

General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 29, 2024
2-100 University Hall, Council Chamber
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OPENING SESSION

The Vice-chair began by acknowledging the territory and noting she was chairing the meeting on behalf of President Flanagan who had joined the meeting online and would be available for Question Period and Comments from the Chair. She also acknowledged that this was the last meeting for student members for the 2023-24 academic year.

1. Approval of the Agenda

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

Discussion: The Vice-Chair noted that a member of GFC had made a request to modify the agenda and that a notice of motion had been circulated for members' consideration. She noted the relevant section of the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules and the requirement for a two-thirds majority to amend the agenda to include the additional business.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the Floor:

THAT General Faculties Council add the submitted GFC Motion on Bill 18 to the agenda.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

- Update on the President's Review Committee

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

Discussion: V Yiu welcomed K Chilsholm who provided an update on the Presidential Review Process including the:

- membership of the review committee;
- addition of a member from the Humanities to ensure disciplinary balance, and
- conduct of two meetings to present.

She presented a summary of consultations conducted to present noting the information collected through a feedback form, in-person interviews, and through email. She concluded with a hope that the committee would complete their work in time for a decision at the June 17th Board meeting.

A member made a comment regarding representation on the Committee by the Faculty of Arts.

V Yiu asked President Flanagan to make remarks and he provided an update on Bill 18, proposed legislation from the Government of Alberta which may have an impact on the University's ability to secure federal funding agreements. He noted that he had asked to meet with the Premier on an urgent basis, and reminded members about the Statement on Freedom of Expression approved in 2019. He provided some insights on the potential impacts and shared the ongoing efforts to engage with the Government of Alberta to ensure they understood the risks for the University. He emphasized the value of adding GFC's voice to the debate and expressed his support for the motion that had been added to the agenda.

The Vice-Chair asked members to hold their questions and comments for the President concerning Bill 18 until the motion for Item 6 was on the floor.

The Vice-Chair provided additional comments including encouraging members to consult the University website for updates on bargaining and thanking members of the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee for their work to adjudicate Teaching Excellence Awards.

The Vice-Chair invited T Gilchrist to provide an overview of the Uniforum survey results and he noted the collection of feedback from employees. He committed to sharing an update in a forthcoming Quad post and responding to any additional questions at GFC in May.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 26 and March 18, 2024
4. New Members of GFC
5. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Students, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

The motion to approve the consent agenda was moved and seconded

That the General Faculties Council approve the consent agenda.
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CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. GFC Motion on Bill 18

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gordon Swaters, President of the AASUA

Discussion: G Swaters thanked President Flanagan for his comments and presented his motion. He provided additional context for the preamble and emphasized that the motion does not purport to establish policy for the University, rather, that it sets out context for the decision and the potential impact of Bill 18.

Members made comments and asked questions including:

- thanks to the President for his remarks and support for the proposal;
- how institutional autonomy, academic freedom and the University's reputation are being eroded for political agenda;
- the significance of peer review in the adjudication of research grants and to protect institutional autonomy;
- reflections on the recent Quad Post on Bill 18 and a perception that the University would not contest the legislation; and
- support for the motion from the University of Alberta Students' Union.

The President and Chair thanked members for their engagement and expressed his commitment to advocating for the University.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Be it resolved THAT the General Faculties Council at the University of Alberta is opposed to Bill 18 as proposed, and unless post-secondary institutions are fully exempted from any and all provisions of Bill 18, calls on the Government of Alberta to withdraw Bill 18 in its entirety. Further, the General Faculties Council at the University of Alberta respectfully requests the President of the University of Alberta to notify the Premier and Minister of Advanced Education.

CARRIED

7. Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ravina Sanghera, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; Chris Hackett, Director, Student Conduct; Jax Oltean, Associate General Counsel

Discussion: R Sanghera acknowledged the significant work to consult the community and thanked members of GFC for their engagement. She asked J Oltean and C Hackett to present the proposed Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite (SAIP). J Oltean spoke to plans for implementation, especially how processes under the SAIP will manage cases that are ongoing after September 1 when the policy takes effect.

There were no questions.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Student Academic Integrity Policy and associated Procedures identified in attachments 1 through 5, and rescind the Code of Student Behaviour, both to take effect September 1, 2024.

CARRIED

8. Exam Rescheduling Procedure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Discussion: N Rodenburg presented the proposed Exam Rescheduling Procedure noting the rationale, the process to develop the document, and the proposed plans for implementation. She spoke to the process to schedule exams and efforts taken to ensure a conflict-free exam schedule. She explained the measures that will

be taken for ongoing evaluation of implementation of the procedure, as well as the next steps should the procedure be approved.

