



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2019
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

David, Turpin, Chair
Chris Andersen
Laura Beard (delegate)
Stanford Blade
Fraser Brenneis
(delegate)
Lesley Cormack
Neal Davies
Steven Dew
Joseph Doucet
Shanthi Johnson
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Gitta Kulczycki
Maria Mayan
Brooke Milne
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kerry Mummery
Melissa Padfield
Kelly Spencer
Jacqui Tam
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Olive Yonge (delegate)

Elected Faculty:

Cathy Adams
J Nelson Amaral
Nicholas Beier
Heather Coleman
Piet Defraeye
Gary Eitzen
Tarek El-Bialy
Anastasia Elias
Duncan Elliott
Fay Fletcher
Bill Foster
Nat Kav
Pierre Lemelin
Kathleen Lowrey

Pirkko Markula
Al Meldrum
Roger Moore
Sarah Moore
Shannon O'Byrne
Christina Rinaldi
Dan Romanyk
Victoria Ruetalo
Carolyn Sale
Richard Schulz
John Seubert
Susan Sommerfeldt
Eleni Stroulia
Kisha Supernant
Amy Tse
Alan Underhill
Kristof Van Assche
Dilini Vethanayagam
Akiko Watanabe
Jonathan White
Lynne Wiltse
Ian Winship
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Yan Yuan

Appointed Members:

Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Adarsh Badesha
Matthew Barnett
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Katherine Binhammer
Meijun Chen
André Costopoulos
Fahed Elian
Shannon Erichsen
Shawn Flynn
Jill Hall
Kelly Hobson
Peter Johnson
Wade King
Rajesh Kumar

Janice Kung
Jared Larsen
Rowan Ley
Habba Mahal
Stephanie McKenzie
Milad Nazarahari
Yejide Omotoso
Alesha Reed
Milad Rezvani Rad
Lindy Schaffrick
Sarah Severson
Dhanvanth Soora
Andrei Tabirca
Shahed Taghian
Dehaghani
Frederick Tappenden
Janet Williamson
Adrienne Wright
Ding Xu

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Ayman Adwan
W. Ted Allison
Dale Askey
Amlan Bose
Yiming Chen
Melinda Chisholm
Greta Cummings
Natalie Diether
David Draper
Nadir Erbilgin
Fraser Forbes
Mary Forhan
Michael Frishkopf
Paul Gareau
Ian Gatera
Tahra Haddouche
Robert Haennel
Osman Hojanepesov
Basil Hubbard
Abigail Isaac

Mohamad Jamaledine
Kevin Kane
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Dennis Kunimoto
Eva Lemaire
Susanne Luhmann
Christopher Lupke
Lynn McMullen
Sean McMurtry
Rojin McVea
Sue-Ann Mok
Vivian Mushahwar
Anthony Nguyen
David Percy
Matthias Ruth
Amber Sayed
Georg Schmolzer
Andrew Sharman
Samantha Tse
Jennifer Tupper
Donna Wilson

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC
Secretary
Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Brad Hamdon, General
Counsel
Heather Richholt, Scribe

Observers:

David Epp
Suzanne French
Ann Hodgson
Randa Kachkar
Alana Krahn
Adam Lachacz
Jonathan Olfert
Kate Peters
Carley Roth

INDIGENOUS WELCOME

Elder Francis Whiskeyjack shared his wisdom with an Indigenous welcome and prayer.

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President

- Board Chair
- United Way Campaign
- Nomination of Chancellor Joint Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC; Kerry Mummery, member of Nomination Chancellor Joint Committee

Discussion:

The Chair recognized and welcomed the Chair of the Board of Governors, Kate Chisholm. He also recognized the new Deans: the Dean of Science, Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell; the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Brooke Milne; the Dean of Augustana, Demetres P. Tryphonopoulos, the interim Dean of Extension, Maria Mayan, and the interim Dean of Law, David Percy. The Chair also noted that two new members had been added to GFC's composition as of July 1, 2019 and welcomed the Principal of St Stephen's College, Fred Tappenden, and the Management and Professional Staff representative, Wade King. The Chair reported that 37 members had attended the New Member Orientation earlier that day and thanked everyone for their participation.

