



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2016
University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kimberly Tallbear (Delegate)	Member, Dean, Native Studies (Interim)
Susan Andrew	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kevin Arulmaran	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Susan Hamilton (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Varun Bandha	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Howard Bashaw	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Beamish	Member, Dean, Science (Acting), Statutory
Hasan Birer	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Stanford Blade	Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, Statutory
Cary Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sylvia Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather Bruce	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Katy Campbell	Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory
Andy Cajina	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Alicia Cappello	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sean Caulfield	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brandon Christensen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
Alix Clarke	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
David Cooper	Member, Board of Governors Representative and AASUA Appointee
Pamela Mayne Correia	Member, Academic Staff (FSO)
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Annie Duan	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Robin Everall	Member, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Kim Frail	Member, University Library Academic Staff
David Goertzen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Lise Gotell	Member, Dean, Arts (Acting), Statutory
Raj Gupta	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Hampson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member

Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Jennifer Jay	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Michal Juhas	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Paul Jurasz	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Navneet Khinda	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Students' Union)
Alex Kwan	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cerina Lee	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Todd Li	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Brian Maraj	Member, St. Joseph's College
Maria Mayan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather McCaw	Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Lisa McDermott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Anita Molzahn	Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Colin More	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Graduate Students' Association)
Kabir Nadkarni	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Dorsa Nahid	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Anthony Nguyen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Thomas Patrick	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carla Peck	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Neesha Persad	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Cheng Qian	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Fahim Rahman	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)
Ramin Rahmat Samii	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sandra Rein	Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Augustana
Jeremy Richards	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Hannah Schlamp	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Vincent Spurrell	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Harsh Thaker	Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)
Ben Thronson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Elizabeth Wallace	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Akiko Watanabe	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sheena Wilson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Heather Zwicker Member, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (Interim)

Presenter(s):

David Turpin	President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)
Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Heather Zwicker	Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
Lisa Collins	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Sarah Forgie	Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)
Scott Delinger	Information Technology Strategic Initiatives Officer
Mary Persson	Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor
Wade King	Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Advisor

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Operations
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that two Notices of Motion were submitted prior to the meeting and had been distributed to members by email.

Motion I: Zwicker/Wilson

THAT General Faculties Council approve the addition of the following motions to the Agenda for the meeting of January 25, 2016:

Motion I: The General Faculties Council will review the delegation of its authorities to all of its current committees, and by 30 June 2016 vote on whether to renew or revise these delegated authorities.

Motion II: The review of the governance and operations of the General Faculties Council is to be guided by the June 2013 report "A Reflection on the State of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta."

CARRIED

Motion II: Cooper/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda, as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of November 23, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Collins/Robertson

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of November 23, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Discussion:

Following two award-winning student presentations delivered by Ms Liann Willetts (“Breaking the Walls of Prostate Cancer Metastasis”) and Ms Gem Shoute (“Breaking the Walls of Rigid Electronics”), the Chair thanked presenters and welcomed all to the 402nd meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC). He then reported on several topics:

- The Chair reported that there would be an update on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College at the next meeting of GFC.
- The Chair read an excerpt from a thank you letter he had received from the parents of a Syrian student recently awarded the President’s Award for Refugees and Displaced Persons to study at the University of Alberta.
- The Chair thanked the community and the Athletics Office for hosting refugees at a recent Panda football game.
- The Chair noted that, with the recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling regarding the right to strike, changes to provincial labour legislation can be expected later this spring.
- The Chair reported that the Alberta Adult Learning System review has been delayed.

The Chair invited members to review his written Report for further updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Institutional Strategic Plan - A discussion on Vision, Mission and Values

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC); Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To obtain feedback on the Vision, Mission and Values document, which will be used in the creation of the first draft of the new institutional strategic plan.

Discussion:

The Chair reported that over 400 pages of material had been gathered through meetings, round tables, forums, and online contributions; however, there had been limited feedback on the University’s vision, mission and values statement, which are integral elements of the institution’s mandate.

In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that the wording was adequate but could be strengthened and made more concise. A member suggested that the University of Alberta’s unique delivery of a bilingual and multicultural educational experience should be emphasized within the statements, and that students are requesting specific changes to the language in this regard. A member noted that the language used

within the “Pride” section could be amended. A member offered concluding remarks that although the existing and proposed statements are adequate, that there are remaining gaps, and she encouraged a deeper look into them.

The Chair thanked members for their suggestions, and pointed out that there are still opportunities to provide feedback, in person and online.

