



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee - Special Meeting
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2020
Virtual Meeting
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

David Turpin, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Adarsh Badesha
Steven Dew
Duncan Elliott

Mary Forhan
Bill Foster
Christopher Lupke
Sean McMurtry
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Roger Moore

Melissa Padfield
Eleni Stroulia
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

Materials for members were forwarded ahead of the meeting and are now contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Moore/Lupke

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

- Update on University Announcements

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

The Chair thanked members for: participating virtually; modelling the way with empathy in these extraordinary times; and their efforts as a part of the team that transitioned more than 40,000 students into remote learning in under a week.

The Chair then provide a budget update. He noted that: efforts from Central Administration, the Board of Governors and others, were continuing to help the Government of Alberta understand the major job losses that will ensue by continuing to move forward under the current framework for the 2020-2021 University of Alberta Budget.

The Chair reiterated that the aforementioned current budgetary framework, as directed by the Government of Alberta, will result in job losses, at the University of Alberta, numbering over 600 in year, on top of the over 400 from the previous fiscal year if year.

The Chair then, on a more positive note, made reference to the announcement of the University of Alberta's 14th President and Vice-Chancellor Bill Flanagan and noted his pleasure in the choice of President and Vice-Chancellor-Elect.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Emergency Academic Governance Protocols

- Recommendations from the PHRT Subcommittee on Academic Impacts

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee; Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

Discussion:

The Chair invited Melissa Padfield to present to committee on a number of emergency recommendations coming out of the Covid-19 PHRT Subcommittee on Academic Impacts, in her capacity as Chair of the Covid-19 PHRT Subcommittee on Academic Impacts. Following an engaged discussion where members were invited to flag their concerns, the following motions were carried:

Motion I: Mocquais/Moore

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council delegate to the President and Vice-Chancellor, the ability to amend the Academic Schedule for the Winter 2020 term to facilitate necessary changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED

Motion II: Ashley/McMurtry

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council sub-delegate the authority to the Dean of each Faculty of the University of Alberta to modify Academic Standing Regulations subject to the following constraints:

That each Dean must communicate the changes to students of their respective Faculty no later than April 1, 2020

CARRIED

Motion III: Ashley/McMurtry

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council mandate that all course outlines for courses delivered in the Winter 2020 semester are modified in the following ways no later than March 27, 2020, subject to the following constraints:

- the grading scheme for all University of Alberta courses for Winter 2020 has been modified to award one of the following grades: CR (credit) or NC (non-credit) as indicated in the University Calendar and will carry no weight in calculating the grade point average. Exemptions to this grading scheme may be established by the Deans of programs whose students have accreditation or licensure requirements.;
- if applicable, how in-person final examinations were modified and how weighting was modified as a result of the change. Final assessments should not require the use of paid remote proctoring services, in cases where this is necessary these exceptions must be approved by the Dean or delegate of the Faculty offering the course by no later than March 27, 2020.
- In the event that the University of Alberta must cease all activities, Credit (CR) and Noncredit (NC) grades will be determined for all Winter 2020 courses based on whether or not the student has demonstrated achievement of the majority of the course learning objectives

CARRIED

Motion IV: Mocquais/Moore

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council approve an addendum to the 2019-20 University Calendar that states "Given the 2020 COVID 19 Pandemic, all Central Academic Records will be modified. This information will be reflected on the University of Alberta transcript issued by the Office of the Registrar and bearing the signature of the Registrar."

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Question Period

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

There were no additional questions, however members used this opportunity to thank the team for their efforts during this extraordinary time.

CLOSING SESSION

5. Adjournment

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC Executive Committee

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.