



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

### General Faculties Council Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 02, 2022  
Hybrid Meeting in Council Chamber and by Zoom  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

---

#### **ATTENDEES:**

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

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

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Chris Andersen  
Dale Askey  
Barbara Billingsley  
Stanford Blade  
Steven Dew  
Todd Gilchrist  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Tammy Hopper  
Christine Hughes  
Shanthi Johnson  
Diane Kunyk  
Brooke Milne  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Kyle Murray  
Melissa Padfield  
Steve Patten  
Aminah Robinson Fayek  
Wendy Rodgers  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Jennifer Tupper  
Frederick West  
***Elected Faculty:***  
Sandeep Agrawal  
J Nelson Amaral  
Saadet Andrews  
Nicholas Beier  
Jennifer Branch-Mueller  
Robert Burrell  
Marie Carrière  
Heather Coleman  
Michael Dyck  
Anastasia Elias  
Jaymie Heilman  
Michael Hendzel  
Carol Hodgson Birkman  
Peter Hurd  
Nat Kav  
Vadim Kravchinsky

Hollis Lai  
Jacqueline Leighton  
Pierre Lemelin  
Runjuan Liu  
Derek MacKenzie  
Al Meldrum  
Sourayan Mookerjee  
Sarah Moore  
Weimin Mou  
Mario Nascimento  
Jerine Pegg  
Sujata Persad  
Frances Plane  
Dan Romanyk  
Keith Rourke  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Carolyn Sale  
John Spence  
Alan Underhill  
Mani Vaidyanathan  
Shauna Wilton  
***Students:***  
Bishoi Aziz  
Joannie Fogue  
**Appointed Members:**  
Abdul Abbasi  
Haruun Ali  
Fateh Arslan  
Rebecca Avila  
Susan Babcock  
Cirila Bartley  
Josephine Bolaji  
Marsha Boyd  
Jayden Brooks  
Heather Bruce  
Greta Cummings  
Charvi Dhamija  
Joseph Doucet  
Ryan Dunch  
Levi Flaman  
Shawn Flynn  
Kyle Foster

Leo Huang  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell  
Simran Kaur Dhillon  
Mobashhir Khan  
Valentina Kozlova  
Devshri Lala  
Ariane Lamoureux  
Lionel Liu  
Precious Majekodunmi  
Angie Mandeville  
Tim Mills  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Tessa Monaghan  
Hubert Piatkowski  
Jad-Julian Rachid  
Marian Sanchez  
Sarah Severson  
Srivathsan  
Shanmuganathan  
Subrat Sharma  
Sophie Shi  
Chanpreet Singh  
Allison Sivak  
Andrei Tabirca  
Frederick Tappenden  
Helen Vallianatos  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Adrian Wattamaniuk  
Adrienne Wright  
Rachel Yang

##### **REGRETS:**

Simaan AbouRizk  
Jason Acker  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Heba Aref  
Ahmed Bouferguene  
Daniela Carbajal  
Alexander Dorscheid  
Gary Eitzen  
Anas Fassih

Tahmid Al Hafiz  
Jill Hall  
Jaida Han  
Emily Holden  
Nick Holt  
Gurleen Kaur  
Jessica Kolopenuk  
Mohit Kumar  
Shashi Kumar  
Warren Leung  
Elan MacDonald  
Priyanka Mittapelly  
Abner Monteiro  
Sarah Opena-Sakar  
Pauline Paul  
Elena Posse de Chaves  
Milan Regmi  
Polina Reisbig  
Dweej Shah  
Khandaker Akib Shahriar  
Andrew Sharman  
Sargun Sokhi  
Pien Steinbusch  
Laura Stovel  
Rana Sunjog Singh Thind  
Amy Tse  
Kristof Van Assche  
Vedant Vyas  
Richard Wozniak  
Moin Yahya  
Yan Yuan  
Nese Yuksel

##### **Staff:**

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

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged, "that we are located on Treaty 6 territory. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community."

