

General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2024
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory:

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

Discussion: The Chair noted that a member had made a request to modify the minutes and asked to defer approval until the April 29th meeting.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Discussion: The Chair made comments regarding:

- The appointment of Nizar Somji as the new Chancellor;
- Announcements of the recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Shannon Scott and of the Augustana Campus, John Parkins;
- Thanks to outgoing Dean Demetres Tryphonopoulos for his leadership at Augustana Campus;
- The 2024-2025 Provincial Budget;
- An Update on Bargaining;
- The Presidential Review Process; and
- Tools for Indigenous ceremony;

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

3. New Members of GFC

TO RECEIVE:

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2029:

- Shannon Scott (Nursing)
- John Parkins (Augustana)

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Question Period

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

Discussion: There were no questions.

5. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: T Gilchrist provided a high-level overview of the budget including the operating and program support grant, the capital maintenance and renewal grant, the funding for the Universiade Pavilion (Butterdome) repairs, and targeted enrolment expansion funding. He noted the possibility of using carry-forward funding and the use of functional planning to assess potential projects. He shared the projected deficit for the University and noted the approvals of the Academic Planning Committee and the Board Finance and Property Committee and the forthcoming approval by the Board of Governors on March 22, 2024.

Members asked questions including:

- Spending plans for reserve funding and the process to make decisions on the projects selected;
- How much of the additional spending was a carry-forward from last year; and
- The proportion of spending that will be allocated to faculties in the operating budget.

6. Policy Development Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, General Counsel; John Lemieux, University Secretary; Jay Jorgenson, Institutional Policy Lead

Discussion: B Hamdon spoke to the rationale for changes to the University's Policy Framework, including the original approval close to 20 years ago and the creation of a new role for institutional policy development. He noted the forthcoming definition of a "board policy" and the desire to more clearly define what needs to be enshrined in policy.

Members expressed support for reviewing the institutional approach to policy and asked questions including:

- Whether this policy would need to be implemented at the department or faculty level;
- If the Framework could limit the number of acronyms used in policy because of their exclusionary impacts; and

- Who is able to initiate projects to propose changes or in consideration of the ongoing review, amendment, and removal of policy documents.

The next two items were considered in tandem.

7. Proposed revisions to GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference

8. Proposed revisions to GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ryan Dunch, Professor and Chair, GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (Exec GPO)

Discussion: R Dunch began by explaining the mandate and responsibilities of the Executive Governance and Procedural Oversight Committee (Exec GPO) and thanking members for their work. He prefaced his comments by noting that the draft changes to the GFC Programs Committee (PC) and the Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) were before GFC for discussion and that Exec GPO welcomed feedback. He reminded members that Exec GPO and the GFC Executive Committee has conceived a new model for GFC standing committee terms of reference.

Concerning the CLE Terms of Reference, he noted in particular:

- The proposed move of the delegated authority currently held by the Student Conduct and Policy Committee (SCPC) to CLE;
- The addition of the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students to the CLE and several non-voting resource members who have expertise in student affairs;
- Clarification of the authority over assessment of student learning and evaluation of teaching;
- Clarifying the authority over libraries; and
- Authority under section 19 concerning how to equip facilities for teaching and learning.

Members made suggestions including:

- Specifying that the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) Vice-President (Academic) sit on the CLE;
- Changing seat currently designated as a student residence representative to an undergraduate at-large student representative; and
- Whether the Provost and Vice-President would still be delegating to the Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives).

Concerning the PC Terms of Reference, he noted in particular:

- Clarification of the authority over academic programs and continuing and online programs;
- New sub-delegated authority to the Provost to approve undergraduate and graduate course and minor program changes and second-level specialisations;
- That sub-delegating these authorities to the Provost was in effect deference to the authority of Faculty Councils who approve these proposals before they are submitted to GFC;
- How the Program Support Team, an administrative committee made up of all the associate deans, would be supporting program approvals;
- Creation of a "right of appeal" under section 4.2 to ensure that members concerned about sub-delegated decision-making can raise the issues and have them discussed at PC;
- Removal of three appointed *ex officio* members from Native Studies, Campus Saint-Jean and Augustana Campus to align with Principles of Committee Composition; and
- The intention to revise the Principles of Committee Composition.

Members expressed support for the addition of section 4.2 and concerns about the removal of members from Campus Saint-Jean, Native Studies and Augustana Campus. A member noted the proposed initiative to add a new Graduate Students Association (GSA) executive position, with responsibility for Indigenous relations and asked about:

- the possibility of adding them to several GFC standing committees' composition; and
- whether that change would need to be approved concurrently with the changes to terms of reference.

INFORMATION REPORTS

9. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

10. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

11. Information Items:

- A. Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Annual Report
- B. Helping Individuals At Risk Annual Report

12. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings:

- Canvas 101 Video
- [Affirming and Acknowledging Indigenous Ceremonial Practices at the University of Alberta](#)

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: April 29, 2024

ATTENDEES

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