



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 06, 2017
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta
Fahim Rahman (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Academic), SU
Heather Bruce	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Duncan Elliott	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Paul Jurasz	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Vice-President (Academic), GSA
Anita Molzahn	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Jonathan White	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Sheena Wilson	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC

Presenter(s):

David Turpin	President and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Mark Loewen	Chair, GFC <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority
Wendy Rodgers	Deputy Provost
André Costopoulos	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

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: Bruce/Collins

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 13, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: White/Elliott

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of February 13, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair provided an update to members on the upcoming Federal Budget adding that there is optimism for an increase in funding to granting councils and possibly for targeted initiatives.

On the upcoming Provincial Budget, the Chair noted that even if there was a 2% increase to the institution's Campus Alberta grant it would be offset by other factors, such as the carbon levy, increase to minimum wage and benefit costs. Members discussed the importance of an institutional communication and budget strategy to manage this in the future and the Provost confirmed that this is being developed.

The Chair also provided information in relation to new Board of Governors appointees, the search to identify Signature Areas at the academy, and *For the Public Good* performance measures.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority - Update

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Mark Loewen

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Loewen provided an update on the Ad Hoc Committee's recent activities. He noted that final items are being reviewed to ensure compliance with the established governance principles and that the final recommendations form a cohesive package which will strengthen GFC.

During the discussion, members asked about components of the recommendations, including whether draft Terms of Reference would be ready for the April 21, 2017 GFC meeting and whether members would have enough time to review the final recommendations before the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Dr Loewen for his update and work on this project.

5. Scholarly Writing Supports (SWS) at the University of Alberta Working Group (2016-2017) Final Report and Recommendations to the Provost

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers; André Costopoulos

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the Scholarly Writing Supports (SWS) Working Group Final Report.

Discussion:

Dr Rodgers and Dr Costopoulos provided members with a summary of the SWS Working Group, which had been tasked with undertaking a comprehensive review of the current landscape of scholarly writing support at the institution and to make recommendations towards enhancement, optimization and coordination all parts of writing support.

They noted that there is a general lack of awareness of the broad scope of writing support at the academy currently in place and it is important to coordinate what exists and make it more visible. A digital hub linking students to writing supports has been planned to help connect these services to those who may require it and to make these services more visible to the community.

The recommendations include a reinvigoration of the University Writing Committee and that SWS be coordinated centrally by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to ensure that all institutional supports adhere to established principles.

Following this summary, members emphasized the importance of the University Writing Committee and the role of the Chair of that body. There was support for ensuring that an academic staff member provide oversight to SWS as it supports the academic mission of the University. On the issue of the Centre for Writers, it was noted that the Report is silent on its fate as it is an operational decision.

6. Topic for Early Consultation - Learning Outcomes

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): David Turpin; Wendy Rodgers

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

The Chair reported that this item has been included on the next GFC Agenda in order to give GFC members and opportunity to engage earlier in the development of strategic items. He stated that Learning Outcomes is a very timely and relevant issue and that the Provincial Government has signaled their interest in the topic.

Dr Rodgers reported that this project is being led by Vice-Provosts Tammy Hopper and Sarah Forgie.

Members discussed competencies *versus* Learning Outcomes and a member referred to a report on attributes and competencies created by a subcommittee of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE). A member stated that many professional Faculties have already developed Learning Outcomes as part of external accreditation.

ITEMS FROM GFC ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR GFC AGENDA (for information only)

7. Proposed Termination Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Pasture and Range Management

8. Sexual Violence Policy Suite

ACTION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the next Agenda for General Faculties Council (GFC).

Discussion:

The Chair invited members to discuss the draft GFC Agenda and a member noted support for the inclusion of the Board of Governors Chair and the Chancellor on the Agenda.

Members then discussed the placement of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) report on USRIs on the GFC Agenda. The Chair noted that it would be best on the September 2017 GFC Agenda to ensure that all members were available to attend.

Motion: Dew/Collins

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the March 20, 2017 meeting of General Faculties Council.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.