



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

### General Faculties Council Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2019  
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

---

#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### **Statutory Members:**

##### ***Ex-Officio:***

Steven Dew, Acting-Chair

Chris Andersen

Dale Askey

Stanford Blade

Lesley Cormack

Greta Cummings

Shanthi Johnson

Matina Kalcounis-

Rueppell

Dennis Kunimoto

Michael Maier (delegate)

Brooke Milne

Pierre-Yves Mocquais

Melissa Padfield

Wendy Rodgers

(delegate)

Matthias Ruth

Kelly Spencer

##### ***Elected Faculty:***

Cathy Adams

Nicholas Beier

Heather Coleman

Duncan Elliott

Nadir Erbilgin

Michael Frishkopf

Basil Hubbard

Nat Kav

Eva Lemaire

Pierre Lemelin

Kathleen Lowrey

Susanne Luhmann

Pirkko Markula

Al Meldrum

Sue-Ann Mok

Roger Moore

Shannon O'Byrne

Dan Romanyk

Victoria Ruetalo

Carolyn Sale

John Seubert

Susan Sommerfeldt

Kisha Supernant

Dilini Vethanayagam

Akiko Watanabe

Jonathan White

Ian Winship

Minn-Nyoung Yoon

##### **Appointed Members:**

Joel Agarwal

Dylan Ashley

Matthew Barnett

Meijun Chen

André Costopoulos

Natalie Diether

David Draper

Shannon Erichsen

Shawn Flynn

Jill Hall

Abigail Isaac

Wade King

Rajesh Kumar

Janice Kung

Jared Larsen

Christopher Lupke

Milad Nazarahari

Yejide Omotoso

Milad Rezvani Rad

Sarah Severson

Dhanvanth Soora

Andrei Tabirca

Shahed Taghian

Dehaghani

Frederick Tappenden

Samantha Tse

Janet Williamson

Donna Wilson

Adrienne Wright

Ding Xu

##### **REGRETS:**

Jason Acker

Ayman Adwan

Adarsh Badesha

Akanksha Bhatnagar

Katherine Binhammer

Amlan Bose

Yiming Chen

Melinda Chisholm

Neal Davies

Piet Defraeye

Joseph Doucet

Gary Eitzen

Tarek El-Bialy

Fahed Elian

Anastasia Elias

Fay Fletcher

Fraser Forbes

Mary Forhan

Bill Foster

Paul Gareau

Ian Gatera

Tahra Haddouche

Robert Haennel

Kelly Hobson

Osman Hojanepesov

Mohamad Jamaledine

Peter Johnson

Kevin Kane

Simran Kaur Dhillon

Gitta Kulczycki

Rowan Ley

Habba Mahal

Maria Mayan

Stephanie McKenzie

Lynn McMullen

Sean McMurtry

Rojin McVea

Sarah Moore

Kerry Mummery

Vivian Mushahwar

Anthony Nguyen

David Percy

Alesha Reed

Christina Rinaldi

Amber Sayed

Lindy Schaffrick

Georg Schmolzer

Richard Schulz

Andrew Sharman

Eleni Stroulia

Demetres

Tryphonopoulos

Amy Tse

Jennifer Tupper

David Turpin

Alan Underhill

Kristof Van Assche

Lynne Wiltse

Yan Yuan

##### **Staff:**

Meg Brolley, GFC

Secretary

Marion Haggarty-France,

University Secretary

Brad Hamdon, General

Counsel

Heather Richholt, Scribe

##### **Observers:**

Khadra Ahmed

David Epp

Marianne Meijer

Jenna Mulji

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Acting-Chair noted the additions of Items 3B and 8.2 to the agenda.

Motion: Agarwal/Cormack

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Report from the Acting-Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

#### *Discussion:*

The Acting-Chair spoke about the federal election and noted that the advanced polling available on campus had seen a 60% increase in use from the previous election. He mentioned that the provincial government would release their budget later in the week and that Alberta was expecting challenging news regarding funding for post-secondary education.

Ms Haggarty-France indicated that the United Way Fundraiser, the Plasma Car Derby, would be taking place on Friday, October 25, and invited members to attend and get involved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Mocquais

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of September 23, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the minutes of September 23, 2019.

**CARRIED**

### 3B. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT: The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing immediately and ending April 30, 2020:

Alana Krahn, Business  
Larry Zhong, Engineering  
Olivia Harris, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

**CARRIED**

## **EARLY CONSULTATION**

### 4. Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference - GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), and Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)

*Discussion:*

Dr Nychka introduced the proposed changes to the GFC CLE's Terms of Reference including: responsibilities regarding learning spaces and learning technologies, policy directions related to teaching and learning, and the additions of the Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR, and the Director, Space Management to the composition.

Members discussed when committee members could be asked to serve on adjudication bodies related to awards, and the delegation of authority related to revisions of teaching assessment and evaluation procedures.

5. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

*Discussion:*

Dr Hopper noted that the report of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority, in April 2017, made eleven recommendations related to program approvals in which the current system was seen to be overly burdensome and convoluted. The GFC Executive Transition Committee, charged with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations, concurred with these findings and recommended that the GFC Executive Committee establish an ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways in January 2019, with a mandate to review the current processes, the recommendations and input from GFC and other stakeholders, and to provide recommendations toward a transparent and straightforward approach consistent with the GFC Principles and the principles of collegial governance.

Dr Hopper explained that the committee recommends the establishment of a new GFC standing committee, the Programs Committee, which would consolidate program approval work currently under the responsibilities of Academic Planning Committee (APC), Academic Standards Committee (ASC), GFC Executive Committee, and the GFC Policy Manual Section 37. She noted that this would result in revisions to the terms of reference for APC and GFC Executive, rescission of GFC Policy Manual Section 37, and the disbanding of ASC.

Dr Hopper noted that the key to the success of this model would be that the Programs Committee have a clear governance focus with matters of an administrative nature being addressed outside of the governance process. She spoke about how an administrative support committee could provide the necessary support to proponents during the development of proposals before entering the governance cycle.

Members discussed the importance of student representation at all levels of the approval process and the current timelines for approval of new programs.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. Affiliated Colleges at the University of Alberta - St Joseph's and St Stephen's (no documents)

Presentations before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Shawn Flynn, Academic Dean, St. Joseph's College; Frederick Tappenden, Principal and Dean, St Stephen's College

*Discussion:*

Dr Flynn presented an overview of St Joseph's College and its positioning as a 'community within a community'. He spoke about the services offered by the college including student residences, worship, and course offerings. Dr Flynn noted that the academic courses offered by the college teach at the intersection of faith and scholarship and were offered as options in Arts programs.

Dr Tappenden spoke about the history of St Stephen's College and noted that it was the first building on campus. He indicated that the college has had degree granting status since the late 1960s and spoke about the courses taught, and Master's and PhD degrees offered in Multi-faith Theology, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy, and Spiritual Care, as preparation for service in the public sphere.

7. Principles on Free Expression at the University of Alberta

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

*Discussion:*

Dr Rodgers said that the working group would be meeting at the end of the week to fine-tune the language, and spoke to the timeline and directives of the provincial government. She noted that free expression was integral to the work of the university, as well as the importance of striking a balance between free expression and other rights and interests, such as respect for human dignity and provision of an inclusive work, study, and living environment free of discrimination and harassment. Dr Rodgers also noted that the penultimate draft would come back to the GFC Executive Committee and GFC in November.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed opinions including, but not limited to: the requirement that the 8 points from the Minister's letter be addressed separately in the statement; the importance of capturing the key points in the University of Alberta's context; that GFC should have the opportunity to have a robust discussion on the final draft of the statement; the difference between shielding and providing support for those who were offended by the expression of different views; why Canadian Universities were directed to adopt American principles; that human rights need to be balanced with other freedoms and obligations; how gender critical feminist students and faculty, such as in the recent example of Megan Murphy and the Toronto Public Library, would be supported; that the university's discipline and complaint processes that exist in the Code of Student Behaviour, Policy, and the Collective Agreements would still apply; a request to change the language of "peaceful protest" to "non-violent protest"; and a question about a discrepancy between the posted and displayed draft statement.

8.1 Question Period 8.1 Questions: from Kathleen Lowry, elected GFC member, regarding speech critical of Bill C-16 and enforcement of violation of Principles of Free Expression

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

The Acting-Chair pointed to the written response to this question. There was no discussion.

8.2 Question Period 8.2 Questions: from Andrei Tabirca appointed GFC member, regarding the university's new program-based tuition model for international undergraduate students.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

The Acting Chair noted that the question was not submitted in time for a written response but asked the Interim Registrar to speak to the issue.

Ms Padfield spoke about the careful consultation undertaken for the new international tuition model and mentioned some key considerations that went into its development, most importantly the requirements outlined in legislation and associated regulations. She noted that 7.55% of the tuition fees collected from international student tuition under the new model would be redirected to supports for international students, and that the details of this were yet to be worked out but that choices being made with respect to financial supports were designed to support diversity and student success among our international student populations. As to the question about refunds of tuition for international students who withdraw from classes or who are required to withdraw, Ms Padfield noted that this element is part of the administrative decision making that support the implementation of the new tuition model and the final approach had not yet been established. She further noted that in all other instances of program based tuition models at the U of A, students were not eligible for tuition refunds based on single course withdrawals and that they would in all likelihood wish to follow a similar approach for clarity and consistency. Ms Padfield indicated that rates and tuition amounts for this new model were established based on the requirements in Bill 19 for international students to cover the full cost of their instruction, and that the university would actively monitor the impacts and outcomes of the new model and make adjustments where necessary and possible.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. GFC Nominations and Elections

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. University of Alberta Senate 2018-19 Annual Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Information Items A. 2020-2021 Academic Schedule

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

A. Email on Presidential Search Comments

B. Email on Chancellor Joint Nomination

### **CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

The Acting-Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.