



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 04, 2019  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

David Turpin, Chair  
Joel Agarwal  
Adarsh Badesha  
Steven Dew  
Duncan Elliott  
Bill Foster  
Chantal Labonté (delegate)  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Roger Moore

Melissa Padfield  
Eleni Stroulia  
*non-voting:*  
Marion Haggarty-France

**REGRETS:**

Dylan Ashley  
Meg Brolley  
Mary Forhan  
Sean McMurtry

Guests:

Nadir Erbilgin  
Yejide Omotoso  
Carolyn Sale

Staff:

Heather Richholt, scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Padfield/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

*Discussion:*

The Chair congratulated Executive Committee member Eleni Stroulia, for receiving the Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

The Chair spoke about the provincial budget that was tabled in the legislature on October 24th. He noted the overview that was provided at the Campus Forum the previous week, as well as updates published in the *Quad*. He pointed out that while the university had yet to receive a budget letter, they had been informed of a 6.9% cut to the Campus Alberta Grant and a \$35 Million cut to the Infrastructure Maintenance Grant. The Chair noted that there were many uncertainties including future budget reductions and enrollment targets, but that it was clear that the university would need to transform the way it does business. He encouraged members to provide thoughts and suggestions online at [uab.ca/budget](http://uab.ca/budget)

Members discussed Faculty budgets and how cuts would be spread across the university.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Mocquais

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 7, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of October 7, 2019.

**CARRIED**

4. 2018-2019 Annual Report on Undergraduate Student Financial Support and Accompanying Overview

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

5. Proposed Changes to Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements, Office of the Registrar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The Office of the Registrar is proposing changes to the University Calendar that will increase the level of required English language proficiency for undergraduate admissions.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to Undergraduate English Language Proficiency requirements, as recommended by GFC Academic Standards Committee, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in attachment 3, to take effect for Fall 2021 admissions.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposal from the Faculty of Science to Add CMPUT 174 Introduction to the Foundations of Computation I to the List of Courses with Consolidated Exams

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, that the Department of Computing Science may add CMPUT 174 (Introduction to the Foundations of Computation I) to the list of courses with consolidated final examinations starting in Winter 2020.

**CARRIED**

7. Withdrawal of Approved Course and Minor Program Change Proposals from the Faculty of Nursing (GFC Policy Section 37)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

8. Student Financial Support Policy Suite and Rescission of the Awards and Bursaries for Students Policy Suite

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the new Student Financial Support Policy Suite, as set forth in Attachments 2, 3, 4 and 5, and the concurrent rescission of the existing Awards and Bursaries for Students Policy Suite in UAPPOL, as recommended by the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 10. Statement on Free Expression

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that there were GFC members in attendance who would be invited to weigh in on this item.

Dr Rodgers noted the considerable consultation undertaken regarding the Statement on Free Expression and the questions from the community including: the application of current university policy; the balance between free expression and other rights and freedoms in the Canadian context; and the complaint and support process.

Mr Hamdon explained that the statement needed to address the requirements noted in the letter from the Minister of Advanced Education and also speak as a university document. He noted that because the law in Canada was different from that in the United States, there was a need to strike the right balance.

Members asked questions and expressed comments, including but not limited to: peaceful protest versus non-violent protest; the university's available complaint process; an FAQ document that was under development to give additional information about the statement; the need to add a qualification regarding the "time and place" wording in the document; whether or not free expression was more important than the ordinary activities of the university; and the need for the university to function and have the option to set reasonable boundaries.

Motion: Agarwal/Foster

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommends that General Faculties Council approve the Statement on Free Expression at the University of Alberta, as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

### 11. 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:*

Dr Nychka noted the changes to composition to include the Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR. There was no discussion.

Motion: Moore/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference, as recommended by GFC CLE, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect January 1, 2020.

**CARRIED**

### 12. Thesis-based Master's and PhD Learning Outcomes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives)

*Discussion:*

Dr Milne expressed her support for the proposal and noted that clarity of outcomes was important for all those involved.

Dr Nychka spoke to how known expectations and ability to self-assess would improve the overall experience for students.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the learning outcomes for thesis-based Master's and PhD programs, as recommended by the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

### **EARLY CONSULTATION**

13. FGSR Supervisory Tool: Supervisor-Student Guidelines, Standardized Annual Progress Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew noted that work on this process had been underway for some time and that the student and supervisor relationship touched every aspect of the student experience. He explained that there were several examples of reporting already in use on campus and that standardizing and formalizing the process would ensure timely and quality feedback.

Dr Milne pointed to the importance of clear guidelines. She emphasized that notes in the reports should be agreed upon between the student and the supervisor and that they could be used as a reference as well as a way for students and supervisors to flag issues. She felt that this process would ensure that expectations were clear and understood and would allow early intervention if there were issues reported.

Members discussed: the percentage of student-supervisor relationships that were problematic; the amount of time needed to complete this reporting; opportunity to pre-populate some of the information to streamline the process; how to make the template work for all units given the differences in definitions and processes; how this system could help prevent toxic student-supervisor relationships; the imbalance of power that could be greater for international graduate students who rely on their supervisor for funding; the risk to international student funding and study permits if registration is suspended due to non-compliance; and the potential for non-compliance to be used as a red flag that would trigger escalation.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

14. Safety and Security Committee (UASSC) Status Update  
-Weapons on Campus (Early Consultation)

Materials and presentations before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: James Allen, Associate Vice-President (Operations and Management); Rob Munro, Director, Risk Management Services (Environment, Health and Safety); Neil Purkess, Support Services Division, Protective Services

*Discussion:*

Mr Allen and Mr Munro presented an update on the action plans resulting from the working group's recommendations, and noted that communication with the community was ongoing.

Members expressed support of the increased security measures and asked about data for other campuses.

Mr Purkess spoke about the incidents of weapons on campus and the risks associated with responding to a weapons complaint.

Members discussed what constituted a weapons complaint.

15. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* John Law, Special Advisor, Faculty and Staff Relations

*Discussion:*

Dr Law gave a brief overview of his report.

Members discussed the number of withdrawn appeals.

16. 2018/19 Annual Report of the Student Conduct Responses, Dean of Students' Portfolio

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The item was deferred.

17. Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2018-2019)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Michael Peterson, Appeals and Compliance Officer, University Governance

*Discussion:*

Mr Peterson gave an overview of his report and explained the data in the comparative graph. There was no discussion.

18. Question Period (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

*Discussion:*

A member noted that the Students' Union would be bringing forward a Student Charter and a discussion about filling vacant student seats on GFC.

**ACTION ITEMS**

19. Draft Agenda for the Next Meeting of General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the timeline for the statement on free expression including feedback and approval from the government.

Motion: Moore/Agarwal

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the November 25, 2019 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

21. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meeting

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

22. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.