## **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, Chair of GFC

*Discussion:*

The Chair welcomed those members attending online via Zoom and in person in Council Chamber for the first time since the spring of 2020. He provided some information about how he and the governance team would manage the hybrid meeting and thanked members for their patience and cooperation.

A member raised a point of privilege, expressing that all members should be on Zoom to provide an equal experience for all.

The Chair noted that the proponent for Items 9 and 10, Proposed Changes to Transfer Credits and Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR, and Proposed Changes to Course Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR, had requested that the proposals be changed from action items to discussion items. The Chair suggested that the agenda be amended and renumbered to move the items in question to the end of the discussion items.

Members discussed whether it was appropriate to make changes to GFC standing committee terms of reference since this was the first meeting for new student members and whether the remaining FGSR action item, Proposed Changes to Extra-to-Degree Regulations for Graduate Programs, should also be considered for discussion rather than for action.

A member proposed a further amendment to the agenda to remove Item 6, Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, from the agenda for consideration at a future meeting.

Motion: Sale/Singh

THAT the General Faculties Council amend the agenda to remove Item 6, Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee.
--

**CARRIED**

Motion: Rodgers/Ruétalo

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

**CARRIED**

### 2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair invited two members of the GFC Nominating Committee to speak about staff replenishment of GFC standing committees. The members urged GFC elected faculty members to put their names forward for vacant positions and to encourage their colleagues to consider serving as well. They spoke about the importance of service on standing committees and the responsibility of GFC members to fill these roles.

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

- The reappointment of Jennifer Tupper as the Dean of the Faculty of Education for a second five-year term;
- The recognition of University of Alberta's excellence in research and education as affirmed by standing on the QS World Rankings by Subject, the Centre for World University Rankings, and the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings;
- In-person convocation ceremonies scheduled for June and a planned series of special celebrations in July for students who had virtual convocations over the past two years; and
- The State of the University address to be delivered in Convocation Hall on May 3, 2022.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Rodgers/Ruétalo

#### 3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 21, 2022

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of March 21, 2022

**CARRIED**

#### 4. New Members of GFC

##### **TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:**

The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:

Ariane Lamoureux	Faculty of Arts
Leo Huang	Faculty of Arts
Milan Regmi	Faculty of Arts
Jaida Han	Faculty of Arts
Hussain Alhussainy	Faculty of Arts
Haruun Ali	Faculty of Arts
Sarah Opeña-Sakar	Faculty of Arts
Rebeca Avila	Faculty of Arts
Abdul Abbasi	Augustana Faculty
Levi Flaman	Faculty of Business
Tessa Monaghan	Faculty of Business
Fateh Arslan	Faculty of Business
Pien Steinbusch	Faculty of Education
Cirila Bartley	Faculté Saint-Jean
Lionel Liu	Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
Chanpreet Singh	Faculty of Engineering
Polina Reisbig	Faculty of Engineering
Warren Leung	Faculty of Engineering
Adrian Wattamaniuk	Faculty of Engineering
Jayden Brooks	Faculty of Engineering
Tahmid Al Hafiz	Faculty of Engineering

Precious Majekodunmi	Faculty of Nursing
Hubert Piatkowski	Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Simran Dhillon	Faculty of Science
Daniela Carbajal Velez	Faculty of Science
Mohit Sinha	Faculty of Science
Mobashhir Khan	Faculty of Science
Charvi Dhamija	Faculty of Science
Vedant Vyas	Faculty of Science
Devshri Lala	Faculty of Science
Rana Sunjog Singh Thind	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, 2022 to April 30, 2023):

Abner Monteiro	President, Students' Union
Alexander Dorscheid	Student Appointee (Board of Governors Representative)

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:

Emily Holden	Biological Science
Subrat Sharma	Business (MBA)
Sophie Shi	Chemical and Materials Engineering
Adekunle Mofolasayo	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Josephine Bolaji	Human Ecology
Dweej Shah	Mechanical Engineering
Rachel Yang	Oncology
Sargun Sokhi	Oncology
Jad-Julian Rachid	Pediatrics
Marian Sanchez	Public Health
Srivathsan Shanmuganathan	Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging

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 a term on the Board (May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023):

Anas Fassih	President, Graduate Students' Association
-------------	---

The following representative of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association elected by the Postdoctoral Fellows Association for a term commencing May 2, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Priyanka Mittapelly

**CARRIED**

**TO RECEIVE:**

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students' Union to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:

Gurleen Kaur	Students' Union Nominee
Joannie Fogue	Students' Union Nominee

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students' Association to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:

Bishoi Aziz	Graduate Students' Association Nominee
-------------	--

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:

Richard Field	Faculty of Business
Kent Rondeau	Faculty of Business
Chris Sprysak	Faculty of Law
Cary Brown	Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Tracy Raivio	Faculty of Science
Zachary Friggstad	Faculty of Science
Graham Pearson	Faculty of Science
Mirko van der Baan	Faculty of Science

The following statutory faculty member who has been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024:

John Spence	Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
-------------	---

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in the Faculty of Education.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee

Item was removed from the agenda and deferred.

7. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Council on Student Affairs

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair of Council on Student Affairs

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to recommend the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Council on Student Affairs (COSA) put forward as a part of the three-year review.

*Discussion:*

K Peters provided a brief overview of the proposed changes and noted the work of the Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight, the consultation with and support of the members of COSA at their last meeting, and the recommendation by the Executive Committee. S Dew noted that the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) did not provide any specific authority or direction for a COSA beyond that a University can establish one. He also noted that the GFC had rebooted COSA as a consultative body in 2019 and that it could be asked to weigh in on any items that come to GFC.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Rodgers/Ruétalo

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC

Council on Student Affairs as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Tracey Hillier, Director, Alberta Institute, Wenzhou Medical University, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry - MED International; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), Chair of GFC Programs Committee; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair of GFC Academic Planning Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree Program.

*Discussion*:

J Causgrove Dunn noted that the proposal had been well received by the Program Support Team and the GFC Programs Committee and that the external reviews were positive and recognized that this was an innovative and unique program.

S Dew noted that the GFC Academic Planning Committee was supportive of the proposal and at their meeting had asked questions about potential impact to domestic students and had confirmed that the students in the program would not receive a Canadian MD Degree.

T Hillier provided a brief overview of the program and the transnational collaboration explaining that graduates of this program would receive the Bachelor of Biomedicine from the University of Alberta as well as the equivalent of an MD Degree from Wenzhou Medical University in China.

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

- whether student could use this degree to apply for permanent residency;
- involvement of University of Alberta International (UAI) in the development of the program;
- limits and approvals for collaborative programs with international universities;
- the potential for graduates of this program to apply to University of Alberta for graduate school;
- the quality of the partner university's medical school;
- whether this program would have any impact on the University of Alberta's MD Program;
- the process for renewal at the end of the approved term;
- admission requirements and numbers of students in the program; and
- the rigors of Chinese medical school training and licensing.

Motion: Rodgers/Ruétalo

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree as set forth in the attachments and for implementation upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Changes to Extra-to-Degree Regulations for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal*: FGSR is proposing changes to the Graduate Policies on courses declared extra-to-degree.

*Discussion*:

B Milne provided an overview of the proposal noting that its purpose was to provide structure and administrative direction regarding the maximum number of courses that could be taken in a graduate program and declared extra-to-degree. She explained that this was meant to encourage students to focus on their requirements and on advancing in their degrees.

