses rising, there will be a deficiency which will require the Minister's approval in order to carry over. Revenue was coming in at 7% but expense increases sat at 10%. The institutional Operating Budget was forecast to come in at a 7.1% deficit. Investments account for \$11.1 million in revenue for the University and the Administration is hopeful that interest rates do not drop any further. Ms Clark explained that the Premier seems to be speaking favourably about the University and, therefore, the Administration is anticipating a 2% increase in funding from the Government rather than the 0% that had been discussed over the past year by Ministry officials.

Dr Amrhein emphasized the complexity of this system. He noted that if the Administration were to think there will always be a 2% gap between expenditures and revenues, then it would be incumbent upon them to have a serious conversation with the staff associations. He added that the University is strongly attached

to the Provincial Government for the major part of its operating funding, and political conversations could help to change the economic outlook for this and other post-secondary institutions in the Province of Alberta.

A member recommended including reference in the CIP to new programs that have passed through the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) but have not received any Provincial funding. The presenters responded that they would look into this and noted that there are new and potential programs listed in the CIP aimed at enticing targeted funding.

Dr Amrhein explained that accepting more students into the University to acquire funding from tuition payments is not a feasible option because, without the provision of the necessary Government funding required on a *per* student basis, the University would come out at a loss.

Mr Coulthard appreciated that the CIP referenced the Common Student Space, Sustainability and Safety (CoSSS) Fee as a temporary one.

It was clarified by Dr Pozega Osburn that the use of the designation "UAlberta" instead of "U of A" was intended for branding in the digital environment and was not yet intended for use in formal institutional documents.

Motion: Clark/Kline

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Governors the 2012 University of Alberta Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), as provided by the President's Executive Committee and as set forth in Attachment 1, with the exception of information pertinent to Ancillary Services' budgets which is not within the purview of GFC APC to consider and/or recommend, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

At this point in the meeting, Dr Amrhein reassumed the chair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy Suite (in UAPPOL)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Sandra Kereliuk, Senior Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Wade King, Advisor, Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights

Purpose of the Proposal: To receive feedback on the proposed Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy Suite and related documents.

Discussion:

Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark introduced the item by noting the proposed policy suite before members was intended to move current (relevant) policy and procedure into the UAPPOL environment. With input from offices, individuals, service providers, the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), the Association of Academic Staff – University of Alberta (AASUA), and others, the new policy suite provides improved language, clarity, procedures, and definitions. The most significant change

experienced was working on this initiative in a tripartite fashion between the Administration and the University's two staff associations.

A member raised concern that "political beliefs" was included in the "protective grounds" section of the document along with gender and race, which would imply equating beliefs with something as uncontrollable as race. Also, it was mentioned that there are hateful political beliefs that would not be acceptable in any institutional context. Mr King replied that there would be other mechanisms in place to avoid such inappropriate employment or behaviour but noted that this possible loophole would be explored. A member mentioned that he has encountered students who believe that their political activism on campus has made it difficult for them to get employed at the University, citing this as a potential reason for political beliefs to stay in the document. The Coordinator noted that the University of Alberta's *Calendar* (in Section 20.2 (*Statement on Equity in Student Affairs*)) currently states that the University does not discriminate based on political beliefs.

Mr Tighe noted that the rhetoric in that section of the policy suite that speaks to student complaints would be very difficult for the average student to understand. The presenters responded that there would be a different version meant for students and that there were plans for promoting communication with students.

After a question from a member regarding persons with physical disabilities accessing the campus, "reasonable accommodation" was discussed. It was noted that these issues are typically dealt with on an individual basis, usually with the University successfully accommodating the affected individual by means of the many resources available on campus.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

7. Items Approved by the Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.