General Faculties Council Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 26, 2021 Zoom Virtual Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

Bill Flanagan, Chair Chris Andersen Dale Askey Barbara Billingslev Stanford Blade

Martin Coutts (delegate) **Greta Cummings Neal Davies** Steven Dew Walter Dixon Joseph Doucet Robert Haennel Brenda Hemmelgarn

Shanthi Johnson Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell

Elan MacDonald Maria Mayan Brooke Milne

Pierre-Yves Mocquais Kerry Mummery Melissa Padfield Steve Patten Andrew Sharman

Demetres Tryphonopoulos Jennifer Tupper

Elected Faculty: W. Ted Allison J Nelson Amaral Nicholas Beier

Pamela Brett-MacLean

Robert Burrell Heather Coleman Piet Defraeye Michael Dyck Gary Eitzen Anastasia Elias Mary Forhan Michael Frishkopf Christine Hughes Peter Hurd

Marianne Jacquet

Nat Kav

Jessica Kolopenuk Hollis Lai

Pierre Lemelin Kathleen Lowrey Derek MacKenzie Pirkko Markula Sean McMurtry Al Meldrum Sue-Ann Mok Roger Moore Sarah Moore Suiata Persad

Elena Posse de Chaves

Chervl Poth Christina Rinaldi Dan Romanyk Keith Rourke Victoria Ruetalo Carolyn Sale Susan Sommerfeldt

Frances Plane

Eleni Stroulia Kisha Supernant Akiko Watanabe Jonathan White Lynne Wiltse Moin Yahya Minn-Nyoung Yoon

Students: **David Draper** Katie Kidd

Sachiketha Reddy

Appointed Members:

Ricardo Acuna Joel Agarwal Susan Babcock Paramita Chaudhuri Basu

Chris Beasley Dhir Bid Karl Buchanan Daniela Carbajal Meijun Chen

André Costopoulos

Talia Dixon Eric Einarson Shannon Erichsen Shawn Flynn Christian Fotang

Jill Hall

Simran Kaur Dhillon

Zaryab Khan **Emily Kimani** David Konrad Rahul Korde Janice Kung Devshri Lala Christopher Lupke Habba Mahal Angie Mandeville Abner Monteiro Jacob Park Liam Pearce

David Ren Sarah Severson Catrina Shellenberg

Lee Smith Andrei Tabirca **Edward Tiet**

Dilini Vethanayagam Mansimran Virk Marc Waddingham Adrian Wattamaniuk Donna Wilson

Ding Xu

Francine (Yuheng) Zhou

*REGRETS:

Jason Acker Adarsh Badesha Samar Barazesh Amlan Bose Marwan Burhani Ashley Cardinal Yiming Chen Megan Ciocchetto Nicole de Grano

Jennifer Fang Fraser Forbes Bill Foster Makboolee Fyith

Simran Ghoman Shivani Gupta Purna Hariharan **Basil Hubbard** Harnoor Kochar Sharonne Lee Susanne Luhmann **Lucas Marques** Adekunle Mofolasayo

Emily Motoska Gaser Nagah Ana Oliveira Yusuf Oliva Nicole Patrie Tvler Saretzky

Khandaker Akib Shahriar Aadhavya Sivakumaran

Shahed Taghian Dehaghani

Frederick Tappenden

Amy Tse Alan Underhill Mani Vaidyanathan Kristof Van Assche Adan Wang Adrienne Wright

Yan Yuan Xinxin Zhang

Staff:

Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University

Secretary

Kate Peters, GFC

Secretary

Heather Richholt, Scribe University Governance:

Ann Hodgson Edyta McLoughlin Laura Riley

*Secretary's Note: Due to an extraordinary change in the Academic Schedule, related to the pandemic, the meeting conflicted with the final exam period.

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 General Faculties Council (GFC)

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair read the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people, for the University for Tomorrow.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that question period had been moved earlier in the agenda on the advice of the Executive *ad hoc* Governance and Procedural Review Committee.

