



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, December 09, 2019  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

David Turpin, Chair  
Joel Agarwal  
Dylan Ashley  
Duncan Elliott  
Mary Forhan  
Bill Foster

Sean McMurtry  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Roger Moore  
Melissa Padfield  
Eleni Stroulia  
*non-voting:*  
Marion Haggarty-France

**REGRETS:**

Adarsh Badesha  
Steven Dew  
Christopher Lupke

Staff:

Heather Richholt, scribe

**OPENING SESSION****1. Approval of the Agenda**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Agarwal/Padfield

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 observed that final exams were underway on campus and that there were busy weeks ahead before the winter break.

The Chair spoke about the December 6th National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and noted that this year marked the 30th Anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal massacre. The Chair acknowledged that important memorial events had taken place on campus to mark this day.

The Chair congratulated Melissa Padfield on her appointment as Vice-Provost and University Registrar, and noted that Barbara Billingsley had been appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Law, effective July 1, 2020.

The Chair pointed to the budget updates in the *Quad* and on the Budget website. He explained that the university would keep the community informed as information was available. He informed members that the Ministry of Advanced Education was expected to release their 3-year budget assumptions in January.

The Chair made note of the recent controversy over statements made by a sessional instructor regarding the Holodomor historical Ukrainian genocide. He explained that he had consulted with the Ukrainian Council of Canada's President and referenced the Statement on Free Expression, which had received Ministry sign off that morning.

Members discussed the budget and where cuts could be expected, and the implications of the Statement on Free Expression for further controversial topics such as the denial of Holodomor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Mocquais/Moore

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 4, 2019

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of November 4, 2019.

**CARRIED**

4. Proposed New Course Designator of EDHS (Health Sciences Education), Faculty of Education

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the new course designator EDHS for the Master of Education in Health Sciences Education courses.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

5. Proposed Changes to Composition of Faculté Saint-Jean Council, Faculté Saint-Jean

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean

*Discussion:*

Ms Haggarty-France read the proposed friendly amendments, which updated some staff categories to align with current definitions.

Dr Mocquais indicated that the proposed revisions reflected changes to the structure of internal administration as well as to external members.

Motion: Mocquais/Ashley

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of the Faculté Saint-Jean as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. 2018/19 Annual Report of Student Conduct Responses, Dean of Students' Portfolio

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

*Discussion:*

Dr Costopoulos explained that this was the second annual report to bring together data from across the Dean of Students' portfolio, in order to provide a more complete picture of how policies and procedures were applied.

Members discussed the benefits of Safe House and the pilot expansion of the Safe House program, and the potential for revocation of student group status.

In response to questions and comments regarding statistics and trends, Dr Costopoulos noted that use of the Code of Student Behaviour and related sanctions had decreased as different tools became available. He gave the example of an interim measure that could be used to address an issue before it advanced to a complaint.

#### 7. Student Rights and Responsibilities Resource

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Akanksha Bhatnagar, President, Students' Union

##### *Discussion:*

Ms Bhatnagar explained that most students on campus did not understand all the rules of the university nor all of their rights. She indicated that the proposed resource was meant to provide a clear and accessible summary for the university community and, asked for feedback from the committee.

Members discussed the inclusion of information that pertained to graduate students as well as undergraduate students, the importance of providing links to codes, policies and procedures so that information would always be current, the potential for the use of this document in admission letters and by student advisors, and if any Faculties already had similar documents in use.

#### 8. Student Replenishment to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Joel Agarwal, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

##### *Discussion:*

Mr Agarwal gave an overview of the Students' Union election process and noted the current vacancies and challenges regarding student participation in academic governance.

Members discussed the GFC Principles of Committee Composition and the requirement that many student positions be filled by GFC members; the GFC Student Caucus; the election procedures for Faculties and the Graduate Students' Association; the potential to involve the Faculty Students' Associations, faculty members, and Faculty Councils; the need to be nimble and responsive in order to fill the student vacancies on GFC; and the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The Chair suggested that representatives from the Students' Union meet with members of the GFC Nominating Committee and University Governance to develop some strategies to address this issue.

#### 9. Question Period (no documents)

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

##### *Discussion:*

A member noted that the academy values quality supervision of graduate students and that, in the interest of getting the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's proposed Standardized Annual Progress Report right, many have pondered what the issues are and if this is the right tool for every Faculty to identify these issues. He asked if members could collect questions for FGSR concerning the draft FGSR Standardized Annual Progress Report for the January meeting of the Executive Committee. He noted that this would provide the opportunity for

FGSR to provide thoughtful answers to these questions. The Chair agreed that this would be a discussion item on the agenda for January's meeting.

A member asked about the resignation of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) and the impact on TEC Edmonton. The Chair noted that Walter Dixon, the Associate Vice-President (Research), would be providing support to this initiative in the interim.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.