



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2017
3-07 SAB South Academic Building (SAB)
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Vice-Chancellor
Lesley Cormack	Member, Academic Staff
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Duncan Elliott	Member, Academic Staff
Masoud Khademi (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Anita Molzahn	Member, Academic Staff
Shane Scott	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Sheena Wilson	Member, Academic Staff

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: Cormack/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 15, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Molzahn/Dew

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of May 15, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on recent Convocation ceremonies and thanked departing members of the committee for their service to the community.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority with respect to the GFC Executive Committee and Update on the ad hoc Transition Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin; Marion Haggarty-France; Meg Brolley

Purpose of the Proposal: To review and discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc committee and the impact on the mandate and responsibilities of the GFC Executive Committee as reflected in the Terms of Reference.

Discussion:

University Secretary Marion Haggarty-France noted that there would be substantial turnover in membership of the GFC Executive Committee, but that it is an opportunity for renewal and a chance to bring additional individuals into the important work to be completed. GFC Secretary Ms Meg Brolley reported that the role of the ad hoc Transition Committee in overseeing the completion of the recommendations in the ad hoc Report is a crucial one. She reminded committee members of their role in this process.

The Chair led members through the recommended changes to the committee Terms of Reference.

During the discussion in relation to the membership composition of the GFC Executive Committee, members expressed support for a maximum of two members per Faculty. On the topic of the committee Vice-Chair, members debated the merits of placing the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) automatically into the role. Members agreed that a faculty member serving in this role sends a message that faculty members can be leaders within senior academic governance bodies and aligns with the principles approved by GFC. Members also discussed the advantages of including a Dean on the committee and how the Dean would be selected to serve.

Members discussed the removal of the urgent and routine clause from the Terms of Reference. Ms Haggarty-France reminded members that on occasion urgent matters such as the H1N1 crisis had been delegated to the President and Provost by the Board of Governors, with the stipulation that the matter be included on the next agenda. It was agreed that this should be noted within the Terms of Reference for transparency. It was reported that the routine clause has been removed from the Terms of Reference, as it lacked meaningful definition.

On the issue of certain academic procedures, such as course designators, consolidated examinations, and the academic calendar, Ms Brolley reported that some fit better within the mandate of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC). Members discussed the importance of retaining authority over the academic schedule, as it impacts the entire institution.

The Chair invited members to discuss course and program challenges and its place within the terms of reference for the committee. Members debated whether these should be redirected to the GFC Academic Planning Committee or the GFC Academic Standards Committee, since they relate to academic programming. Although there was unanimous agreement that these issues should not be debated at full GFC, members did suggest that in the event faculties could not amicably resolve such issues, that the final process requires additional consideration in terms of process. A member, in addition, noted that this could become a larger issue if the budget model changes.

Members discussed the process of compiling GFC agendas and it was noted that the list seems overly prescriptive in the origin of agenda items.

The Chair thanked members for their discussion and reported that the Terms of Reference would be a recurring item on future agendas.

5. Question Period

Members discussed whether it would be possible to have the first day of classes announced in advance of the publication of the academic calendar.

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

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.