
General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began with a land acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Vice-Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

- ZTC Course Awards
- Presidential Review Committee Update
- Budget Update

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Vice-Chair, GFC

Discussion: During comments from the Chair, the Chair invited P Almeida, the Vice-President (Academic) of the University of Alberta Students' Union to present an award for the promotion of Zero-Cost Textbooks. A Lam, a GFC member and student from Augustana Campus, accepted the award on behalf of the Dean and students of Augustana and K Hurley, a student from Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science, was recognized for their achievement.

During the Chair's Comments, the following information was presented:

- Update on the Learning Management System;
- Presidential Review Committee Update;
- Budget; and
- Google Storage.

The Chair screened a new pedagogical video on Sweetgrass Teachings and noted the importance of relationality to GFC's work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 29, 2024

4. New Members of GFC
5. Suspension of the Specialisations in Educational Policy Studies and Elementary Education in the Doctor of Education
6. Deletion of GFC Policy Manual Section 109 - Student Records: Contents, Access, Use, and Protection
7. Deletion of GFC Policy Manual Section 56 - General Appeals Committee (GAC)

The motion to approve the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the consent agenda.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

8. Master of Management Analytics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Maier, Associate Dean, MBA Program, Alberta School of Business

Discussion: The Chair noted the recommendation of the GFC Programs Committee and invited M Maier to present on the proposed program. M Maier provided an overview of the program proposal including the rationale for development of a new course-based master's; the targeted applicant pool; and the proposed length.

Members asked how the program will align with the University's strategic directions on equity, diversity and inclusion and whether this was typically a graduate credential as well as the potential for an equivalent undergraduate program.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the new Master of Management Analytics (MMA) program in the Alberta School of Business for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Question Period
9.1 - GFC Question and Response on LMS Replacement

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Vice-Chair, GFC

Discussion: Members asked questions concerning:

- The Google Storage issue and the intersection with the Collective Agreement which stipulates that the employer will supply all necessary instruments for the employee to do their work;
- Whether GFC would be receiving a full budget presentation in advance of the proposed presentation of the proposal to the Board of Governors in March;
- Who made the decision on the Learning Management System (LMS) and why GFC was not asked to approve it;

- The consultation of support staff which did not include any opportunity to provide feedback;

A member asked follow-up questions on the written responses concerning the implementation of a new LMS system, including:

- the decision to move away from the current LMS, Moodle;
- the weighting of votes in favour of *Desire to Learn* or *Canvas*;
- whether the University had assessed the cost of keeping Moodle in comparison with the cost of implementing a new LMS;
- whether students would be reimbursed for tuition if the LMS does not perform as expected;
- whether the LMS chosen could be counted on to function effectively; and
- timelines for implementation and how instructors' time is being considered in conversations with the vendor.

Other members made comments affirming the platform is outdated and lacks functionality and that students have lost trust due to numerous issues over the past few years. A member asked about other U15 users and whether a Canadian company owned Canvas.

10. Annual Enrolment Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Office of the Registrar; Tracy Raivio, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Discussion: The Chair noted the report had been discussed at several GFC standing committees and asked N Rodenburg and T Raivio to present on the report.

Members discussed the impact of international tuition rates on undergraduate and graduate enrolment.

11. Revised Draft of the Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy - Appendix B: Multifaceted Evaluation of Teaching and Learning

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives); Deanna Davis, Interim Executive Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Discussion: K Mündel and D Davis presented the proposed guidelines developed as a result of the Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy suite approved in 2023. They noted, in particular, the use of the Framework for Effective Teaching and the requirement for multifaceted evaluation of teaching. D Davis spoke to the provision of supports from CTL to implement the Appendix.

Members discussed:

- Whether the Appendix could go further in evaluating instructors' efforts to make teaching and learning more flexible;
- If it was appropriate to include evaluation criteria concerning affordability of course materials;
- A request that the guidelines and supports materials, once developed, be distributed to GFC for information; and
- A comment that the Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) questions don't require direct feedback on teaching and a question about whether Appendix B could provide avenues for direct feedback from students.

12. SHAPE Implementation

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion: The Provost presented on the 3-year implementation plan for *SHAPE* noting the need for clear accountabilities and metrics for growth. She noted that a roadmap would be released in the coming months.

Members asked what work will need to be performed at a department level by Chairs and others.

13. Proposed revisions to GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ryan Dunch, Professor and Chair, History, Classics & Religion, and Chair of the Executive Sub-Committee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (Exec GPO); Kate Peters, Secretary to GFC

Discussion: R Dunch presented the proposed changes to the format of the APC Terms of Reference, the pending motion to disband FDC, and the Board delegated authority to approve General Space Plans.

