



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2022
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31 and Zoom
2:00 PM - 3:55 PM

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Bishoi Aziz
Jelena Holovati
Shanthy Johnson
Gurleen Kaur
Christopher Lupke
Jerine Pegg

Spencer Proctor
Tracy Raivio
Norma Rodenburg
Dan Romanyk
Chanpreet Singh
Verna Yiu
Nese Yuksel

non-voting:
Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

Staff:
Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

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 (Exec)

Discussion:

Before calling the meeting to order the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. I think this acknowledgement is particularly important in September, a time when we know our residential school survivors are remembering a painful time. As we move towards the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, this acknowledgement becomes an important acknowledgement of the past and our commitment to the 94 calls to action.

The Chair welcomed members, led a round table of introductions, and provided some guidance on the hybrid meeting procedures.

GFC Secretary K Peters provided an overview of the structure of the agenda. Members asked about which items were under the Executive Committee's mandate and which items were before the committee simply to consider placement on the General Faculties Council agenda.

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Committee Member Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Discussion:

B Hamdon and K Peters provided a committee orientation and spoke about: the bicameral governance system; jurisdiction and authority of General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors as set out in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*; delegated authority and work of the Executive Committee (Exec) noting the approval of the GFC agenda and oversight of Faculty Councils; and how best to ensure that hybrid governance meetings were inclusive and accessible.

Members discussed the mechanism of delegation of authority to committee and the role of Exec to prepare the GFC agenda.

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

In his comments the Chair noted: Welcome to Vera Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic); The Upcoming GFC orientation and first meeting of GFC on September 19; and The release of the two foundational University of Alberta for Tomorrow documents: *One University*, and *Operating Model: 2022 Update*. The Chair requested that the committee discuss and provide feedback on the draft procedural memo that had been distributed to members of Executive Committee before he shared with members of GFC. There was no discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: The motion to approve the items in the Consent Agenda was moved and seconded.

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 16, 2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of May 16, 2022.

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to Composition of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science Faculty Council

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of the Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as set forth in Attachment 1, submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to take effect upon final approval

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Revisions to Sexual Violence Policy and new Student Conduct Policy (to replace non-academic portions of the Code of Student Behaviour)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Deborah Eerkes, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator; Jax Oltean, Senior Legal Counsel

Discussion:

D Eerkes spoke about the letter received from the Minister of Advanced Education and Associate Minister of Status of Women requiring that all public post-secondary institutions in Alberta update their sexual violence

policies and procedures with specific attention to providing procedural fairness and implementing trauma informed practices for both complainants and respondents to a complaint. She provided an overview of the changes that were made in response to the directives, including revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy suite, creation of a Student Conduct Policy suite, and related changes to the Code of Student Behaviour.

During the discussion members and presenters asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- timelines for approval and implementation of the changes;
- the influence of student advocacy on the Minister's directives;
- an explanation of the immunity clause with respect to illegal drug use and underage drinking;
- the intersection of the policy suites and the collective agreements for students who are also employed by the University;
- support for decolonization of University policies and procedures;
- continuing work that would be required to support implementation;
- mandatory training to integrate elements of equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- levels of accountability required by all those who contribute to the learning environment;
- the composition of the appeal panels;
- power imbalances in relationships of students, staff, and instructors; and
- changes to address the appearance of conflict within the roles of University Protective Services.

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve of the Student Conduct Policy and associated Procedures identified in attachment 3,4,5 and 6.

CARRIED

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the rescission and amendment of the sections of the Code of Student Behaviour identified in attachment 7.

CARRIED

7. 2023-2024 Academic Schedule

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Interim Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Discussion:

N Rodenburg provided a brief overview of the proposed schedule noting that classes would begin on Friday, September 1, 2023. She acknowledged that starting the semester before the long weekend was not ideal but explained that this was necessary in order to accommodate Truth and Reconciliation Day and still ensure the correct number of teaching days in the semester.

Members discussed the number of teaching days required in the semester, fall reading week, winter break, and options that Faculties had to make adjustments within the schedule's parameters.

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Academic Schedule for 2023-2024 (submitted by the Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 5) and, in doing so, empower the Registrar to make any editorial changes as needed as long as the changes do not have the force of policy, to be effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. UASU & GSA Goals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Anas Fassih, President, Graduate Students' Association; Abner Monteiro, President, UA Students' Union

Discussion:

A Fassih gave a presentation on the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Board Strategic Work Plan for 2022-2023 and its alignment with the three priorities of Connect, Support, and Advocate. Highlights of the plan included: expanding outreach to in-person events and governance processes; making quality graduate student supervision an institutional priority; advocating for funding packages that support a reasonable standard of living; and enhancing support for graduate students and the organizations that support them such as the Campus Food Bank.

A Monteiro gave a presentation on the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) Executive Goals for 2022-2023 and their mission to serve, represent, and engage students. The five major priorities listed were: Building an Engaged Campus Community; Walking the Path of Reconciliation; (Re)Envisioning our Learning Environment; Creating Safe and Welcoming Spaces; and Fostering an Inclusive and Equitable University Experience.

9. Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight Workplan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA - CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

10. Proposed Suspension of the BSc Pharmacy and the Bridging Program for BSc Pharmacy Students, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
11. Proposed Termination of the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
12. Proposed Termination of Graduate Programs in Comparative Literature, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
13. Proposed Terminations of the Bachelor of Science First-Level Specializations (Majors) in Animal Biology, Bioinformatics, Environmental Physical Sciences, Evolutionary Biology, and Geography, Faculty of Science
14. Proposed Termination of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene Program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

15. Revisions to the Exploration Credits Policy

DISCUSSION ITEMS

16. Question Period

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

Discussion:

There were no questions.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

A member made a motion to remove a proposed termination from the draft agenda. Members discussed the role of GFC standing committees to recommend on items within their mandates to GFC and GFC Executive's role of preparing the agenda for GFC's decision making. The motion did not receive a seconder so was not considered.

A member suggested to reorder the timing to allow the GSA and UASU Presidents sufficient time to discuss their important work. Members agreed and the change to the timing was made as a friendly amendment.

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the September 19, 2022 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended.

CARRIED

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

18. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
- June 20 Executive Committee Meeting – Canceled

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of Exec: October 5, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: September 19, 2022