



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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### ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Jason Acker  
J Nelson Amaral  
Bishoi Aziz  
Heather Coleman  
Steven Dew  
Anastasia Elias

Gurleen Kaur  
Nat Kav  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Melissa Padfield  
Jerine Pegg  
Chanpreet Singh  
Moin Yahya

*non-voting:*  
Brad Hamdon  
Kate Peters

Staff:  
Heather Richholt, Scribe

### OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people.

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee (Exec)

*Discussion:*

The Chair welcomed new student members and proposed an amendment to the agenda.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

#### 2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- that the government of Alberta had announced \$48.3 Million in new funding for the U of A to support enrolment growth in five undergraduate and graduate programs in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Business and Nursing over the next three years;
- the first state of the university address on May 3, 2022 in which he reflected on the extraordinary events of the past two years and expressed his gratitude for the important work and contributions of members of the university community; and
- a call for nominations for twenty COVID-19 remote teaching awards.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda motion was moved and seconded.

#### 3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 11, 2022

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of April 11, 2022.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 4. Proposed Revisions to the Chair's Council Terms of Reference

*Presenter(s):* Jerine Pegg, Chairs' Council Executive Co-Chair

*Discussion:*

J Pegg provided an overview of the proposal and noted that the changes would provide clarity to Chairs' Council.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the revised terms of reference for Chairs' Council, to be effective upon approval.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### 5. Early Consultation on Renewal of the Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI)

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Evelyn Hamdon, Senior Advisor, Equity and Human Rights

*Discussion:*

W Rodgers spoke about the work of the scoping group and the consultation aimed at the refresh of the original EDI plan in alignment with the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP). E Hamdon provided some highlights of the consultation to date and noted that all members of the community who were interested in meeting with the scoping group could be included.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed comments including:

- the composition of the scoping group;

- the different student groups that would be included in the consultation;
- the evidence that COVID-19 had negatively affected different groups disproportionately and how that evidence was being considered in the EDI refresh;
- universal design and how to address inequity;
- consultation with Chairs and other academic leaders;
- training manuals and the value of mandatory training; and
- the involvement of all members of the university community.

#### 6. Meeting Format - GFC

*Presenter(s):* Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that the first hybrid meeting of GFC was held in Council Chambers on May 2, 2022 and that the GFC Secretary has sent a survey to members to capture their feedback.

K Peters thanked members for their patience with some of the difficulties with moving to the hybrid model in Council Chambers and observed that she had received 80 responses to the survey with a diversity of responses but that there seemed to be support for moving back to in person meetings with a hybrid option available for the short term. She also noted that running hybrid meetings would be contingent on the availability of governance staff since it required more people to coordinate a hybrid meeting.

Members discussed:

- the ability for student members to attend remote meetings while not on campus;
- whether hybrid meetings were here to stay;
- that as long as COVID-19 was still around and masks were optional there would be people who could not attend in person;
- an opinion that it was important to be as inclusive as possible but that hybrid meetings were not effective;
- whether it was preferable to have remote meetings since hybrid meetings were difficult to chair and difficult to follow; and
- how to become an in-person campus again and encourage those who are able to participate in person.

#### 7. Membership on Faculty Councils While on Leave and Sabbatical

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Jerine Pegg, GFC Elected Faculty Member

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that this item began as a notice of motion at the previous meeting of Exec but that the proponent had asked for it to be changed to a discussion item.

J Pegg spoke about the 1975 GFC Executive Committee motion and explained that it had been used as a rationale for excluding members from voting on major decisions before Faculty Councils. She noted that her aim was to rescind the motion or to pass another motion that would prevent it from being used for matters beyond GFC's authority.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions including:

- that it was important for those on leave to not be expected to do service work;

- that leave should be protected and if faculty members had the option to continue to do service work, that could translate into pressure and expectation for them to do it;
- the importance of consistent standards across Faculties;
- the limits on Executive's authority to make decisions related to Faculty and School Councils;
- alignment with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, human rights legislation, and collective agreements; and
- whether Executive could lead a discussion about this standard across the university to clarify the 1975 motion.

8. Question Period

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

*Discussion*:

A member asked whether *For the Public Good*, had been replaced by the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT). The Chair replied that UAT was compatible with the university's strategic plan *For the Public Good*.

**FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA (CONSENT AGENDA)**

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

9. Proposed Termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

**FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA (ACTION)**

10. Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan
11. Change of Status of the Faculty of Extension
12. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee

**FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA (DISCUSSION)**

13. Proposed changes to the Sexual Violence Policy and Proposed Student Conduct Policy
14. Budget Model 2.0

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

*Discussion*:

The Chair spoke about the role of Exec to prepare the GFC agenda and noted that items 9 to 14 were included in the materials to support Exec in this role. He noted that members could ask for any of the items to be discussed for the purpose of preparing the agenda.

Members discussed Exec's role to determine if items were ready to go to GFC and clarification on the proposed changes to the terms of reference for Academic Planning Committee and Committee on the Learning Environment, and the disbanding of Facilities Development Committee.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the June 6, 2022 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

### **CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of Exec: June 20, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: June 6, 2022