



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Simaan AbouRizk
Chris Andersen
Dale Askey
Barbara Billingsley
Stanford Blade
Steven Dew
Todd Gilchrist
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Nick Holt
Tammy Hopper
Christine Hughes
Shanthi Johnson
Diane Kunyk
Elan MacDonald
Maria Mayan
Brooke Milne
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kyle Murray
Melissa Padfield
Steve Patten
Aminah Robinson Fayek
Wendy Rodgers
Andrew Sharman
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Jennifer Tupper

Elected Faculty:

Jason Acker
Sandeep Agrawal
J Nelson Amaral
Saadet Andrews
Nicholas Beier
Jennifer Branch-Meuller
Robert Burrell
Heather Coleman
Gary Eitzen
Anastasia Elias
Jaymie Heilman
Michael Hendzel

Carol Hodgson Birkman
Peter Hurd
Nat Kav
Jessica Kolopenuk
Vadim Kravchinsky
Hollis Lai
Jacqueline Leighton
Pierre Lemelin
Runjuan Liu
Kathleen Lowrey
Derek MacKenzie
Al Meldrum
Sourayan Mookerjea
Sarah Moore
Weimin Mou
Mario Nascimento
Jerine Pegg
Sujata Persad
Frances Plane
Dan Romanyk
Keith Rourke
Victoria Ruetalo
Carolyn Sale
John Spence
Laura Stovel
Alan Underhill
Mani Vaidyanathan
Frederick West
Jonathan White
Shauna Wilton
Richard Wozniak
Moin Yahya
Yan Yuan
Nese Yuksel

Students:

Talia Dixon
Kathy Haddadkar
Abner Monterio

Appointed Members:

Ghalia Aamer
Nikita Adekar
Heba Aref
Susan Babcock

Samar Barazesh
Andrew Batycki
Chris Beasley
Vaughn Beaulieu-
Mercredi
Marsha Boyd
Chiara Concini
André Costopoulos
Greta Cummings
Maddie Dempsey
Andy Deprato
Devin Doherty
Joseph Doucet
Anas Fassih
Levi Flaman
Shawn Flynn
Kyle Foster
Lisa Glock
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Jill Hall
Emily Holden
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Simran Kaur Dhillon
David Konrad
Mohit Kumar
Shashi Kumar
Jesse Lafontaine
Devshri Lala
Jenny Lam
Rowan Ley
Maggie Lin
Andrew Locke
Angie Mandeville
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Emily Motoska
Mary Olukotun
Sanhita Pal
Laura Reifferscheid
Khandaker Akib Shahriar
Sophie Shi
Chanpreet Singh
Allison Sivak

Aadhavya Sivakumaran
Shubham Soni
Cindy Sun
Andrei Tabirca
Rama Taha
Frederick Tappenden
Phillip Vandevalk
Dilini Vethanayagam
Adrian Wattamaniuk
Kyle Whitlock
Donna Wilson
Adrienne Wright
Shuce Zhang

REGRETS:

Ricardo Acuna
Ashmeen Aneja
Nicole de Grano
Michael Dyck
Harnoor Kalra
Georgia Korfeh
Tia Marko
Reagan Morris
Yusuf Oliya
Elena Posse de Chaves
Sarah Severson
Siddharth Thakur
Amy Tse
Kristof Van Assche
Julia Villosio
Ding Xu
Akanksha Yeola

Staff:

Brad Hamdon, General
Counsel and University
Secretary
Kate Peters, GFC
Secretary
Heather Richholt, Scribe
University Governance:
Edyta McLoughlin
Laura Riley

OPENING SESSION

To open the first GFC meeting of the academic year, Elder Dr Francis Whiskeyjack shared some wisdom and Indigenous teachings.

The Chair thanked Elder Whiskeyjack and read the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides primarily on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is a sign of respect for the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

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)

Discussion:

The Chair noted that motions to extend the meeting would be allowed if needed but that since it was election day, the meeting would not be extended beyond 4:30 p.m. to allow members adequate time to vote.

Motion: Hopper/Andersen

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President-Meeting format for GFC and standing committees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

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

- Doug Stollery had accepted a volunteer role of Governance Advisor to University Governance; and
- The continuing online meeting format for GFC given the provincial stay at home mandate and efforts to minimize density on campus.

The Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee Jonathan White, was invited to provide an update on current committee vacancies and encouraged members to put their names forward for available positions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Hopper/Andersen

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 7, 2021

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of June 7, 2021.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing September 20, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Laura Reifferscheid, Nursing
Shubham Soni, Medical Sciences
Shuce Zhang, Chemistry

The following University Library Academic Staff Representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing September 20, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024:

Allison Sivak, University of Alberta Libraries

CARRIED

MOTION II: TO RECEIVE:

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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024:

Jaymie Heilman, Faculty of Arts
Sourayan Mookerjee, Faculty of Arts
Weimin Mou, Faculty of Arts
Carol Birkman-Hodgson, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Sadeet Andrews, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Laura Stovel, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Michael Hendzel, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Richard Wozniak, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Nesse Yuksel, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Mario Nascimento, Faculty of Science
Sandeep Agrawal, Faculty of Science
Vadim Kravchinsky, Faculty of Science

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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Runjuan Liu, Faculty of Business
John Spence, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
Moin Yahya, Faculty of Law

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

Wendy Rodgers, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Extension
Christine Hughes, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

CARRIED

5. Duolingo English Test: Extension of Short-term Use

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is to request an extension to accept the Duolingo English Test (DET) for all applicants to undergraduate and graduate programs as an additional option to demonstrate ELP for two additional years, i.e., students applying to the Fall 2022 and Fall 2023 intakes. DET was initially approved as a response to COVID disruptions to international testing centres. As the conditions have not materially changed we are proposing this extension.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed extension of the Duolingo English Test to meet English Language Proficiency requirements for undergraduate and graduate programs, for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 admissions.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Proposed Revisions to Terms of Reference – General Faculties Council

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 proposal is before the Executive Committee to discuss proposed revisions to the terms of reference for General Faculties Council (GFC) to amend the composition of GFC to include College Deans.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that the motion was before members to add the three College Deans to the GFC Membership.

A member made a motion to postpone the pending question until such time as a comprehensive review of membership could be completed. He noted that this was a controversial decision and that there was no point in making a rushed decision. The GFC Secretary Kate Peters noted that a motion to table was appropriate in this case and the motion was changed to a motion to table. The Chair noted that those opposed to adding the College Deans to the membership could also vote against the original motion. The motion to table was defeated.

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

- clarification questions about the decision they were being asked to make;
- the importance of the voices of the College Deans on GFC;
- that the establishment of College Deans was controversial but that did not negate their role in the academic mission of the University;
- whether the composition of GFC was misaligned with that of other academic Senates at comparator institutions;
- whether the addition of new administrative positions on GFC would upset the balance of administrators and academics;
- whether it was time for a comprehensive review of the membership of GFC; and
- that the number of student representatives should not be decreased.

Ms Peters explained that the College Deans would be appointed members of GFC so would not affect the reapportionment balance of ex-officio and elected faculty representatives that were set by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*. She noted that she would be completing a reapportionment of GFC membership, as required by GFC procedure, in the New Year and would report to GFC at that time.

Motion: Amaral/Sale

Motion from the floor:

THAT the General Faculties Council table the pending motion until a comprehensive membership review is completed.

DEFEATED

Motion: Hopper/Andersen

THAT General Faculties Council approve, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, the proposed changes to the General Faculties Council Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

7. FGSR Supervisory Initiatives, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Anas Fassih, President of Graduate Students' Association

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to consider three Supervisory initiatives which will build capacity in the Graduate Student experience, support Graduate Student success, and enhance the Graduate Student-Supervisory relationship:

- (1) FGSR Adjunct Academic Appointment and Graduate Student Supervision Policy & Graduate Student Supervision Development Procedure
- (2) Student-Supervisor Guidelines
- (3) Progress Report

Discussion:

Dr Milne provided an overview of the proposal and spoke about the intent of the changes to improve the student-supervisor relationship and the graduate student experience. Mr Fassih noted the support of the Graduate Students' Association and long standing concerns that these initiatives would address.

Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of the GFC Programs Committee (PC) Janice Causgrove Dunn was invited to speak about the decision of PC not to recommend approval of the proposal's academic standing regulations at their meeting of June 24, 2021. She noted that members found it difficult to recommend on just one aspect of the proposal and that some members expressed concern with the progress report ratings and that a student could be required to withdraw after one rating of "unsatisfactory". Dr Causgrove Dunn explained that it was suggested that the initial step should be probation in the event of an unsatisfactory rating but that the Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR had explained that students were never required to withdraw without just cause and had pointed to the *University Calendar* language which required there be adequate warning and opportunity to rectify the inadequacy, consultation with advisors, and the provision of supports before a student was required to withdraw.

The Chair acknowledged that Executive Committee had discussed at length whether the motion was ready to come forward given the decision of PC and that a motion was made to amend the GFC Agenda and pull this item, with a request that it be sent back to PC to review their decision. He noted that the University Secretary and Secretary to General Faculties Council had then explained that in alignment with principles of good governance, a standing committee could not be asked to make the same decision twice and that the Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR explained once more how the concerns of PC were addressed in the *University Calendar* language.

Several members spoke in support of these initiatives as tools to encourage communication and transparency and avoid breakdowns in the student and supervisor relationship. Members asked about the implementation of the new processes, the roles of the department and FGSR, and the ease of use of the forms.

Motion: Babcock/Konrad

Motion from the floor:

THAT General Faculties Council close debate on the motions.

