



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2017
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

David Turpin, Chair
Sylvia Brown
Lisa Collins
Lesley Cormack
Steven Dew
Delane Howie
Firouz Khodayari

Al Meldrum
Shane Scott
Eleni Stroulia
Jonathan White

REGRETS:

Bill Foster
Brent Swallow

STAFF:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator
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: Cormack/Collins

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 12, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Dew/Cormack

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of June 12, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all to the 2017-2018 academic year and invited members to introduce themselves. He provided updates on the establishment of the GFC Executive Transition Committee, the recent Board of Governors retreat and the Senior Administrators retreat where the emerging institutional budget model was discussed.

The Chair reported that the provincial government reviews of the funding model, tuition, and Agencies, Boards and Commissions are ongoing.

He noted that there would be more topics for early consultation presented at GFC in the coming year and that University Governance has provided enhanced committee orientations as well as an orientation for committee chairs.

4. Committee Kick-Off and Orientation 2017-2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide committee members with an overview of the principles under which GFC operates and how these inform the work and functioning of the committee. To orient members to the committee's mandate, terms of reference, procedures and to committee member roles and responsibilities.

Discussion:

Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley provided members with a high level overview of the university's governance structure. Members were provided with an orientation to GFC's approved principles of delegated authority and committee composition, and the significance of these documents to the structure and functioning of the GFC Executive Committee. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of members and procedural rules were reviewed. Finally, the mandate and responsibilities of the GFC Executive Committee were discussed and the recommendation of the ad hoc committee to revise the terms of reference of the committee was introduced.

During the discussion, a member commented that revisions to simplify the Outline of Issue would be welcomed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. 5A. Goals from the Students Union (SU) 2017-2018
5B. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Strategic Work Plan 2017-2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Marina Banister, President, Students' Union; Babak Soltannia, President, Graduate Students' Association

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide members with the strategic goals of the Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) for 2017-2018.

Discussion:

Following the presentation of the Students' Union (SU) goals for 2017-2018, Ms Banister addressed questions about the renovation of the Myer Horowitz Theatre and how goals were established this year. The Chair requested that further tuition advocacy efforts include support for base funding and tuition freeze backfill for the university.

Mr Soltannia provided members with a presentation highlighting the GSA goals for 2017-2018 and a question arose regarding homeless graduate students at the university. A member enquired about the use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in tuition calculations and a response was provided.

6. University of Alberta Senate Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Derek Roy Brenneis, Director, Office of the Chancellor and Senate

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide members with a summary of the Senate Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

Discussion:

Mr Roy Brenneis provided a brief summary of the Senate Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to members, noting that five goals will be tackled in the coming year. These goals are based on the themes of the Senate's role: Connect, Inquire, and Promote.

During the discussion, a question arose regarding the Senate's engagement with Indigenous communities.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Proposed Changes to the University of Alberta Convocation Admission

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Derek Roy Brenneis, Director, Office of the Chancellor and Senate

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and approve proposed changes to the University of Alberta Convocation Admission.

Discussion:

Mr Roy Brenneis noted that, since this item was discussed at GFC in the spring as an item of early consultation, the Chancellor had met with the Chaplains' Association in regards to the proposed changes who provided a range of feedback including the lack of spirituality in the language of the proposed Convocation Admission. Mr Roy Brenneis added that the proposal has received widespread positive support throughout community consultations.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Collins/White

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Convocation Admission, as set forth in Attachment 1, and as proposed by the University of Alberta Senate, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

8. Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) on Teaching and Learning Evaluation and the Use of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an Evaluation Tool

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sarah Forgie, Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment; L Francisco Vargas, Research Coordinator

Purpose of the Proposal: The GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) was requested by GFC to report on research into the use of student rating mechanisms of instruction in university courses. This report fulfills this request.

Discussion:

Dr Forgie provided members with a summary of the report including details about the process and methodology of researching and compiling the data presented.

Members engaged in a discussion surrounding the implications of the wording of the motion, including whether the committee was approving the recommendations, or endorsing the report. The wording of the motion was amended to reflect that the committee was recommending that GFC receive the report and endorse the recommendations contained within it.

In response to a question about the timeline of implementation, it was clarified that the project would require significant time and additional steps before completion.

A member suggested that the recommendations be clearly referred to within the documents.

Motion: Khodayari/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council receive the CLE Report on Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation and the Use of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an evaluation tool as set forth in Attachment 2, and endorse the recommendations of the Committee on the Learning Environment, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

9. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Revisions to existing Supervision and Examinations policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Deborah Burshtyn, Vice Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed revisions are intended to clarify the policies, elaborate on procedures, and improve policies. The impact will be to have greater clarity for students, faculty and staff in the administration and conduct and outcomes of examinations in thesis-based programs.

Discussion:

Dr Burshtyn explained the proposal contains two changes in relation to who can chair candidacy and doctoral examinations, and conflict resolutions between students and supervisors.

Members expressed support for the changes and identified minor editorial changes within the proposal. A member enquired about the implications around leaves of absence other than sabbatical leaves.

Motion: Cormack/Dew

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to existing Supervision and Examinations policy, as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2018.

CARRIED

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

10. Proposed Faculty name change: Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation (from Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Proposed Increase to Required English Language Proficiency (ELP) Scores for Undergraduate Admission

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Budget Model Principles

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the agenda of GFC for the meeting of September 25, 2017.

Discussion:

Members suggested an editorial amendment to the agenda, and a member suggested that a short briefing document be provided in support of the update on the budget.

Motion: Collins/Cormack

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the September 25, 2017 meeting of General Faculties Council.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

- Changes to School of Public Health Dean Selection Committee composition (Email of June 26, 2017)

16. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.