

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan (Chair)
Pedro Almeida
Kyle Foster
Julianne Gibbs-Davis
Rija Kamran
Sujata Persad
Spencer Proctor

Norma Rodenburg
Dan Romanyk
Aiman Saif
JC Spence
Robert Wood

non-voting:

John Lemieux
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Jelena Holovati
Verna Yiu
Ryan Dunch
Danielle Gardiner-Milln

Staff:

Faiza Billo
Carley Roth

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 Executive Committee (EXEC)

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion: The Chair made comments regarding:

- Pride Week;
- The Provincial Budget; and
- Ongoing bargaining processes;

The Chair asked N Rodenburg to provide an update on the Three Exams in 24-hours Period Policy and members asked about:

- the impacts on students enrolled in programs at other campuses;
- plans for rescheduling exams and which of the exams would be eligible for rescheduling;
- whether this would extend the number of exam days;



- issues that may arise due to rescheduling combined with accommodations;
- the need to consult with student advisors on the proposed procedure;
- how the responsibility for post-COVID accommodations have fallen to instructors and how they have adapted in innovative ways that meet suit needs; and
- a question of clarification that the policy only applied to centrally scheduled exams.

J Lemieux provided an update on the Presidential Review Process noting that the President's Review Committee would be meeting soon to discuss balance of membership and to establish a consultation process that would open soon after their first meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 12, 2024
4. Changes to the Faculty of Education Faculty Council Composition and Quorum

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

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the consent agenda.
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CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Items 5 & 6 were discussed together.

5. Proposed revisions to GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference
6. Proposed revisions to GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Lemieux, University Secretary

Discussion: J Lemieux reminded members about the rationale for changing the format of Terms of Reference (ToR) as a means to improve shared governance. He made comments regarding the feedback from members of General Faculties Council regarding adding *ex officio* members to committee composition. He shared that in light of the feedback, a decision had been made by the GFC Executive Standing sub-committee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO) to consider principles on committee composition before making changes.

He presented proposed changes to the ToR for the Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) indicating that the authority currently held by the Student Conduct and Policy Committee (SCPC) was proposed to be moved to CLE along with resource members and the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students.

Members made comments and asked questions including:

- Support for the amalgamation of SCPC and CLE;
- A suggestion that the undergraduate student Residence Association representative be changed to an undergraduate at-large student representative;
- How the workload of SCPC could impact the Committee on the Learning Environment; and
- How to interpret the authority of faculty councils over appointment of external examiners;
- The diversity in approaches to student academic integrity in faculties.



J Lemieux then presented the Programs Committee (PC) ToR noting a proposed change to remove three appointed representatives from Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ), Faculty of Native Studies (FNS) from the Programs Committee terms of reference. He also pointed to the proposed sub-delegation of authority to the Provost to approve minor program and regulation changes and the introduction of a process to ensure transparency of these decisions that allows members of the community to question them.

Members discussed:

- Their appreciation for the addition of language that allows for “appeal” of decisions made with sub-delegated authority;
- Approval of the proposed deference to faculty council approvals of minor course and program regulation changes at the graduate and undergraduate levels; and
- A question about the removal of appointed members from CSJ, FNS and Augustana Campus.

7. Policy Development Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion: B Hamdon noted the rationale and the hope to simplify the framework for policy development. He explained the missing section in the Policy Development Policy for a Board Policy definition which will make clear what the Board is accountable for.

Members asked questions about:

- Whether the reduction of detail in the policy may lead to a downloading of responsibilities and more administrative approvals;
- Whether there is a connection between the approver and the implementer and how there will be clarity over roles and responsibilities;
- The name of the policy and the rationale from moving away from Framework;
- Whether the Board-level policy would come to GFC for consultation; and
- A comment that there had been repeated issues with how Board authority was communicated to GFC and a suggestion that GFC should be consulted on the definition of Board Policy.

PREPARATION OF THE GFC AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Update (Information Update)

ACTION ITEMS

10. Draft Agenda for the Next Meeting of General Faculties Council

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

Discussion: The Chair noted the additional item for the March 18, 2024 GFC agenda - a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Update was required as per section 5.1 of the GFC Terms of Reference.

Members made suggestions concerning the timing of the agenda.

The motion was moved and seconded.



THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the March 18, 2024 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Question Period

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

Discussion: Members asked questions about the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Update, including:

- What the Targeted Enrolment Expansion (TEE) Phase 1 & 2 consisted of;
- How the budgets for the TEE were developed and whether the model could be used for other programs;
- How enrolment targets are set;
- How the Post-Secondary Mental Health grant will be spent and whether this will alleviate the need for student supports on Campus;
- What the revenues of the Health Workforce Action Plan might mean for the university;
- How the University would manage the dual pressure of new federal regulations limiting the number of international students and the lack of additional dollars for undergraduate domestic enrolment;
- How much applications were down on the graduate side;
- The impact of messaging on the recruitment process for international students and how departments are already seeing reductions in applications; and
- Whether the University would continue to pursue international enrolment expansion if additional domestic student funding was offered.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
- Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights Annual Report
 - Helping Individuals At Risk Annual reports
 - GFC Schedule 2024-2025

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of Exec: April 8, 2024
 - Next Meeting of GFC: March 18, 2024