The Chair noted that the United Way Campaign would be kicking off soon and encouraged everyone to consider contributing to the good work they do in the community.

The Chair indicated that the term of the university's current Chancellor, Douglas Stollery, would expire in June 2020. Kerry Mummery, one of the three GFC elected members on the Senate Joint Committee for the Nomination of a new Chancellor was invited to speak about the process. Dean Mummery outlined the nomination process and encouraged members to help identify those who would fulfill the role well and help them to see themselves in the position.

The Chair reminded members that the joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit was scheduled for January 24, 2020 and indicated that the Executive Committee had begun a discussion around possible topics. He encouraged members to reach out to University Governance if they had any suggestions.

The Chair briefly mentioned some of the MacKinnon report's recommendations and how they could impact the university: a system-wide vision for post-secondary education, less reliance on provincial government funding, and government assessment of the financial viability of post-secondary in Alberta. He also noted that the provincial budget would be tabled in the legislature on October 24.

The Chair noted that the university was working its way through the consultation process on Free Expression and pointed to Item 7 in the current agenda.

The Chair also referred to his written report in the meeting materials.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Mocquais/Doucet

3. Approval of the Minutes of May 27, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of May 27, 2019.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Chair added Wade King's name to the appointed members.

TO APPOINT, as amended:

The following academic staff member to represent University Library Academic Staff, for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022:

Sarah Severson, University Library Academic Staff Representative

The following academic staff members, elected by AASUA, for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022:

Adrienne Wright, Academic Staff (APO/FSO) Representative

Jillian Hall, Academic Teaching Staff (ATS) Representative

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Fred Tappenden, Principal, St. Stephen's College

The following representative of Chairs' Council, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022:

Christopher Lupke, Chairs' Council

The following Management and Professional Staff Representative, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022:

Wade King, Management and Professional Staff (MaPS) representative

CARRIED

TO RECEIVE:

The following ex officio members, to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2019 and extending for the

duration of the appointment:

Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean and Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean
Demetres P. Tryphonopoulos, Dean, Augustana Faculty and Executive Officer of Augustana Campus
Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Dean, Faculty of Science
David Percy, Interim Dean, Faculty of Law
Maria Mayan, Interim Dean, Faculty of Extension

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for term of office beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022:

Gary Eitzen, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Pierre Lemelin, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Amy Tse, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Alan Underhill, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Johnathan White, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Minn-Nyoung Yoon, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Nelson Amaral, Faculty of Science
Al Meldrum, Faculty of Science
Kristof Van Assche, Faculty of Science
Yan Yuan, School of Public Health
Sarah Moore, Alberta School of Business
Nat Kav, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Heather Coleman, Faculty of Arts
Kathleen Lowrey, Faculty of Arts
Victoria Ruetalo, Faculty of Arts
Kisha Supernant, Faculty of Arts
Anastasia Elias, Faculty of Engineering
Nicholas Beier, Faculty of Engineering
Dan Romanyk, Faculty of Engineering

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Increases to Minimum English Language Proficiency Entrance Requirements for Graduate Program, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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 Milne explained that the increases in English Language Proficiency requirements proposed would align graduate program requirements with those for undergraduate programs and with those for peer institutions. She noted that higher requirements meant that admitted students would have a better grasp of the language of instruction.

Members discussed the correlation between English Language Proficiency scores and performance, that some graduate programs required scores higher than the FGSR minimum, the resources available for students who were struggling, and the consequences for students who were unable to sufficiently understand the language of instruction.

Mover and Seconder: Milne/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed increases to the minimum English Language Proficiency

scores, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Academic Standards Committee, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation for Fall 2020 admissions and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. A. University of Alberta Students' Union (SU) Executive Goals 2019-2020
B. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Board Strategic Work Plan 2019-2020

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Akanksha Bhatnagar, President, Students' Union; Fahed Elian, President, Graduate Students' Association

Discussion:

The presidents of the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association introduced their executive team, and presented their goals and priorities for the upcoming year. Members were encouraged to reach out if they had any questions.

