



General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved
Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2017
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Jonathan White	Acting Chair, Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Heather Bruce	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Duncan Elliott	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Paul Jurasz	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Reed Larsen	Member, Undergraduate Student, Elected from/by GFC
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Sheena Wilson	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC

Presenter(s):

Mark Loewen	Chair, GFC <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, GFC <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority
Jonathan White	Acting Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Staff:

Meg Brolley, General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary and Manager of GFC Services
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Wilson/Bruce

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 16, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Banister/Wilson

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of January 16, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Acting Chair

There were no comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. GFC Ad Hoc Committee Update and Discussion of GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mark Loewen; Deborah Burshtyn

Purpose of the Proposal: Members of the GFC *Ad Hoc* Committee are touring GFC Standing Committees to solicit input, perspectives, and innovative ideas on moving academic governance into the future. Ideas and discussions will contribute to further discussions and consultation and inform the final report and recommendations which come forward to GFC in April 2017.

Discussion:

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion of the urgent and routine clauses in the Terms of Reference. A member suggested adding clarity around who determines when a matter cannot be deferred as this is not clear in the current Terms. Members discussed how often this clause had been utilized, and it was noted that the last time it was utilized was regarding the APO agreement in 2010 and that the Executive Committee determined that it needed approval before the next scheduled GFC meeting. A member noted that urgent could be interpreted as time sensitive and be used when a matter required immediate attention.

Regarding approval of GFC agendas, a member questioned the exact role that the Committee plays: does the Committee build the Agenda from scratch, or just accept and/or revise the draft Agenda provided? Is the process too tightly controlled?

The committee discussed whether GFC was simply "rubber stamping" proposals; a member noted that as proposals undergo significant review and consultation before reaching GFC. The final approval could then be perceived as rubber stamping or alternatively an indication that the process is working efficiently. A member suggested that items be brought forward to full GFC early in development rather than only for final approval in order to allow for discussion and input by GFC. Although the risk of bringing items to GFC too early was noted, members agreed that some items could be brought forward for consultation at an early stage, especially if the item was framed appropriately for members. Members suggested reviewing the number of GFC meetings scheduled per year and where these early items could appear on the GFC Agenda. Consultation and program approval deadlines as well as University Calendar deadlines would need to be considered.

A member emphasized that while removing some delegated authority from its Standing Committees might result in increased workload for GFC, members would welcome the opportunity to be a part of large, strategic items.

Members engaged in discussion in relation to specific items in the Terms of Reference including course challenges, course naming, course numbering, the approval of course designators, consolidated exams, and institutional grading and marking policies and procedures and whether the GFC Executive Committee was the best committee to deal with these items.

The Committee also discussed the structure of the GFC Executive Committee prior to 1966, the Committee's role in relation to Faculty Councils, clarification about the election process for members elected from GFC to serve on the GFC Executive Committee, the use of consent agendas, the Chair's voting privileges, and whether the GFC Executive Committee had ever forwarded an item to GFC without its endorsement.

5. Question Period

A member raised a question about a change to the submission deadline of grades; the Vice-Provost and University Registrar indicated that she would respond directly to the member.

INFORMATION REPORTS

6. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

7. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

- Selection of Bob Luth to serve on the TLEF Selection Committee for 2016/2017.

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.