A motion was made from the floor to extend the meeting. The Chair noted that GFC could also choose to extend the meeting later in the agenda if necessary.

Motion: Sale/Mok

Motion from the floor

THAT the General Faculties Council extend the meeting for an additional hour.

DEFEATED

Motion: Moore/Dew

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President (no documents)

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

Discussion:

In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- the Joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit on March 26, 2021;
- the federal budget and new investments in research, bio manufacturing, skills training, and student support;
- the upcoming announcement of Alberta 2030 review;
- the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking placed the University of Alberta as number 64 in the list of the 100 most sustainable post-secondary institutions;
- the 2021-22 edition of the Global 2000 List by the Center for World University Rankings placed the University of Alberta as number 81;
- the search for the Vice-President (Research and Innovation); and
- thanks to all student members for whom this was the final meeting of their term.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Mocquais/Sharman

3. A. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 22, 2021

Item was deferred.

B. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 22, 2021

Item was deferred.

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Nicole de Grano Faculty of Arts Chris Beasley Faculty of Arts Maddie Dempsey Faculty of Arts Faculty of Arts Julia Villoso Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi Faculty of Arts Georgia Koref Faculty of Arts Tia Marko Faculty of Arts Lisa Glock Faculty of Arts Rama Taha Augustana Faculty Ghalia Aamer Faculty of Business Faculty of Business Levi Flaman Faculty of Business Yusuf Oliya Faculty of Education **Emily Motoska** Reagan Morris Faculty of Education **Devin Doherty** Faculty of Education Phillip Vandevalk Faculty of Education Adrian Wattamaniuk Faculty of Engineering Faculty of Engineering Chanpreet Singh Andrew Batycki Faculty of Engineering Faculty of Engineering Tahmid Al Hafiz Faculty of Engineering Siddharth Thakur Faculty of Engineering Farhana Rahman

Andy Deprato Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation

Kyle Whitlock Faculty of Law

Jesse Lafontaine Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Cindy Sun Faculty of Nursing Jenny Lam Faculty of Nursing Chiara Concini Faculté Saint-Jean Mohit Sinha Faculty of Science Aadhavya Sivakumaran Faculty of Science Nikita Adekar Faculty of Science Akanksha Yeola Faculty of Science Faculty of Science Samar Barazesh Devshri Lala Faculty of Science Faculty of Science Simran Dhillon

Ashmeen Aneja

Faculty of Science

The following undergraduate student members elected by the Students' Union to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with terms on the Board (May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022):

Rowan Ley President, Students' Union

David Konrad Student Appointee (Board of Governors Representative)

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Khandaker Akib Shahriar Chemistry Maggie Lin Nursing

Adekunle Mofolasayo Civil and Environmental Engineering Sophie Shi Chemical and Material Engineering

Ding Xu Political Science
Emily Holden Biological Sciences

The following graduate student member elected by the Graduate Students' Association to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with term on the Board (May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022):

Anas Fassih President, Graduate Students' Association

The following appointed NASA representative to the Board of Governors to serve for a three-year term concurrent with the appointment to the Board of Governors:

Andrei Tabirca NASA Appointee to the Board

CARRIED

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students' Union to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Abner Montiero Students' Union Nominee
Talia Dixon Students' Union Nominee

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students' Association to serve on GFC for a term beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Kathy Haddadkar Graduate Students' Association Nominee

The following ex officio members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2021 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Kyle Murray Acting Dean of the Faculty of Business
Diane Kunyk Acting Dean of the Faculty of Nursing
Frederick West Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science

Tammy Hopper Interim Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine Nick Holt Interim Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and

Recreation

Simaan AbouRizk Interim Dean of the Faculty of Engineering

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. <u>Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement for Graduate Students (formerly titled the Academic Integrity and Ethics Training)</u>

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne; Ali Shiri; Deanna Davis

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because FGSR seeks to standardize academic integrity and ethics education by taking responsibility for the foundational training that all graduate students need.

Discussion:

Dr Milne thanked Dr Shiri and Dr Davis for their work to develop this training. Dr Shiri provided a high-level overview of the standard online format and noted that the aim of the training was to provide early and equitable access to support and foundational information necessary to the graduate student experience.