5. Academic Governance at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To frame the initial discussion of the revitalization of academic governance and establish next steps in the process of considering recent reports and discussion papers on GFC reforms.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that collegial governance involves many individuals participating in the decision-making process and that the current GFC has been shaped by decisions made by its members over time. He added that GFC will continue to change in response to the decisions made by the current membership. The Chair referred the members to the package developed by GFC Executive Committee to frame the discussion on academic governance at the University of Alberta. He further noted that the two Motions added to the agenda relate to this important issue and would be considered with this item.

A member noted that this is an important and timely discussion. Members commented on a number of items: one member suggested the GFC should consider mandatory attendance to ensure that the diverse views of all Faculties are represented; another member suggested that the day and time of GFC meeting should be re-visited as a Tuesday or Thursday slot might work better for student attendance. A member noted that the information about academic governance on the University Governance website was difficult to understand. A member noted that Council on Student Affairs (COSA), a body under GFC within the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), was going to be reviewed in terms of mandate, structure and scope.

Members discussed the importance of communication, suggesting that improving the flow of information from GFC and its Standing Committees should be a priority.

A member noted that GFC may be hindered legislatively by the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), indicating that the Board of Governors retains a lot of unilateral authority over matters at the University. The member further noted that there has been discussion surrounding this balance of power among other western Canadian universities recently. The Chair, in response, pointed out that GFC graduate student member Mr Brayden Whitlock had recently published an article on this issue entitled, “Who Watches Academic Watch Dogs?”

The Chair stated that the University of Alberta’s GFC is twice the size of the average academic senate, which may have an impact on how decisions are made and invited members to discuss GFC’s delegations.

Members expressed concern that the delegation of authority meant that important items were not reaching the floor of GFC and that GFC was just rubber stamping decisions.

Members agreed that committee delegations should be reviewed on a regular basis. It was noted by a member that, when delegations are made, the full implications may not be realized. One member

expressed his struggle with the mandate of GFC Executive to consider urgent matters on behalf of GFC. Regarding committees, a member pointed out the value of having smaller, more specialized bodies to consider proposals in detail and noted that standing committees consider very technical things which, in concert with member composition, provide a very high-quality service to GFC. A member suggested that standing committees should realize when strategic items should be brought forward to GFC. A member cautioned that de-delegation could overload GFC with a lot of minor business, such as course and program changes. A member noted that the issue may be how to get GFC involved in meaningful initiatives and suggested GFC engage in a discussion of principles. Another member indicated that GFC should be involved in the discussion of critical issues and that a cultural change may be required to foster this.

The Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee, Dr van der Baan, noted that the committee uses a summary document of each GFC Standing Committee's Terms of Reference, which members have found useful. He also reminded members that a new replenishment cycle has begun should members choose to serve on a standing committee.

A member suggested that the standing committees could be asked to provide GFC with an annual report of activities undertaken with delegated authority from GFC. Another member noted that the standing committees have started regularly reporting to GFC on activities. It was also noted that minutes and meeting materials are available online at the governance website. A member suggested that members of GFC could be notified when agendas for all upcoming GFC standing committee meetings were available online.

The Chair suggested that the process could begin with a review of GFC's delegations, and he invited the University Secretary to comment. Ms Haggarty-France noted that in addition to GFC's delegated authority to its Standing Committees, there is delegated authority from the Board of Governors, within the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL), to individuals, and to other units such as Faculty Councils.

Motion I: Sale/Wilson

THAT the General Faculties Council will review the delegation of its authorities to all of its current committees, and by 30 June 2016 vote on whether to renew or revise these delegated authorities.

CARRIED

A member indicated her strong support for using the Students' Union Report as the basis for the future changes to academic governance, citing the specificity in the document, such as improvements to minutes and receiving advice.

There was a discussion on what was meant by the term "guided by" in the Motion. A member of GFC indicated that this meant to indicate that the document will be considered. He further noted that this document was selected because it specifically mentions discussions, reporting and a commitment towards the notion of collegial governance and informed decision-making. The Chair clarified that if the Motion is carried, GFC is not held to all of the recommendations within the Report. The mover and seconder agreed to the friendly amendment to say "informed by" instead of "guided by".

The Chair stated that the GFC Executive Committee would review this issue in greater detail and report back to GFC with a plan. He also noted the possibility of scheduling an additional meeting of GFC in this academic year for further discussion.

Motion II: Cooper/Vethanayagam

THAT the review of the governance and operations of the General Faculties Council is to be informed by the June 2013 report "A Reflection on the State of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta."

