



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 06, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
2:00 PM - 4:00 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

Guest:

Bill Flanagan, President-elect

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Assistant
Secretary to GFC
Brad Hamdon, General Counsel
Ann Hodgson, Manager of
Governance Operations

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion: Padfield/Ashley

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of Exec

Discussion:

The Chair noted that in light of the uncertainty around COVID-19 and the inability to gather together on campus, there would be no in-person convocation ceremonies this June and instead, a virtual convocation would be held to celebrate all that our students had achieved. He also noted that the University of Alberta had made the decision to offer spring and summer 2020 courses through remote delivery.

Ms. Padfield noted that additional information regarding fees, exams, and online learning would be forthcoming. In response to a question about the potential to hold an in-person convocation ceremony in the future, Ms. Padfield noted that the University was mindful of the significance of this recognition for students but that there were no details available regarding future plans yet.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Mocquais/Moore

3A. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 16, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of March 16, 2020.

CARRIED

3B. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 19, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of March 19, 2020.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

4. Academic Governance Emergency Protocols

-Recommendations from the Covid-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Subcommittee on Academic Impacts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar, and Chair of the Covid-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Subcommittee on Academic Impacts

Purpose of the Proposal: In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, decisive action is required from General Faculties Council Executive Committee to provide the academy with the authority to provide clarity for applicants, enrolment management, and effective administration for the current undergraduate and graduate admissions cycles. These measures are designed to support meeting our undergraduate and graduate enrolment goals while mitigating the impact of educational disruptions in winter 2020. GFC Executive is being asked to act on behalf of GFC because the action is required to be taken before the next regularly scheduled meeting of GFC and communicated. The University of Alberta is already actively processing admissions for the upcoming Spring/Summer 2020 and Fall/Winter 2020/2021.

Discussion:

Ms Padfield noted that admissions related changes were required now because admissions were currently being considered and the university needed to be able to maximize admission yield and give clarity to its students as soon as possible. She also noted that final exams for winter 2020 term would begin in 10 days.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: students concerned about needing winter 2020 grades for admission at other universities; that the Provost and the Registrar would advise but that the President would make the decision with delegated authority; that the university would not use winter term grades for external applicants but whether it was up to the Faculties to determine how to decide admission GPAs; how admissions from High School would be considered including honoring current admission offers; guidance offered to the Faculties for admission calculations; that some programs were using 45 units of course weight to calculate admission GPAs rather than the usual 60; and a concern that this would disadvantage University of Alberta students.

Motion: Mocquais/Moore

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council approve the following changes to the University of Alberta admissions process regarding the academic records,

subject to the following constraints:

1. In the event that an applicant to an undergraduate or graduate program at the university (domestic or international) is unable to provide final documentation due to school closures or exam cancellations that result from the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Alberta may accept the grades and existing interim documents presented at the time of their initial offer as meeting the requirements to clear individual admission conditions. This provision applies to applicants to the Spring/Summer 2020 and Fall/Winter 2020/2021 semesters.

2. For students applying to undergraduate or graduate programs, grades issued by the University of Alberta for courses taken in Winter 2020 will not be included in the calculation of admission GPAs.

Grades of CR from Winter 2020 will contribute to the credit requirements for admission and will be accepted as satisfying program prerequisites.

Grades of NC from Winter 2020 will not contribute to credit requirements for admission. Courses for which students have received a grade of NC will not satisfy program prerequisites

3. For external post-secondary students applying to undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Alberta, grades for courses taken in Winter 2020 will not be included in the calculation of admission GPAs. Passing grades from Winter 2020 will contribute to the credit requirements for individual admissions, provided the grades meet the threshold required for transfer credit as outlined in the University Calendar, and will be accepted as satisfying program prerequisites.

Non-passing grades from Winter 2020 will not contribute to the credit requirements for individual admissions and will not be accepted as satisfying program prerequisites.

4. The Duolingo English Test will be made available to all applicants to undergraduate and graduate programs as an additional option to demonstrate English Language Proficiency for Spring/Summer 2020 and Fall/Winter 2020/2021 semesters.

CARRIED

Motion: Moore/McMurtry

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council delegate to the President and Vice-Chancellor the authority to adjust admission offer acceptance and document deadlines for the Fall 2020 admissions cycle in order to facilitate necessary changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT General Faculties Council Executive, acting with delegated authority from General Faculties Council delegate to the President and Vice-Chancellor the authority to adjust admissions-related deadlines for the Spring, Summer and Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 admissions cycles, in consultation with the Deans (departments), to facilitate necessary changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED

5. University of Alberta Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Akanksha Bhatnagar, President, Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: Following extensive consultations with the University of Alberta Community, the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities is before the General Faculties Council Executive Committee to secure its recommendation for endorsement at GFC on April 20, 2020.

Discussion:

Ms. Bhatnagar gave an overview of the document and noted that its purpose was to help students navigate rules and regulations during their time on campus.

Members were generally supportive of the document. A member asked if there should be language added to ensure that the source policy would prevail in case of any misalignment and it was agreed that this would be added to the preamble. Members discussed that the document would also be available in French and how it would be communicated and made available to students.

THAT General Faculties Council Executive Committee recommends that General Faculties Council endorse the implementation of the University of Alberta Charter on Student Rights and Responsibilities, as amended and as set forth in attachment 1.

CARRIED

6. Update and Request for Extension - GFC Executive's *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Executive's *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee for an update on progress and to request an extension to May 25, 2020.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper gave an overview of the consultations and progress to date and noted that this was a significant change for the community.

Members discussed consultation with Chairs' Council and what these changes to streamline program approval pathways would mean for the University given the work that needs to be done in this challenging time.

Motion: Dew/Moore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve an extension for final recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes to be submitted to the General Faculties Council by May 25, 2020.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Debrief on Virtual GFC (no documents)

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of Exec

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members that at the meeting of March 16th, GFC Exec approved the ability for GFC and GFC Standing Committee meetings to include virtual attendance and participation of its members, and delegated the details of implementation to the GFC Secretary. He noted that the governance team was continuing to improve processes as we move forward in this new virtual meeting reality.

Members discussed the March 30th virtual meeting of General Faculties Council and tested upgrades that had been made to the voting system.

8. Micro Credentials (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Discussion:

Dr Dew noted that the federal government may have funding opportunities and that there was potential to collaborate with other postsecondary institutions on this as well.

Dr Hopper noted that a task force had been developed to work on the non-credit credential framework and provide the foundation for institutional consistency.

Members discussed the popular idea of "upskilling"; the popularity of micro credentials that were offered by Campus Saint-Jean; balancing a rapid approval process with ensuring that there is campus alignment and no conflicts or encroachment Faculty to Faculty.

9. Question Period

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of Exec

Discussion:

A member asked about consideration for graduate students who were scheduled for thesis defense given the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and stresses. Ms. Padfield said that the PHRT's subcommittee would discuss this concern.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, 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, April 20, 2020.

Discussion:

Members discussed: the addition of a standing item to track and discuss Emergency Academic Protocols; the legalities of how decisions are made with delegated authority; the decisions that have been made; and the items and concerns that are arising. Members also discussed the possibility of adding a June meeting of GFC.

The Chair suggested that the draft agenda be amended and circulated for e-vote approval as soon as possible.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.