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

- clarification of the process to address instances when students were unable to complete the training in their first semester;
- the French version for Faculté Saint-Jean students;
- the time required to complete the training:
- that this was not a new requirement but was a new and consistent way to deliver the existing ethics requirement to all graduate students;
- that the training was fully online and accessible to students as soon as they were admitted to their program:
- the potential to develop a similar program for undergraduate students; and
- concern about the component entitled "ethics of self-care".

A member proposed an amendment to the *University Calendar* language in the proposal regarding academic integrity and the intention that the Requirement ensure that students are equipped to conduct themselves in ways that uphold the values of the University of Alberta.

During the debate on the proposed amendment, members discussed the following points:

- that the institution's values should be upheld and inform everything related to graduate studies;
- whether expecting students to uphold certain values was "crossing the line" and whether it would be better to focus on meeting obligations as required by policy;

- to what extent recommendations from FGSR Council and GFC standing committees should inform the approval of GFC;
- whether the requirement to uphold values such as equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) would prevent graduate students from research that was critical of EDI policy;
- that policies were informed by values and values were not static but subject to change;
- that members of the university community should agree to uphold its values;
- that the language in the proposal spoke about equipping students to conduct themselves in ways that
 uphold the vision, mission, and values of the university, not about forcing them to; and
- that understanding the inclusive nature of the values of the university could make outsiders feel more welcome and safe especially those from underrepresented groups.

Motion: Sale/Coleman

Proposed amendment:

The Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement ensures that all graduate students have equal access to information about academic integrity, understand what it means to act with academic integrity, and are equipped to meet their obligations under University policies.

DEFEATED

Motion: Ruetalo/Doucet

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the revision of the Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement (formerly titled the Academic Integrity and Ethics Training Requirement) as set forth in Attachments 1-4, for immediate implementation, and inclusion in the 2022-2023 Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Question Period
 - 6.1 Facilities Development Committee
 - 6.2 Nominating Committee
 - 6.3 Library Databases
 - 6.4 Future Library Cuts
 - 6.5 Telus 5G Living Lab
 - 6.6 FGSR Supervisory Initiatives
 - 6.7 University Teaching Awards Committee and Remote Teaching Awards

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

The Chair asked if there were any supplementary questions to the written answers provided.

Regarding question 6.3 about library databases, Dr Sale disagreed that there were interdisciplinary concerns and asked why there had not been a robust consultation process regarding the cuts or anything done to assess the impact of the cuts of specific Faculty resources on those Faculties. Dr Askey, Vice-Provost (Library & Museums) and Chief Librarian replied that it was quite rare for a resource to be used by only one discipline and that it was standard practice for librarians, who were academics and professionals, to review budget, obligations, and usage, and to make data-driven decisions regarding collections and databases with consultation as needed.

Regarding question 6.1 about the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC), Dr Lowrey noted that she still did not understand why contentious issues like the demolition of the Ring Houses were not discussed by the committee and why FDC's opinion did not matter.

Regarding question 6.2 about the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), Dr Lowrey asked why it was decided that her nomination would not improve the composition of the committee and whether it was because she was a vocal critic of EDI policies. Dr White, Chair of NC noted the mandate of NC to ensure diversity and pointed out that the proceedings of NC were confidential. He also explained that NC makes a recommendation to GFC, who ultimately have the authority to make the decision on membership.

Dr Lowrey noted that she has submitted a third question and was told that it was outside the authority of GFC but that members could read about it on the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA)'s GFC forum.

Regarding question 6.6 about FGSR's Supervisory Initiatives, Dr Mok thanked Dr Milne for her reply and noted that she was concerned about the potential negative impact on students when reports were not completed. Dr Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR replied that restrictions on registration would be an absolute last resort and would follow multiple attempts to reach out and solve the issues and make sure that the conversations that needed to happen were happening.