CARRIED

Motion: Hopper Andersen

THAT General Faculties Council approve the changes to program requirements and regulations for graduate students and supervisors as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and set forth in attachment 4, to take effect in January 2022 and to be published in the 2022-2023 University Calendar.

CARRIED

Motion: Hopper/Andersen

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the FGSR Adjunct Academic Appointment and Graduate Student Supervision Policy, and the Graduate Student Supervision Development Procedure, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and as set forth in attachments 1 and 2, to take effect in January 2022.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Question Period
 - 8.1 Student Accommodation
 - 8.2 Online Programming
 - 8.3 Masks
 - 8.4 Service on GFC
 - 8.5 Vaccinations

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 follow up questions to the posted items.

Regarding question 8.1 about student accommodation, Dr Amaral noted that instructors were struggling and students and instructors were not being adequately supported. Vice-Provost and Dean of Students André Costopoulos noted that his office was working with individual students as well as on the larger issue of universal design as a way to help all students. Members spoke about the importance of clear communication and reaching out to those who needed help now.

Regarding question 8.2 about online programming, Dr Sale expressed that her question was not answered and that she wanted to know how the university defined "outstanding student experience". She noted that revenue generation was in response to government funding cuts and that the university had to be careful not to simply funnel students through to get their dollars. Deputy Provost Wendy Rodgers explained that there was opportunity not just to increase enrollment but to increase the diversity of offerings and pedagogies which would also increase the number of non-traditional learners. Dr Rodgers also noted that the university was constantly working to ensure that all of its students were successful by providing strong supports for students and instructors and evaluating the student experience to address gaps.

Regarding question 8.3 about masks, Dr Sale noted her disappointment with the response and expressed that ensuring compliance with policy should not fall to the members of the community. Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Andrew Sharman noted that University of Alberta Protective Services could be contacted and would address issues if needed. Members discussed non-compliance with the mask mandate and Mr Sharman noted that his office would share the communication that was sent to instructors regarding what to do in cases of non-compliance with a wider group, including Teaching Assistants.

Regarding question 8.4 about service on GFC, Dr Vethanayagam noted that she was aware of several people who had stepped down from positions on GFC because of time commitments. Members discussed the practice of requesting letters of reference.

Regarding question 8.5 about vaccinations, Dr Lowrey expressed her concern with the requirement to disclose sensitive information in order for a member of the community to request a vaccine exemption on religious grounds. General Counsel and University Secretary Brad Hamdon and Vice-Provost and Dean of students Andre Costopoulos explained that adequate information about the barrier was needed in order to make a decision and that the process was very discrete and confidential.

A member asked about the Public Health Response Team's limits on student group activities and Faculty activities on campus. Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Andrew Sharman and Vice-Provost and Dean of Students André Costopoulos answered that they were working to maintain as much as possible in person and would respond to academic and social events as the situation and regulations changed.

Motion: Wattamaniuk/Babcock

Motion from the floor:

THAT the General Faculties Council extend the meeting until 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to the General Faculties Council Guiding Documents

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary; Moin Yahya, GFC Elected Faculty Member

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to review proposed changes to the:

- Principles for GFC Delegation of Authority
- Principles for GFC Standing Committee Composition
- Roles and Responsibilities of Members
- GFC Meeting Procedural rules

The changes were developed in consultation with members of GFC through the work of the GFC Executive Committee *ad hoc* Governance Procedural Review Committee convened in March, 2021 and disbanded in June, 2021. The review of GFC Guiding Documents was recommended by the *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority in a report approved by GFC in April 2017.

Discussion:

Mr Hamdon and Dr Yahya, Co-Chairs of the GFC Executive *ad hoc* Governance Procedural Review Committee, spoke about proposed changes to the GFC Guiding Documents.

A member asked for a comprehensive account of the feedback received and a detailed rationale for the proposed changes, and noted that there was no clear statement of principles in the documents.

A member asked that the impact of an abstention on a vote should be made clearer.

10. Teaching Learning and Evaluation Policy

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

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide a progress update, share the draft policy suite, and continue discussions related to the advancement of the Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Policy for the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Dr Nychka presented a draft policy and spoke about the work and consultations to date.

Members discussed:

- student perception of teaching;
- bias in the data;
- closing the loop on student feedback;
- ensuring students had access to the data;
- the use of summative and formative data;
- the availability of peer consultants;
- multifaceted evaluation of teaching; and
- development of methods to ensure validity of the new tools.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
12. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
- APC has not met since their last report to GFC in June 7, 2021.
13. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
14. GFC Nominations and Elections
A. Report of the GFC Nominating Committee
B. Recent Elections by GFC
15. Report of the Board of Governors
16. Information Items:
A. Report on Metrics on Academic Restructuring
B. Report on the Remote Learning Taskforce
C. COVID-19 Emergency Protocols Decision Tracker
17. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
- Report on Library Pandemic Response - 2020
- Meeting format for GFC - September 20, 2021

CLOSING SESSION

18. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: October 25, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.