



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 30, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

David Turpin, Chair
Chris Andersen
Dale Askey
Stanford Blade
Lesley Cormack
Greta Cummings
Neal Davies
Steven Dew
Joseph Doucet
Fraser Forbes
Robert Haennel
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Shanthi Johnson
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Gitta Kulczycki
Maria Mayan
Brooke Milne
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kerry Mummery
Melissa Padfield
David Percy
Matthias Ruth
Andrew Sharman
Kelly Spencer
Catherine Swindlehurst
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Jennifer Tupper

Elected Faculty:

Jason Acker
Cathy Adams
J Nelson Amaral
Nicholas Beier
Heather Coleman
Piet Defraeye
Gary Eitzen
Tarek El-Bialy
Anastasia Elias
Duncan Elliott

Nadir Erbilgin
Fay Fletcher
Mary Forhan
Bill Foster
Michael Frishkopf
Basil Hubbard
Nat Kav
Eva Lemaire
Pierre Lemelin
Kathleen Lowrey
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Lynn McMullen
Sean McMurtry
Al Meldrum
Sue-Ann Mok
Roger Moore
Sarah Moore
Shannon O'Byrne
Christina Rinaldi
Dan Romanyk
Victoria Ruetalo
Carolyn Sale
Georg Schmolzer
Richard Schulz
John Seubert
Susan Sommerfeldt
Eleni Stroulia
Kisha Supernant
Alan Underhill
Kristof Van Assche
Dilini Vethanayagam
Akiko Watanabe
Jonathan White
Lynne Wiltse
Ian Winship
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Yan Yuan
Students:
Joel Agarwal
Jared Larsen
Dylan Ashley

Appointed Members:

Adarsh Badesha
Matthew Barnett
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Katherine Binhammer
Amlan Bose
Melinda Chisholm
André Costopoulos
Natalie Diether
David Draper
Fahed Elian
Shannon Erichsen
Shawn Flynn
Ian Gatera
Tahra Haddouche
Jill Hall
Olivia Harris
Abigail Isaac
Peter Johnson
Kevin Kane
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Alana Krahn
Rajesh Kumar
Janice Kung
Rowan Ley
Christopher Lupke
Habba Mahal
Milad Nazarahari
Alesha Reed
Amber Sayed
Lindy Schaffrick
Sarah Severson
Andrei Tabirca
Shahed Taghian
Dehaghani
Frederick Tappenden
Samantha Tse
Janet Williamson
Donna Wilson
Adrienne Wright
Ding Xu
Larry Zhong

REGRETS:

Ayman Adwan
W. Ted Allison
Meijun Chen
Yiming Chen
Paul Gareau
Osman Hojanepesov
Peter Hurd
Stephanie McKenzie
Rojin McVea
Vivian Mushahwar
Anthony Nguyen
Dhanvanth Soora
Amy Tse

Guest:

Bill Flanagan, President-
Elect

Staff:

Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Yimmie Sonuga, GFC
Secretary
Heather Richholt,
Assistant GFC Secretary
Ann Hodgson, University
Governance
Juli Zinken, University
Governance
Erin Plume, University
Governance
Laura Riley, University
Governance
Edyta McLoughlin
University Governance
Brad Hamdon, General
Counsel

Before the meeting was called to order, the Chair welcomed, and introduced, President-Elect Bill Flanagan, who was in attendance for the virtual meeting of GFC. He acknowledged and thanked members of the University community for:

- their efforts in working together, collegiately, to respond to the unprecedented pressures of these extraordinary times; and
- modelling the way with empathy and kindness.

The Chair then noted he had received a request from a member to rescind motions made by General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Executive), under their delegated authority in accordance with section 4.1 of their Terms of Reference, to move to a credit/no-credit grading scheme for Winter 2020.

The Chair provided the following context to frame a pre-meeting discussion on this matter, given the risk of procedural wrangling, around the motion, derailing such a discussion:

- that the aforementioned motions passed, by GFC Executive Committee, were taken with full authority, delegated to the Committee, following the consideration of a number of University-wide enterprise risks.

The Chair invited the following members of GFC to speak to the rationale for the decision to move to a credit/no-credit grading system:

- Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar
- André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
- Akanksha Bhatnagar, Students' Union President
- Fahed Elian Graduate Students' Association President
- Lesley Cormack, Dean of the Faculty of Arts
- Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean of Faculté Sainte-Jean

Points discussed included but were not limited to:

- the university's primary institutional goals of health and safety, and academic integrity;
- how credit/no-credit grades would be viewed by accreditation bodies;
- the explanatory transcript notation regarding the winter 2020 grading scheme;
- that discussions about how to minimize the negative impacts of the mid-semester switch to online course delivery, were occurring across many Canadian universities;
- the negative impacts that changing the University's current course could have on the student body given the diversity of their:
 - access to internet connectivity;
 - financial means;
 - living situation;
 - family demands; and
 - mental and physical health, during these extraordinary times.
- efforts to avoid inflated grades in relation to privilege;
- efforts to reduce stress and anxiety for students and instructors; and
- social justice and equity, and the principles expressed in the Institutional Strategic Plan *For the Public Good*.