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

- that taking large numbers of extra-to-degree courses could result in delays in program completion;
- that some students may have interest in taking large numbers of extra-to-degree courses for the purpose of transferring into another program but should be focusing on their current program;
- that some graduate students take extra-to-degree courses but do not have to pay any extra tuition;
- that it was common for students to require language training but that could be accomplished in the 12 credits allowed under the new provisions;
- an opinion that this proposal was limiting student learning and adding unnecessary layers of bureaucracy;
- whether this item was a stand-alone item or should be discussed at the same time as the other FGSR items on the current agenda for discussion;
- that graduate students needed to have parameters established around choosing courses for their programs;
- that students also had the option to audit courses if they were interested in learning outside their degree program; and
- that a 12 credit allowance for extra-to-degree courses was common across other institutions.

Members expressed hesitation about making a decision on this item and a member made a motion to table the pending motion until the next meeting.

Motion: Rodgers/Ruétalo

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the changes and clarification to the regulations on courses considered Extra-to-Degree, as recommended by the GFC Programs Committee, to take effect upon final approval.	<b>TABLED</b>
--	---------------

Motion: Dunch/Amaral

THAT the General Faculties Council table the pending motion until the next meeting.	<b>CARRIED</b>
---	----------------

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

Regarding the removal or decommissioning of the Humanities Building, members asked about:

- where members of GFC could find the full schedule of maintenance costs and deferred maintenance for individual buildings;
- where members of GFC could find the data about the use of space at the University of Alberta and at other universities;
- where members of GFC could find the data related to the planned enrollment expansion;

- what other buildings with classrooms and offices, apart from the Humanities Building, were being considered for removal;
- why was deferred maintenance such a challenge for the university and why had it become such a severe problem; and
- what would be the building that would communicate the University's commitment to Humanities going forward.

Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Katherine Huising, Associate Vice-President (Campus Services), spoke about the spread of Arts Faculty over 9 buildings and the desire to consolidate the Faculty's space, space optimization, and funding challenges related to deferred maintenance, and noted that a written response would be provided for the next meeting of GFC. A member noted that the conversations around the spread of the Arts Faculty were normally focused around the spread across the campus away from the Humanities Centre.

Regarding travel bookings, members asked question and expressed comments including:

- that discount airlines were often the only direct flight option from Edmonton or the only option at all;
- that it was important to provide access to better and cheaper options if they were available;
- that cost savings should also factor in the value of the time for those involved; and
- options available for renting apartments for longer term research travel.

Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance), asked members to share examples of fare differences as they occur, noting that the university would continue to compare to ensure the best deal. He also committed that an information session would be set up and members of GFC would be invited.

A member asked about the reduction in hours for Libraries and if GFC could hear more about why these decisions were being made. Dale Askey, Vice-Provost (Library and Museums) & Chief Librarian, answered that this was because of budget and finance limitations, that these decisions were not made lightly, and that he would share the data.

#### 11. Changes to the Faculty of Extension

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Extension

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss growth priorities and upcoming changes to the administrative structure of Continuing Education, including removing the current Faculty status of the Faculty of Extension.

*Discussion:*

W Rodgers provided an overview of the proposal to move the remaining Continuing Education functionality from Extension over to a new central hub and remove the Faculty status from Extension. She noted that the unit in the central hub would support Continuing Education across the university.

There was no discussion.

#### 12. Review of the GFC Nominating Committee Terms of Reference and Procedures

Item was deferred.

#### 13. Proposed Changes to Transfer Credits and Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Item was deferred.

#### 14. Proposed Changes to Course Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Item was deferred.



### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
16. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
17. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
18. GFC Nominations and Elections
  - 20 April 2022 NC Report to GFC
  - Anticipated Vacancies for 2022-2023 Academic Year
19. Report of the Board of Governors
20. Information Items:
  - A.COVID Decision Tracker
  - B. 2022-2023 GFC and GFC Standing Committee Schedules
  - C. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report: 2021-2022

### **CLOSING SESSION**

21. Adjournment
  - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: June 6, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.