



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 07, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Dew, Acting-Chair
Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Adarsh Badesha
Duncan Elliott
Mary Forhan
Pierre-Yves Mocquais

Roger Moore
Melissa Padfield
Eleni Stroulia
non-voting:
Meg Brolley
Marion Haggarty-France

REGRETS:

David Turpin
Bill Foster
Sean McMurtry

Staff:

Heather Richholt, scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Mocquais/Agarwal

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice President (Academic), and Acting-Chair of GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

The Acting-Chair spoke about the recent resignation of the Vice-President University Relations, the President's State of the University address, the launch of a new admissions system the previous week, the provincial budget expected on October 24. A member noted that the President's address did a good job of addressing where the university is headed given the present political climate and related uncertainty with funding.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 9, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Moore/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of September 9, 2019.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. 2020-2021 Academic Schedule

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Interim Vice-Provost and Registrar

Discussion:

Ms Padfield pointed out that the university would be hosting the *Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences* in 2021 that required some alterations to the standard Academic Schedule. She also noted the removal of some Faculty specific information such as orientation days that would be better contained on Faculty websites.

Members asked about time allowances for orientation, a three-year rolling draft calendar for help with planning, and the two-day gap between the end of classes and the start of exams.

Ms Padfield said that she would report back to the committee regarding the reason for the two-day gap.

Motion: Ashley/Forhan

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Academic Schedule for 2020-2021 as set forth in Attachment 5 and, in doing so, empower the Registrar to make any editorial changes as needed as long as the changes do not have the force of policy.

CARRIED

EARLY CONSULTATION

5. Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference - GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), and Chair of GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Discussion:

The Acting-Chair noted that the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment's terms of reference were the final GFC standing committee terms of reference to come forward, resulting from the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority's recommendations.

Dr Nychka gave an overview of the changes including: committee composition to include the FGSR Vice-Provost and Dean, and a non-voting representative from Facilities and Operations; and delegated authority for procedures related to Teaching Assessment and Evaluation.

Members discussed the relationship between academic strategy, information technology, and learning spaces. Members also asked about experiential learning and the committee's mandate over all forms of teaching and learning.

6. An Ethics Framework for Student Learning Analytics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Services & Technology)

Discussion:

Dr MacGregor outlined the draft ethics framework and explained that it was important to establish strong guidelines for the use of student data. He gave examples of some of the data currently collected, and how some universities are using student analytics to boost and support student success. He stressed the importance of informed consent and a student's access to their own data.

Members asked questions and expressed opinions including, but not limited to: the complex nature of gathering and using student data; the ability for students to opt in and out of this process; how the data is used and prevention of it being used for future student evaluation; clarification on what data is being collected and how it is used; the mental health impacts of using student data to compare with peers; the usefulness of data for large, general courses and the relationship between instructors and their students in higher-level courses which would allow for direct interaction rather than reliance on analytics; and the need to clarify and communicate information around privacy and consent.

7. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

Discussion:

Dr Hopper noted that the report of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority, in April 2017, made eleven recommendations related to program approvals which were seen to be overly burdensome and convoluted. The GFC Executive Transition Committee, charged with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations, concurred with these findings recommended that the GFC Executive Committee establish an ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways in January 2019, with a mandate to review the current processes, the recommendations and input from GFC and other stakeholders, and to provide recommendations toward a transparent and straightforward approach consistent with the GFC Principles and the principles of collegial governance.

Dr Hopper noted that the committee recommends the establishment of a new GFC standing committee, the Programs Committee, which would consolidate program approval work currently under the responsibilities of Academic Planning Committee (APC), Academic Standards Committee (ASC), GFC Executive Committee, and the GFC Policy Manual Section 37. She noted that this would result in revisions to the terms of reference for APC and GFC Executive, rescission of GFC Policy Manual Section 37, and the disbanding of ASC.

Dr Hopper noted that the key to the success of this model would be that the Programs Committee have a clear governance focus with matters of an administrative nature being addresses outside of the governance process. She spoke about how an administrative support committee could provide the necessary support to proponents during the development of proposals before being entering the governance cycle.

Members discussed the need for student input at the level of the administrative support committee, the difference between how graduate and undergraduate programs would be handled, that GFC Committees are currently doing administrative work and perhaps missing the higher-level governance piece, and how this process could streamline the entire process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Affiliated Colleges at the University of Alberta - St Joseph's and St Stephen's (no documents)

Presenter(s): Shawn Flynn, Academic Dean, St. Joseph's College; Frederick Tappenden, Principal and Dean, St Stephen's College

Discussion:

Dr Flynn presented an overview of St Joseph's College positioning the college as a 'community within a community'. He noted that the college teaches University of Alberta students, rather than students of its own. He spoke about the services offered and residences. He spoke about the history of the college and the affiliate model in Canada. Dr Flynn noted that the academic courses teach at the intersection of faith and scholarship and offered as options in Arts programs. Finally, Dr Flynn noted partnerships the college has with: the Faculty of Arts, Edmonton Catholic School Board, Capital Health research project, and a recent pilot for new USRI questions.

Dr Tappenden spoke about the history of St Stephen's College and noted that it was the first building on campus. He indicated that the college has had degree granting status since the late 1960s and spoke about the courses taught, and Master's and PhD degrees offered in Multifaith Theology, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy, and Spiritual Care as preparation for service in the public sphere.

9. Principles on Free Expression at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Brad Hamdon, General Counsel; Logan Mardhani-Bayne, Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost

Discussion:

Dr Rodgers provided an overview of some questions that had been raised to date through the consultations and noted that the final workshop would be held the next day. Dr Mardhani-Bayne outlined the timeline for discussion and approval according to the provincial government's deadline.

A member asked if anything had been added, and Mr Hamdon confirmed that the document sets out the key points and complies with existing policy.

10. Waiver of Advertising Requirements: Report to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

The item was deferred.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Draft Agenda for the Next Meeting of General Faculties CouncilA. Proposed motion from GFC member Dilini Vethanayagam on facilitation of clinical research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice President (Academic), and Acting-Chair of GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

The committee considered the request from a GFC member to add a motion, which was raised at the September GFC meeting, to the next GFC agenda. GFC members Dr Vethanayagam and Dr Underhill, and Associate Vice-President (Research) Clark were invited to join the discussion.

The Acting-Chair suggested that a group meet to discuss Dr Vethanayagam's motion and report back to the GFC Academic Planning Committee whose mandate includes research. He noted that Dr Clark would lead the convening of this group.

Members agreed to remove the motion from the GFC agenda and asked that this outcome be communicated to GFC with the October 21 meeting materials.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the October 21, 2019 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 2 as amended.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Next Meeting: November 4, 2019

The Acting-Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.