



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 11, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Anastasia Elias, Vice-Chair
Jason Acker
J Nelson Amaral
Heather Coleman
Steven Dew
Kathy Haddadkar
Pierre-Yves Mocquais

Abner Monteiro
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Moin Yahya
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Ghalia Aamer
Bill Flanagan
Brad Hamdon
Nat Kav

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

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

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): Anastasia Elias, Elected GFC Faculty Member, and Vice-Chair of GFC Executive Committee (Exec)

Motion: Mocquais/Pegg

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Anastasia Elias, Elected GFC Faculty Member, and Vice-Chair of Exec

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair led a round of introductions and members spoke briefly on the purpose of the consent agenda for GFC. GFC Secretary Kate Peters explained that the consent agenda was used for items that were deemed non-controversial in order to streamline the approval process, and that any member of GFC could request that an item be pulled from consent and discussed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Mocquais/Coleman

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 14, 2022

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of March 14, 2022.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE), and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC)

Presenter(s): Jason Acker, Elected GFC Faculty Member, Chair of Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO); Kate Peters, GFC Secretary; Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost, Chair of FDC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair of APC; John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair of CLE

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek recommendation on moving the delegated authority currently held by the GFC Facilities Development Committee to the Academic Planning Committee (APC) and to the Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE), and to disband the GFC Facilities and Development Committee (FDC), effective July 1, 2022.

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair observed that the Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO) had worked on this proposal in January and February, that it had come to Exec in February and GFC in March for discussion, and that it was now coming forward for recommendation and approval.

J Acker and K Peters spoke about the proposal to disband FDC and move the authority to APC and CLE. They noted that this would be a two-step process with the authority being transferred now to ensure there was no interruption in decision making, and then a full review of the terms of reference for APC and CLE in the fall, including the new authority.

W Rodgers spoke about the declining need for meetings of FDC because of the changes to how the university managed its space and the infrequency of new buildings in the current context.

S Dew and J Nychka noted that APC and CLE were well situated to take on these authorities.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Acker/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as set forth in attachment 1, and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, as set forth in attachment 2, and the concurrent disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, all to take effect on July 1, 2022.

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Council on Student Affairs (COSA)

Presenter(s): Jason Acker, Elected GFC Faculty Member, Chair of GPO; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Chair of COSA

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to recommend the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Council on Student Affairs (COSA) put forward as a part of the three-year review.

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair noted that GPO had discussed this item at their meeting the previous week and decided to send it forward seeking approval of changes to the composition. She also pointed out that COSA had discussed the proposed changes at their meeting on March 3 and were supportive of the changes.

J Acker and K Peters explained the proposed changes to allow for up to half of the student members to be at-large and not require concurrent GFC membership. They noted challenges with filling seats on GFC Committees when GFC membership was also required and that making this revision now would help with replenishment of student seats before the first meeting of COSA in September.

S Dew noted his agreement that broadening the membership criteria was a positive move for COSA.

Members made some editorial suggestions.

There were no questions.

Motion: Padfield/Mocquais

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Council on Student Affairs as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Review of the GFC Nominating Committee Terms of Reference and Procedures

Presenter(s): Jason Acker, Elected GFC Faculty Member, Chair of GPO; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee as part of the regular review of GFC committee terms of reference and delegations of authority.

Discussion:

J Acker and K Peters provided an overview of the proposed changes to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC) terms of reference and procedures and noted the disagreement between NC and GPO regarding adding members from at-large to the composition.

Members asked clarification questions around the changes to committee composition.

7. Question Period

Discussion:

A member noted Exec's authority set out in the committee's terms of reference to "exercise supervision of control functions regarding Faculty Councils." He asked what Exec's role should be and whether Exec should make a request for information to the Faculty Deans. Members discussed:

- Exec's approval authority over Faculty Council quorum and composition and Section 55 of the GFC Policy Manual;
- What "control functions" entails as set out in sections 29 and 30 of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*;
- Whether there should be some sort of check-in with Faculty Councils to ensure communication, transparency, and consistency; and
- Whether Exec could work to build trust with Faculties and help them to streamline approval of proposals.

Elected GFC faculty member J Pegg made a notice of motion for debate at the next meeting of the GFC Executive Committee as set out in the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules (8.7).

Notice of Motion: To rescind the GFC-Executive Motions regarding the Right to Participate in Department/Faculty Business that was passed on February 17, 1975.

ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA - ACTION ITEM ON CONSENT

8. Proposed Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek approval for the termination of the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Graduate Certificate.

9. Proposed Changes to Transfer Credits and Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the "Transfer Credit, Course Exemption, and Credit by Special Assessment" and "Change of Program Requirements" regulations currently published in the calendar.

ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA - ACTION ITEM

10. Proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree Program.

11. Proposed Changes to Course Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the requirements outlined under the credential of Doctorate, Thesis-Based Masters, and Course-based Masters (editorial, and around course requirements).

12. Proposed Changes to Extra-to-Degree Regulations for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the Graduate Policies on courses declared extra-to-degree.

ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE GFC AGENDA - DISCUSSION ITEM

13. Upcoming Changes to the Faculty of Extension's Status

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss growth priorities and upcoming changes to the administrative structure of Continuing Education, including removing the current Faculty status of the Faculty of Extension.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Presenter(s): Anastasia Elias, Elected GFC faculty member, and Vice-Chair of Exec

Purpose of the Proposal: The GFC Executive Committee is responsible for the approval of the agenda for all regular and special meetings of General Faculties Council, ensuring items are ready to be presented to GFC and are ordered and timed appropriately.

Discussion:

Members discussed the use of the consent agenda including:

- Whether it was appropriate for FGSR items to be approved on a consent agenda; and
- Whether it was necessary for GFC to discuss items like this when they had been approved at FGSR Council, recommended by Programs Committee, and were deemed non-controversial.

Members agreed that none of the FGSR items should be on the consent agenda.

A member asked why the Bachelor of Biomedicine proposal required recommendation by GFC, and members discussed GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)'s authority to approve dual degrees and recommend on items with budget implications. K Peters replied that this was a new credential for the university and so GFC was asked to recommend approval, and that APC would consider the proposal later in the week. Members agreed to add the item to the GFC agenda pending APC's recommendation.

Members discussed the proposed changes to the Faculty of Extension and noted that it was important to distinguish between those changes and other items related to restructuring.

Members suggested changes to the timing of the agenda and discussed hybrid meeting procedures including the continued use of the e-clicker for voting. K Peters noted that she would share an information document on meeting format before the GFC meeting.

Motion: Mocquais/Acker

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the May 2, 2022 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended and pending recommendation of Item 8 by the GFC Academic Planning Committee.

CARRIED

INFORMATION REPORTS

15. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report: 2021-2022

15. 2022-2023 GFC and GFC Standing Committee Schedules

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of Exec: May 16, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: June 6, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.