The Chair then invited views on this matter from other members of GFC. Points discussed included but were not limited to:

- the stress and anxiety that many members of the university community were facing;
- that top University of Alberta students should have the choice to be given a letter grade, in order to better compete with top students from other universities;
- that some students were counting on this semester to boost their GPA for admission to another programs and could not necessarily afford to enroll in another semester for the same reason;
- concerns with eligibility for scholarships and admissions consideration by other universities;

- complaints about the lack of student consultation in making this decision;
- the student-led petition to allow students to choose letter grades or credit/no-credit; and
- concern that GFC Executive made the decision when it should have been debated by full GFC.

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

In response to a request from a member to add a motion to the agenda, in accordance with section 6.3 of the General Faculties Council (GFC) Meeting Procedural Rules, the Chair asked for a motion to amend the agenda, as posted on March 23, 2020 and declared that there could be no debate on the proposed amendment to the agenda.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC)

Motion: Sale/EI-Bialy

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the addition of the following motion to the Agenda:
THAT the General Faculties Council revoke the decision taken by GFC Executive at a "special" meeting of 19 March 2020 that "All students will receive a credit (CR) or no credit (NC) grade for all Winter 2020 courses. No letter grades will be assigned."

DEFEATED

Motion: Dew/Kulczycki

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda as posted.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC; Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

Discussion:

The Chair asked Mr. Sharman, in his role as administrative lead of the Covid-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT), to give an update.

Mr. Sharman spoke about the university's collaboration with Alberta Health Services to prepare the Butterdome as a backup treatment center, and efforts regarding the use of facilities and concentration of janitorial work to keep those areas still in use as safe as possible.

The Chair noted that the university's request to deficit finance severance payments was refused by the provincial government which meant, sadly, that an additional 600 staff positions would have to be cut.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Dew/Padfield

3. Approval of the Minutes of February 24, 2020

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of February 24, 2020

CARRIED

4. Academic Governance Schedule 2020-2021

ACTION ITEMS

5. Off-cycle Appointment of Elected Undergraduate Students to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jonathan White, Chair of GFC Nominating Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: Upon approval, the recommendation will allow for the off-cycle appointment of elected undergraduate students to General Faculties Council (GFC) for the replenishment of in-year vacancies; and align current student election practice with the new GFC Principles for Committee Composition.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Padfield/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the off-cycle appointment of elected undergraduate students to GFC for the replenishment of in-year vacancies, as recommended by the GFC Nominating Committee, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Suspensions of Majors in the Bachelor of Music Program, Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Demetres Tryphonopoulos, Dean, Augustana Faculty; Karsten Mündel, Associate Dean, Academic, Augustana Campus

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to seek a recommendation to the Board of Governors to suspend the Bachelor of Music 'Piano' and 'Voice' majors.

Discussion:

Dr. Tryphonopoulos gave a brief overview of the proposal. Dr. Mündel explained some of the changes that had been made at Augustana Campus, and how this proposal fit into curriculum renewal and streamlining efforts.

A member expressed that the Faculty of Arts was supportive of the proposal.

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of Music in 'Piano' and 'Voice' majors, as recommended by the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as submitted by Augustana Faculty, and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect for Fall

2021.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. University of Alberta Non-Credit Credential Framework - Micro Credentials

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs); Christie Schultz, Assistant Dean, Academic, Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and receive feedback on the proposed development of a Non-Credit Credential Framework for approval by GFC.

Discussion:

The presenters gave an outline of the work that was underway to create a framework and explained how it would support the creation and continuity of non-credit credential offerings across campus. They noted that the framework was scheduled to come back to GFC for approval in May.

8. Budget (no documents) - Update - Investment Management Agreements

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

Discussion:

Dr. Dew spoke about the provincial budget which had been released after the last meeting of GFC. His points revolved around the following topics:

- performance based funding;
- the disproportionate cut to the Campus Alberta Grant, which he confirmed was both larger than expected and larger than other institutions in the sector received;
- that the University was required to balance the budget, in-year, and could not draw on reserves or use carry forwards;
- that the inability to use deficit funding for severance costs would result in higher numbers of staff layoffs;
- that cuts across Faculties and Administrative Units would be differentially applied; and
- that Tuition and Fees would not be revisited as part of the internal revised-Budget approval process.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- lowering expenditures as a performance metric and the implications to grant and endowment funding;
- the rationale for the disproportionate cuts;
- comparisons with provincial funding per student at the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia who have much higher tuition rates;
- the potential implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on international enrollment targets; and
- whether or not the hiring freeze on operating funded positions would affect research grants.

9. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC

Discussion:

Submitted questions were addressed in the discussion regarding decisions made by GFC Executive Committee with delegated authority.

There were no questions from the floor.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
11. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
12. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee
13. GFC Nominations and Elections
- Get Involved (link to governance website)
14. Report of the Board of Governors
15. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meeting
-Email from GFC Secretary
-Questions for GFC

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.