



General Faculties Council
Student Conduct Policy Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, November 25, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Joanna Harrington
Carla Prado
Kimberlee Billows
Talia Dixon
Lisa Glock
Paresh Kumar
Abner Monteiro
Judith Spiers

Helen Vallianatos (delegate)
Adrienne Wright
non-voting:
Deborah Eerkes
Janice Johnson
Kate Peters
Michael Peterson
Veronica Taylor

REGRETS:

Nikita Adekar
André Costopoulos
Brad Hamdon
Marcel Roth

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Professor and Chair of GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC)

Discussion:

The Chair noted that Dean Costopoulos was unable to attend the meeting so the presenters for Item 5 would be Deb Eerkes and Helen Vallianatos.

Motion: Spiers/Prado

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 23, 2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Professor and Chair of SCPC

Motion: Spiers/Billows

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the open session minutes of September 23, 2021.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair had no comments to share.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Residence Community Standards Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students, Residences; Alison Exner, Supervisor, Residence Life

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the proposed updates to the Residence Community Standards Policy, and the creation of associated procedures and an information document in the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) as set out in the attached.

Discussion:

Ms Johnson noted that they had received excellent and helpful feedback on the draft documents. She noted that language had been added to clarify the limits to confidentiality agreements and that information shared would not be used in other university processes. She explained that the documents reflected processes that had been refined over the years and that having this set out in University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) would bring clarity and transparency to the processes. She noted that a GFC member challenged whether the processes were rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing, but indicated that First People's House collaborated on the development of the restorative practices, and that Indigenous community members were involved in the training and practice. Ms Johnson further pointed out that there had been questions around restorative practices and sexual violence and whether those affected may feel coerced, but that restorative justice was not the go-to application for instances of sexual violence.

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

- extra measures that would be taken to ensure the safety of those involved if restorative justice was used to address a case of sexual assault;
- suggestions for additional clarifications regarding confidentiality;
- the legal processes around disclosure of an incident involving a minor;
- whether individuals felt pressured to participate in restorative justice processes;
- examples of conflicts in which restorative justice had been used to positive effect;
- the steps in the process from investigation to community resolutions;
- that restorative justice was about repairing trust and community even if other disciplinary measures were imposed;
- the flexible nature of restorative justice to find and apply the best solution for those involved;
- alignment of processes with the Sexual Violence Policy, the Code of Student Behaviour, and the Residence Contract; and
- that the Sexual Violence Coordinator position would not change the processes but would provide support.

5. Annual Report of the Student Conduct Responses, Dean of Students' Portfolio 2020-2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students; Deborah Eerkes, Director, Student Conduct & Accountability

Purpose of the Proposal: This report provides statistical information on the various responses to student conduct.

Discussion:

Ms Eerkes provided a quick outline of the report and noted that the items were organized by policy and included information on how student conduct was addressed within the Dean of Students' Portfolio.

Members asked questions regarding:

- statistics from previous years;
- statistics from Augustana Faculty; and
- whether the data captured in the Ombuds report and the Appeals and Compliance Officer's report could be acknowledged in order to provide a more complete picture.

6. Annual Report of Appeals and Compliance Officer 2020-2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide committee members with an annual report of statistical information on discipline cases, as required by GFC policy.

Discussion:

Mr Peterson explained that the report provided the appeals and discipline statistics for all decisions made across the university under the Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour, Academic Appeals Policy and Practicum Intervention Policy. He noted the significant increase in both discipline cases and appeal numbers, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the move to remote learning.

7. Question Period (no documents)

Discussion:

A member asked if the hiring of the Sexual Violence Coordinator position would have an impact on the Sexual Violence Policy. Associate Dean of Students Helen Vallianatos, and Director, Student Conduct & Accountability Deb Eerkes answered that the person who was hired could have suggestions regarding the policy and procedures and that any proposed changes would come forward for discussion.

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of SCPC: January 20, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 29, 2021