Regarding question 6.5 about the Telus 5G Living Lab, Dr Sale wondered which of the university's policies and procedures were being referred to and how they would align with the collective agreement. She noted that she would submit follow up questions.

Members noted concern for students who were struggling with the costs of their education and asked questions about the proposals for exceptional tuition increases including:

- Why the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association were only made aware of these proposals a few weeks ago;
- What were the plans for moving forward and for proper student consultation;
- When the development of the proposals had begun; and
- Whether students who were required to pay the higher fees, if approved, would also be able to benefit from the improvements the increased fees were meant to pay for.

Dr Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) explained that advanced consultation on these proposals was happening at present and the normal consultation process would take place in the fall once the Ministry of Advanced Education had made its decisions. Dr Dew also noted that the development of proposals began in February when the Ministry indicated that it would consider them. As to the improvements that the increased fees were meant to finance, Dr Dew acknowledged that it may not be possible to implement all of the intended improvements to align with the start date of students paying the higher fees, but that the programs seeking exceptional tuition increases were eager to provide competitive programming and resources to their students.

A member asked about the university's plans related to Pride activities in the month of June. The Chair noted that Pride Week was celebrated on campus in mid-March because of the academic schedule and that there had been several virtual activities that year. Dr Rodgers, Deputy Provost, and Ms MacDonald, Vice-President External Relations noted that June was also Indigenous month and there would be activities related to both on the university's calendar of events.

7. <u>Proposal for the Establishment of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI)</u>
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research); Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Chris Andersen, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies

Purpose of the Proposal: This proposal recommends the establishment of the Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI) as a standing committee with delegated authority from General Faculties Council to determine the standards and approve policy respecting the documentation of Indigeneity. Documentation of Indigeneity is required to determine eligibility for admissions, awards and financial support that are specifically reserved for Indigenous students and applicants.

Discussion:

Dr Glanfield explained that the proposed committee would consider matters relating to Indigenous people in the Canadian context and that the voting members of the committee were all Indigenous.

Dr Andersen observed that the trend was moving away from the question of ancestry and toward connection to community. He noted that this was a North American issue and was about ensuring that funding and space were given to those they were intended for.

Ms Padfield noted that there were no implications to self-identification through the application process but the committee's work would be used for establishing policy on documentation required to access funding or seats specifically designated for Indigenous students.

Members expressed support of the proposal and discussed the potential to use a similar process for employment and to identify those from Northern Alberta for admission into heath care programs.

8. <u>Delegated Authority of the Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee (UABC)</u>

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, Kate Peters, Secretary to General Faculties Council (GFC)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before General Faculties Council because University Governance has reviewed the legislative authority of the Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries Committee (UABC). The analysis by University Governance found that the responsibilities and tasks identified in the Terms of Reference for the UABC exceed the authority of the General Faculties Council (GFC) over "rules and regulations respecting academic awards". They recommend that this authority be moved to a different standing committee and that UABC be disbanded as of July 1, 2021.

Discussion:

Mr Hamdon and Ms Peters explained that the *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority's 2017 report identified UABC as a task-oriented committee and indicated that it should play a more strategic and comprehensive mandate and role in the awards process to ensure alignment with institutional goals. They noted that university Governance's review of the legislative authority also found that UABC was operating beyond the authority set forth in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) which was to "make rules and regulations respecting academic awards". They indicated that if the task based work of approving individual award terms was moved to an administrative approval process, a full standing committee was not necessary. They further noted that the mandate of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) was well aligned to the higher-level policy work related to academic awards.

A member asked if there would be a role for students to play in an administrative approval process if GFC were to decide to change the committee structure. Ms Peters replied that reports on approved awards and discussions of policy concerns would still be within the purview of General Faculties Council, and that students would continue to have an important role as members of GFC and its standing committees.

A member raised a point of privilege and asked for a break in the meeting after considering a motion from the floor to extend the meeting.

Motion: Sale/Lupke

Motion from the floor:

THAT General Faculties Council extend the meeting for an additional 30 minutes.

