



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 30, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan
Steven Dew
David Draper
Anastasia Elias
Mary Forhan
Nat Kav

Christopher Lupke
Sean McMurtry
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Roger Moore
Melissa Padfield
Sachiketha Reddy
Eleni Stroulia

non-voting:
Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

REGRETS:
Adarsh Badesha

Staff:
Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee (EXEC)

Motion: Kav/Elias

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of EXEC

Discussion:

The Chair noted the delayed start of the 2021 Winter term in order to support students and instructors and spoke about updated public health regulations and the state of public health emergency declared the previous week to help reduce the rising spread of COVID-19 within the province. He remarked that staff who were able to work from home were encouraged to do so and directed members to the information on the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Mocquais/Moore

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 2, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of November 2, 2020.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Debrief on GFC Discussion on Academic Restructuring: Revised Proposals (no documents)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of EXEC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

The Chair explained that this item was intended to give members an opportunity to debrief on the November 23 GFC meeting in advance of the approval of the agenda for the December 7 GFC meeting. He noted that they were eager to hear from GFC on the academic structure and had heard very clearly that GFC also wished to further debate on the administrative structure that supported it and that they welcomed that debate.

Dr Dew noted that there was growing interest in a college model but no consensus yet. He spoke about the discussion at the November 25 GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) meeting and APC's recommendation to order the motions as set forth in the attachment to the next item and their vote to endorse the concept of a college model.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:

- the importance of providing materials to members in a timely manner;
- that the college model seemed to be favored by those who spoke at the meeting;
- that not all members of GFC spoke at the meeting so it was impossible to know what the majority wanted;
- the legitimacy of the "invisible college model" since there was no consultation on it;
- that the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG) had considered but decided not to pursue a shared services model;
- that the ARWG college model and definition was not reflected in the Governance Executive Summary (GES) for the next item;
- that the ARWG report was not being referred to in the motions that were going ahead to GFC;
- whether the primary motions should be neutral or favor one approach over the other;
- that the ARWG felt that clear direction and responsibility for the academic mission was necessary and would be provided by Executive Deans;
- questions about meeting materials and the historical record;
- that there seemed to be little support at GFC for the consolidation or hybrid models; and
- whether it was possible to limit speaking times for members at GFC encourage the broadest possible discussion and debate.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of EXEC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal:

To approve the Agenda for the GFC meeting to be held on Monday, December 7, 2020.

Discussion:

Dr Dew went over the proposed motions and sample amendments.

The Chair explained that, as Chair of GFC, he would not be speaking to the motion or participating in the debate at the December 7 GFC meeting.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:

- how the process of motions and amendments would work in the meeting;
- whether the budget model information could be included in the GES;
- whether the motions could be tied together somehow to ensure that a vote on the other motions takes place;
- if more information about the Executive Dean and College Manager positions could be included in the materials;
- an explanation of GFC and the Board of Governors' mandate and authority under the Post-Secondary Learning Act:
 - GFC's authority to recommend on the academic structure and the Board's obligation to consider that recommendation;
 - GFC's ability to make recommendations on matters outside its mandate, such as the administrative structure, and that the Board could choose whether or not to consider those recommendations;
- the definition of the college model in the GES;
- information on the budget model and the tax on Faculties for college level services;
- whether the order of the motions should be changed or remain as recommended by APC;
- that a review should occur no matter what structure is decided upon;
- doubts that an invisible college model would work without an academic leader; and
- discussion about what information should and should not be included in the final GES.

Motion: Forhan/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the December 7, 2020 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Question Period

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of EXEC

Discussion:

A member asked about the university's position on equity and online proctoring services for exams and whether there would be a move away from online proctoring.

Vice-Provost and Registrar Padfield answered that the Dean of Students, Centre for Teaching and Learning, and Information Services & Technology were looking into the issues and that help was available for instructors and students who were having problems. She noted that there were no plans to discontinue all use of online proctoring at present.

Members asked about GFC procedures regarding limits on speaking times for members and for motions to call the question.

The Chair explained that according to GFC Procedural Rules members may not speak for a second time until the Chair is satisfied that all members wishing to speak for their first time have done so, and that a member could call the question which could prompt a motion to close debate.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

8. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

9. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of Exec: January 11, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: December 7, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.