Members asked questions and made comments including:

- support from the University of Alberta Students' Union for the proposed procedure and gratitude for the work to integrate feedback from the University community;
- a request for ongoing evaluation and reporting to GFC;
- a comment that plans for implementation seem to take into account the needs of instructors;
- a question about how the needs of students requiring accommodation will be addressed, especially when they are coupled with the rescheduling scenario;
- a question of whether this will lead to a condensed exam schedule for instructors;
- a comment regarding the situation of student parents and cases where the scheduled exam falls at a time when daycares are closed;
- the importance of using processes that already exist, such as deferred exams run through the Offices of Education in the Colleges; and
- whether the fall reading break could be moved to more cleanly divide the semester into two halves making it easier to teach using a module-based approach.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed UAPPOL Exam Rescheduling Procedure, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect September 3, 2024.

CARRIED

9. Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee, Committee on the Learning Environment, and Programs Committee and Proposed Disbanding of the Student Conduct and Policy Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ryan Dunch, Professor, Faculty of Arts and Chair of the Executive Governance and Procedural Oversight Committee (Exec GPO)

Discussion: The Chair thanked R Dunch and members of Exec GPO for their work to prepare the proposals. R Dunch reminded members of the consultations with GFC, the revised format for the terms of reference, and how the proposed changes led to additional proposals to disband two GFC standing committees. He noted in particular how the work of the Facilities Development Committee (FDC) was to be subsumed into the Academic Planning Committee (APC) and, furthermore, how the work of the Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC) will be taken on by the Committee on the Learning Environment which will subsequently be renamed the Committee on the Learning Environment and Student Affairs (CLESA).

The motions were moved and seconded.

MOTION 1: THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

MOTION 2: THAT the General Faculties Council take the following motion, dated June 6, 2022, from the table: "THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as set forth in attachment 1, and the GFC Committee on the Learning

Environment, as set forth in attachment 2, and the concurrent disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, all to take effect on July 1, 2022.”

CARRIED

MOTION 2A: THAT the General Faculties council amend the 2022 Motion to read as follows: “THAT the General Faculties Council approve the disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, to take effect upon approval.”

CARRIED

MOTION 3: THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

MOTION 4: THAT the General Faculties Council approve the dissolution of the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee as a result of the approval of the Revised GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

MOTION 5: THAT the General Faculties Council approve of the proposed revisions to the GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference as set forth in Attachment 3, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Question Period

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

Discussion: The Vice-Chair asked members to allow Item 10 to be considered out of order to ensure the President was available. Members asked questions and made comments including:

- The results of the Uniforum data and how the University of Alberta was comparing to counterparts within the sample, especially considering the implementation of the One University Strategy; and
- The anticipated transition period for the administrative restructuring over 3 or 5 years.

There were no other questions.

11. Service on University of Alberta Senate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Peggy Garritty, Chancellor, University of Alberta Senate

Discussion: P Garritty provided members a description of the work of the Senate and the three seats available for GFC members. She particularly encouraged academic staff to put their names forward to serve while thanking student members who have served in the GFC seats in the past few years. She noted in particular how important the perspectives of academic staff members are to the deliberations of the Senate.

C Lupke, the GFC member currently serving on the Senate on behalf of GFC, took the opportunity of having Chancellor Garritty present at GFC to thank her for her work and service to the University. He expressed his agreement with the Chancellor's description of the role of GFC members on the Senate and the importance of having academic staff members present on the Senate.

12. People Strategy Consultation Draft

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Vice-Chair, GFC; Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

Discussion: V Yiu acknowledged the support of GFC members in the development of the People Strategy and thanked the Steering Committee for their work. She noted the recent engagement through a town hall to provide feedback on the What we Heard document. T Gilchrist presented three questions to GFC for discussion and response.

Members expressed support for the overarching themes, goals, and priority actions set out in the draft plan and made comments and expressed feedback including the:

- burden of administrative tasks onto academic staff and the impact on their ability to generate research revenues;
- impact of far-reaching and sustained change on the University and the ongoing challenges with resource restrictions;
- imperative for faculty renewal and the need for consideration to ensure program and teaching sustainability, especially in some departments in the Faculty of Arts;
- importance of growth for the university; and
- relevance of CASIP and the ongoing improvement of processes across the University which require feedback on what is working well.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

16. Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

17. Report of the Board of Governors

18. Information Items:A. Annual Ombuds Report

19. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

- Board of Governors Open Session Agenda for March 22, 2024 - Message sent on behalf of the Chair of the Board of Governors

CLOSING SESSION

20. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: May 27, 2024

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