CARRIED

9. Executive ad hoc Governance Procedural Review Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary, and co-Chair of the Executive ad hoc Governance Review Committee; Moin Yahya, GFC Elected Faculty Member, and co-Chair of the Executive ad hoc Governance Review Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before General Faculties Council to consult on the work of the Executive ad hoc Governance and Procedural Review Committee on the Meeting Procedural Rules, Roles and Responsibilities of Members, and Question Period Procedure. The Executive ad hoc committee's work is being done as a part of GFC's commitment to regular review of its processes.

Discussion:

In his introduction, the Chair made it clear that the Executive *ad hoc* committee had no authority and that GFC would decide on any recommended changes that came forward.

Mr Hamdon spoke about the work of the committee to date and made note of the google form sent to GFC members so that they could provide feedback. He explained that the original plan was to bring changes for approval in June but that the recommendations could come in the fall if they were not ready.

Dr Yahya encouraged members to provide feedback and indicated that the committee would not be doing the work related to the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole but would only be providing advice.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- a question about how the members of the committee were chosen and a suggestion to add a GFC elected faculty member to the committee who would provide "consistent push back";
- that the committee included a diverse group of voices and had not made any recommendations but was asking for feedback on a first draft;
- that it was more important to do this right than to do it quickly and a suggestion that more faculty members could be added to the committee;
- whether there would be something added to the Meeting Procedural Rules regarding online meetings and improved access to participation from an EDI perspective;
- the importance of broad and meaningful consultation;
- an impression that the changes circulated had already been decided on and a complaint about the mechanism for requesting feedback from GFC:
- an observation that this was important work and a smaller group was easier to manage, especially in a time of scare resources; and
- that it was puzzling that some members of GFC implied that this process was being "stage managed".

11. Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to continue to update GFC on the actions taken as a result of the recommendations of the report of the committee of the whole on February 8, 2021, and to support decision making as a result of the report.

Discussion:

The Chair provided a brief update on the actions coming out of the recommendations made by the GFC committee of the whole.

12. Replenishment of GFC, Standing Committees, and other bodies (no documents)

Presenter(s): Jonathan White, Chair of GFC Nominating Committee (NC)

Discussion:

Dr White spoke about the annual replenishment of GFC and the importance of robust and active membership in light of the important work that happens at GFC standing committees.

10. <u>Development of a GFC Position on Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring</u>

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee in response to a recommendation included in the report generated from the committee of the whole discussion at the GFC meeting on February 8, 2021.

Discussion:

The Chair acknowledged that the item on Metrics had unintentionally been skipped and suggested a 10-minute extension of the meeting in order to have a quick discussion.

Dr Dew provided a brief overview of the draft document and encouraged members to share feedback in the meeting and offline.

Members discussed:

- that academics needed to be the ones doing the assessment of interdisciplinarity and that GFC should approve a statement to that effect;
- the intention of the metrics and the content of the discussions that had happened at the Academic Planning Committee (APC);
- the targets and measurements related to the financial metric and the quality of shared services measure;
- an opinion that the feedback on shared services would be negative and there was no benchmark for success;
- that service quality and issues were dependent on the participation of many; and
- how EDI would be considered across all the metrics and whether it would account for inequitable layoffs due to restructuring.

Dr Dew acknowledged that assessing interdisciplinarity and shared services would be challenging. He further noted that there were separate metrics being collected on EDI in response to the EDI Strategic Plan and that the metrics under discussion in this item were specifically related to the Board of Governor's decision in December 2020.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

- 13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
- 14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

16. GFC Nominations and Elections

- A. GFC Recent Elections
- B. Current Membership Vacancies
- 17. <u>Information Items</u>
 - A. Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR) Annual Report 2019-2020
 - B. Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR) Annual Report 2019-2020
 - C. Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) Annual Report 2020
 - D. University of Alberta for Tomorrow Update
 - E. COVID-19 Governance Emergency Protocols Decision Tracker
- 18. <u>Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings:</u>
 - Email Interim Deans-Email 2021-2022 Calendar for GFC and GFC Standing Committees

CLOSING SESSION

- 19. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: June 7, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.