Members discussed:

- A concern that the proposed composition which will include three additional *ex officio* members who are also Provostial delegates, will weaken the student voice on the committee;
- A suggestion that the proposed new Graduate Students' Association Executive who will represent Indigenous graduate students could be added to the composition;
- A comment that the proportion of student seats will not change and that, as a result, with only four students, there is a decrease in the weight of student representation; and
- That the student seats could be opened to at-large students rather than only GFC students.

INFORMATION REPORTS

14. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

15. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

16. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

17. GFC Nominations and Elections

- February 2, 2024 GFC Nominating Committee Report to GFC

18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

- Joint Summit - Materials now available
- Action Required: Presidential Review Process Ballot

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: March 18, 2024

INFORMATION REPORTS

20. Information Items:
 - A. General Appeals Committee Annual Report
 - B. U of A Non-Credit Programming Framework and Non-credit Micro-credential Guide
 - C. [GFC Schedule - 2024-2025](#)

ATTENDEES:

<p>Verna Yiu, Vice- Chair Kathryn Todd (delegate) Wajid Ali Pedro Almeida Chris Andersen Saadet Andrews Bishoi Aziz Jill Bagwe Quinn Benders Barbara Billingsley Angelina Botros Ahmed Bouferguene Marsha Boyd Jennifer Branch- Mueller Heather Bruce Jessica Butts Scott Cameron Carlyle Susan Chatwood Jency Chhaiya Odile Cisneros Gavin Clark Chetan Dave Chathuranga De Silva Stephanie Dickie Duncan Elliott Darren Fast Carlos Fernandez- Patron Richard Field Shawn Flynn Kyle Foster Christian Fotang Zachary Friggstad Megan Garbutt Danielle Gardiner Milln Kenneth Gariepy Julianne Gibbs-Davis Todd Gilchrist Douglas Gingrich Eva Glancy Lise Gotell Brenda Hemmelgarn Tammy Hopper Tracy Howlett Christine Hughes</p>	<p>Nole Kjemhus Tim Klassen Valentina Kozlova Vadim Kravchinsky Sandeep Kumar Denise LaFitte Adrian Lam Corrine Langinier Pierre Lemelin Christopher Lupke Ola Mabrouk Elan MacDonald Nikolai Malykhin Andrew McGee Weimin Mou Pauline Paul Sujata Persad Elena Posse de Chaves Spencer Proctor Kyra Pyke Shannon Scott John Spence Tracy Raivio Norma Rodenburg Dan Romanyk Andrew Sharman Patricia Sherbaniuk Chris Sprysak Tom Stelfox Gordon Swaters Katherine Tamsett Frederick Tappenden Nathan Thiessen Demetres Tryphonopoulos Jennifer Tupper John Ussher Dilini Vethanayagam Madison Villiger Shauna Wilton Robert Wood Richard Wozniak Minn-Nyoung Yoon Tuesday Young</p>	<p>Nathan Thiessen Jennifer Tupper John Ussher Marvin Washington Robert Wood Tuesday Young</p> <p><u>REGRETS</u> Noor Abdelwahab Simaan AbouRizk Adetola Adesida Sandeep Agrawal Minhaal Akbar Seun Akinfolarin Hussain Alhussainy Layla Alhussainy Declan Ali Damon Atwood Gabriel Ayoku Stanford Blade Josh Boissonnault Paige Boyer Alyssa Burant Jason Carey Marie Carrière Pierre Chue Sharon Compton Bailey Dickie Bipro Dhar Ryan Dunch Maesha Elm Elahi Taylor Good Shubham Goswami Michael Griffiths Magda Grzeszczuk Jodi Harding-Kuriger Michael Hendzel Carol Hodgson Birkman Jelena Holovati Spencer Hoppe John Hu Jun Hu Jeff Johnson Zak Kaal Matina Kalcounis- Rueppel</p>	<p>Rija Kamran Esther Kim Julia Kloet Hal Kohestani Liran Levin Jinfeng Liu Derek MacKenzie Divya Maisuriya Precious Majekodunmi Shivani Mandal Vikas Mehrotra Aamir Mohamed Olena Mykhailenko Joanne Olson (delegate) Jennifer Passey Graham Pearson Nathan Perez Muneeba QaDir Bassem Raad Stephen Raitz (delegate) Trish Reay Christian Reyns-Chikuma Liam Richardson Aminah Robinson Fayek Aiman Saif Ravina Sanghera Mikael Schmidtke Allison Sivak Reagan Tremblay Aditya Tutika Marvin Washington Liam Watt Yifeng Wei Lindsey Westover</p> <p><u>GOVERNANCE STAFF</u> John Lemieux, University Secretary Kate Peters, GFC Secretary Erin Plume Laura Riley Charlene Scharf Juli Zinken</p>
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