CARRIED

6. A Vision for Innovation in Alberta - Progress Report: Professional and Career Development, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Heather Zwicker, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: To update General Faculties Council on the Professional and Career Development Strategy of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Discussion:

Dr Zwicker provided members with an update on the use of the three-year grant provided by the Government of Alberta to the University of Alberta for graduate professional development. She provided members with a brief report surrounding each funding investment pillar:

1. Internships (\$1,300,000)
2. Professional Skills Development (\$350,000)
3. Entrepreneurship and Mentorship (\$425,000)
4. Curricular Change (\$75,000)

During the discussion, Dr Zwicker addressed questions regarding internships and the need for a consultative endeavour to review how faculty members play a part in these activities.

7. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2015/2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting files.

Presenter(s): Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the 2015/16 annual report on undergraduate enrolment.

Discussion:

Ms Collins presented the key details of the third annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2015/16, noting that the data reflects a close alignment with enrolment targets identified within the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP).

Following the presentation, members engaged in a brief discussion, and Ms Collins addressed comments surrounding revocation rates and a suggestion to introduce a special course for international students entering the Faculty of Arts, in an attempt to better prepare them for studies at the institution.

8. Report on the Evaluation of Online Universal Students Ratings of Instruction (USRI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting files.

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE); Scott Delinger, Information Technology Strategic Initiatives Officer

Purpose of the Proposal: To report on the effects on USRIs due to the transition from paper to electronic means. During the transition, a final report was noted as a necessary summary of what effects were seen.

Discussion:

Dr Forgie and Dr Delinger summarized the findings of the report evaluating the move to online Universal Students Ratings of Instruction (USRIs) at the University of Alberta. They reported that the transition of the USRI from paper format to electronic means has resulted in a drop in average response rates, but noted that median scores remained the same with lab sections experiencing a greater decrease in response rates compared to lecture sections. Dr Delinger noted that this is consistent with the experience of other institutions that have made the transition to electronic USRI tools. Dr Forgie noted that the data would continue to be monitored.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed several comments and questions surrounding how much money this initiative has saved the institution; whether the data could include the race and gender of the instructor; an update in regards to written comments; and USRI usage for courses with ten students or less.

9. Helping Individuals at Risk and Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Activity Reports 2014-2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mary Persson, Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and University Auditor; Wade King, Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Advisor

Purpose of the Proposal: The Helping Individuals at Risk Policy (HIAR) was introduced and an intake function was created to work in conjunction with the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (SDHR). The policy requires that annual reporting to General Faculties Council (GFC) and to the Board of Governors will occur after each year of operation. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the activities of each office and to comment on trends and issues in these.

Discussion:

Ms Persson and Mr Wade King provided members with a summary of the annual report of the Helping Individuals at Risk and Safe Disclosure and Human Rights for 2014-15, noting that the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR) provided intake and referral for 79 formal disclosures, reflecting an increase of disclosures from academic staff and students and a decrease of disclosures from non-academic staff. Ms Persson added that the most frequently disclosed matters continue to be discrimination and harassment, but OSDHR received report of numerous other issues including safety, fraud and the application of collective agreements. Ms Persson also provided members with a summary of OSDHR educational activities undertaken within the community during the reporting period.

ACTION ITEMS

10. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Purpose of the Proposal: To appoint, re-appoint or receive new members of General Faculties Council (GFC).

Discussion:

GFC Secretary Ms Meg Brolley read aloud the names of additional individuals for consideration within Motion II.

Motion I: Dew/Rahman

MOTION I: TO APPOINT/RE-APPOINT:

The following non-academic staff member elected by the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) for a term concurrent with her term of appointment on the Board of Governors (December 15, 2015 to December 14, 2018):

Faiza Billo, Human Resource Services

The following non-academic staff representative nominated by the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2018:

Wei Liu, University of Alberta International

CARRIED

Motion II: Doucet/Zwicker

MOTION II: TO RECEIVE [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term beginning January 1, 2016 and extending for the duration of his appointment (January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016):

John Beamish, Acting Dean, Faculty of Science

Murray Gingras, Faculty of Science

Roger Moore, Faculty of Science

Eleni Stroulia, Faculty of Science

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Question Period

There were no documents.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Discussion:

The Chair reported that no written questions had been submitted.

Undergraduate student member Mr Patrick Cajina enquired about the 30-40 minute response time of University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) to reported security incidents at Campus Saint-Jean, and asked whether this could be improved.

Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Ms Phyllis Clark replied that she would be meeting with Mr Bill Spinks, UAPS Director, to discuss the matter, after which a written response would be issued.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (December 7, 2015, January 11, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (November 19, December 9, 2015; January 13, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (November 19, December 17, 2015; January 21, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. Report of the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

16. Report of the GFC University Awards and Scholarships Committee (September 8, October 13, December 8, 2015; January 12, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

17. Report of the Board of Governors (December 11, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

19. Reports

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

- General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to GFC (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)

CLOSING SESSION

20. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.