



General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 02, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Steven Dew
David Draper
Anastasia Elias
Mary Forhan
Nat Kav

Christopher Lupke
Sean McMurtry
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Roger Moore
Melissa Padfield
Sachiketha Reddy
Eleni Stroulia

non-voting:

Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Adarsh Badesha

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 Committee (EXEC)

Motion: Mocquais/Lupke

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair welcomed new member Nat Kav to the committee.

In his comments, the Chair mentioned the updated face mask policy implemented to further protect the health and safety of our campus community from COVID-19. He also noted that they had continued to receive valuable feedback on the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) through an online feedback form and that the information would be shared with the Academic Restructuring Working Group, and the Service Excellence Steering Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Lupke

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 5, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of October 5, 2020.

CARRIED

4. To Receive for Information from GFC APC: 2019/20 Student Financial Support Annual Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Annual Report of Appeals and Compliance Officer (2019-2020)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Peterson, Appeals and Compliance Officer, University Governance

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide committee members with an annual report of statistical information on discipline cases, as required by GFC policy.

Discussion:

Mr Peterson gave an overview of his report and noted that all hearings had transitioned into a remote format in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also observed that appeals from the winter 2020 terms were substantially higher than in previous years.

Members discussed the relationship between the higher number of appeals and issues with remote proctoring tools, and the large number of appeals in the Faculty of Science related to several large volume cases where first year students were using online sources.

6. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Law, Special Advisor, Faculty Relations

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal (annual report) is before the committee because it is a requirement of GFC.

Discussion:

Dr Law presented his report and noted that there had been one appeal in which the Faculty's decision had been overturned.

There were no questions.

7. 2019/20 Annual Report of the Student Conduct Responses, Dean of Students' Portfolio

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean, Student Services - Dean of Students Administration

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide GFC with the annual report on student conduct across the Dean of Students' portfolio for the 2018/19 academic year.

Discussion:

Dr Vallianatos noted that the report provided data related to student conduct from across the Dean of Students' portfolio.

Members discussed:

- the large difference between disclosures of sexual violence and actual occurrences, based on national statistics;
- the need for a Sexual Violence Coordinator;
- that the Sexual Violence Policy was up for review this year;
- how Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) was reflected in the report;
- challenges with data collection due to a previous decision not to collect demographic data, a decision that was being revisited; and
- concern that restructuring would create gaps in student supports.

8. Debrief on GFC Discussion on University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) (no documents)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of EXEC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

The Chair spoke about GFC Executive's (EXEC) role regarding decision-making on the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT). He explained that members were able to share their feedback on UAT but that it was included as an agenda item to ensure that members had an opportunity to discuss UAT as it related to discussions at previous and upcoming GFC meetings. He noted that EXEC's responsibility to prepare and propose the agenda was a critical role but that the authority to review and ultimately recommend to GFC on UAT was within the mandate of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- that EXEC needed to have access to the materials so that they could approve the agenda;
- how the feedback gathered through the consultations would be used by the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG) to shape the final proposal;
- that the ARWG would present three revised proposals for the next level of discussions;
- a criticism that the ARWG and APC were not broadly representative of the university and that the members all had their own interests related to UAT;
- opinions on the current models including:
 - that fine arts needed to be protected and that their worth was beyond the limits of the budget model;
 - concern that academic leaders would lose the work they were doing that was discipline specific;
 - that Augustana Faculty would benefit from consolidation;
 - student concerns with a combined Arts and Sciences Faculty;
 - that Campus Saint-Jean should maintain their French language services;
- questions about how the budget model would work in the proposed models and where the money for division management would come from;
- the importance of considering the whole university and striving to create balance and diversity, rather than individual preferences and interests;
- the concern that additional government cuts may be anticipated and the importance of finding the model that is the most cost effective and best serves the university's mandate;
- concern about the potential impacts of the provincial postsecondary sector review and that we may be disadvantaging ourselves by making these restructuring decisions now; and
- the evidence that our efforts to restructure are positively viewed by the government.

9. Question Period

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

Discussion:

A member asked about privacy impact assessments on online proctoring systems and whether the university would ban online proctoring.

Vice-Provost and Registrar, Ms Padfield noted that privacy impact statements had been completed on approved proctoring systems.

Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Dr Dew noted that the Dean of Students and the Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) were leading a conversation on this.

A member agreed to share some literature on the topic.

ACTION ITEMS

10. Use of Polling to Rank Scenarios for Academic Restructuring at General Faculties Council (GFC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of EXEC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: GFC Executive is being asked to include a notice of motion for the November 23 agenda of GFC that, if adopted, would allow for use of ranking to encourage all members of GFC to express preferences concerning the proposed scenarios for academic restructuring.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that they needed some guidance from GFC in order to proceed and be able to make a final recommendation to the Board of Governors on UAT. He noted that they did not hear from most GFC members in the course of a normal discussion at GFC and that the proposed exercise was a way to hear from all members.

Dr Dew noted that the ARWG was going to take all of the feedback received to date and develop three revised models which they would ask GFC to rank on November 23 to get some direction from GFC.

GFC Secretary, Ms Peters, gave a quick demonstration of the tool.

Members discussed:

- what would happen if the results were inconclusive;
- other questions that could be asked with this tool;
- rating versus ranking;
- the importance of the preamble explaining why they were asking for this exercise;
- how much time GFC members were expected to have with the revised proposals before they were asked to do this exercise; and
- what they were planning to do with the results.

Motion: Forhan/Moore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that GFC approve the use of a non-binding ranking exercise to encourage engagement and feedback from all GFC members on the proposed scenarios for Academic Restructuring at the November 23, 2020 meeting of GFC.

CARRIED

11. 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

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the Agenda for the GFC meeting to be held on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Discussion:

A member observed that Item 5 would need more than 15 minutes.

Motion: Kav/Moore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the November 23, 2020 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

13. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of Exec: November 30, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 23, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.