7. Draft Principles on Free Expression at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members that GFC discussed free expression at the May meeting when it was brought forward for early consultation. He explained that the provincial government had issued letters to all post-secondary institutions directing them to develop a statement on free expression based on the Chicago Principles. He introduced the Deputy Provost, Wendy Rodgers, who was leading consultation across campus in cooperation with the Advisory Group on Free Expression. He noted that this item was for discussion and would be brought to GFC for further discussion in October and then to seek approval in November.

Dr Rodgers noted the external pressure from the government regarding timelines, but also that this was an opportunity for the university to articulate a position on free expression. Dr Rodgers spoke about the differences between the legal systems in Canada and the US in regards to the Chicago Principles and mentioned Canadian hate speech legislation and the need to balance rights and freedoms. She directed members to the Provost's website for more information and ongoing updates on the process.

Members asked questions and expressed opinion including but not limited to: the potential for conflicts which could result in a revision of current policies; academic freedom and the university's governance structure; how to ensure respectful debate; the impact on Student Groups and the Student Groups Procedure; the definition of "university space" including online platforms; clarification on the timelines for consultation, development and recommendation of the final statement; the elements of the draft that were specified in the government's directive; and the policies of peer Canadian institutions regarding freedom of expression.

A member spoke to a specific example, that Bill C-16 disallowed feminist critiques of trans-ideology because many trans-activists felt that feminist critique constitutes a threat in and of itself, and asked how the statement on free expression would address this issue. General Counsel, Brad Hamdon, responded that the Advisory

Group on Free Expression was listening to all concerns brought forward through the consultation process and would take them all into consideration.

8. Faculty and Staff Engagement Survey 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wayne Patterson, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)

Discussion:

Mr Patterson gave a brief introduction to, and overview of, the survey that would be launched in the coming weeks. He explained that its initial purpose was to establish a baseline to help the university understand employee engagement and areas of excellence as well as areas of concern. The Chair encouraged members to respond to the survey and encourage their colleagues to do so aswell.

Members asked about the inclusion of employed graduate students and how to identify those with longer term employment who could be included in the initial survey.

9. Budget Update (no documents)

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Discussion:

Dr Dew presented an overview of the current funding context and the many factors that would affect budget planning for the future. He noted the high applicant demand and the potential for growth, and spoke to some of the key considerations in this regard.

Ms Kulczycki presented an overview of the consolidated budget for 2019-2020 and gave specifics on what reductions would mean for the university's bottom line.

The Chair spoke about the federal and provincial landscapes regarding funding and the measures that the university had taken to lay the groundwork for success amid financial uncertainty. He pointed to steps taken to address the structural deficit, deferred maintenance, to the development of a new budget model, and the Uniforum benchmarking initiative.

A member asked about the potential for salary caps to offset the pressure on finances since there is no longer a mandatory retirement age for faculty members. The Chair noted that this was a bargaining issue and that the Board had jurisdiction on this matter.

10. Question Period10.1Q Question from GFC member Dilini Vethanayagam on the process for facilitation of clinical research and10.1R Response from University Administration

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

Dr Vethanayagam noted that the written response was not sufficient and asked that her motion be reconsidered. The Chair said that the GFC Secretary would be in contact and would ensure that this motion was considered by the Executive Committee.

There were no questions from the floor.

Dr Turpin stepped out of the Chair and departed the meeting. Dr Dew assumed the Chair.

11. Consultation on Presidential Search (no documents)

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm, QC, Chair, Board of Governors

Discussion:

Ms Chisholm gave an overview of the committee composition for the Presidential Search Committee and the extensive consultation underway. She asked for GFC's input and encouraged members to fill out the Presidential Search Survey that could be found on the Presidential Search website.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. GFC Nominations and Elections

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

A. September 16, 2019 Report

B. September 9, 2019 Report

C. June 18, 2019 Report

D. Faculty Members Serving on Presidential Search Committee

E. Call for Nominations for GFC Committees

16. Report of the Board of Governors

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

17. Information Items

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

A. Museums Annual Report 2017-2018

B. GFC membership list 2019-2020

C. 2019/20 dates for GFC and GFC Standing Committee meetings

18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

-Announcement of Dean of Faculty of Science

-Letter from Minister Nicolaidis to Board Chair on Free Speech

-President's welcome message for the new academic year

-Announcement of Dean of Medicine and Dentistry

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.