



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 02, 2012  
3-15, UHALL  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Carl Amrhein (Delegate)	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Colleen Skidmore (Delegate)	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Emerson Csorba	Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Nima Yousefi Moghaddam	Graduate Student Association Vice-President (Academic)
Ed Blackburn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Lee Livingstone	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Lise Gotell	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Ingrid Johnston	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Chris de Gara	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Anita Molzahn	Academic Staff, Member of GFC
Duncan Saunders	Academic Staff, Member of GFC

#### Presenter(s):

Carl Amrhein	Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Deb Eerkes	Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs
Donna Herman	Special Advisor to the Provost, Faculty Relations, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Brenda Leskiw	Associate Dean, Faculty of Science
David McNeilly	Faculty Services Officer, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
Steven Penney	Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee

#### Staff:

Garry Bodnar	Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee
Emily Paulsen	Scribe

### **OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Blackburn/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 5, 2012

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Molzahn/Kendal

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of March 5, 2012.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Proposed Addition of 'Hazing' as a New Offence Under the Code of Student Behaviour

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Deb Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs; Steven Penney, Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To define 'hazing' and specify it as an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour; to remove ambiguity about hazing behaviours; and to provide an anchor for institutional educational campaigns.

*Discussion:*

Professor Penney, Chair of the Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC), briefly introduced the proposal to members which, he noted, had been recommended by the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) to the GFC Executive Committee for its consideration and approval.

Ms Eerkes explained that, in the past, hazing has been dealt with under various sections of the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB). She commented that the wider community often assumes that if an individual consents to hazing, then it cannot be a violation of the Code. The tremendous pressure from peers for an individual to consent to acts of hazing distorts the permission and, therefore, cannot be considered appropriate consent. She added that this proposed addition to the Code, as set out in the material before members, will remove ambiguity about hazing behaviours and make clear they are deemed by the University of Alberta to be inappropriate and offensive.

Motion: Johnston/Csorba

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed addition of 'Hazing' as an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour, as submitted by the

Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

5. Removing References of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) Act from the Code of Student Behaviour: Proposed Changes to Code Sections 30.1.1(2) and 30.6.4(13)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Deb Eerkes, Director, Office of Student Judicial Affairs; Steven Penney, Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To prevent students from attending the University's Information and Privacy Office (IPO) for access to their discipline records; to allow students to request information from their discipline records directly from the office holding them; and to remove confusion and tension between Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) restrictions and natural justice..

*Discussion:*

Ms Eerkes explained that the proposed removal of references to the FOIPP Act in the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) is one part of a long and concerted effort of GFC CLRC to look at the way the University approaches the disclosure of information under the Code. She indicated that students were going to the IPO for information regarding their cases but found that the information they would receive would be almost completely redacted, leaving them ill-equipped to defend themselves during appeal processes. She noted that the proposed revisions before members do not include additional text telling students where to go for information.

Dr Amrhein added that the FOIPP environment is a very complex one in which information is not released unless one can prove that it is deserved.

Members asked for clarification concerning the proposed changes to COSB Section 30.6.4 and an explanation regarding the role of the Appeals Coordinator in providing information.

Motion: Blackburn/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Code of Student Behaviour Sections 30.1.1(2) and 30.6.4(13) in order to remove reference to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) Act, as submitted by the Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Addition of STAT (Statistics) 151 to the List of Courses with Consolidated Exams

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science; David McNeilly, Faculty Services Officer, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To add STAT (Statistics) 151 (Introduction to Applied Statistics I) to the list of courses for which consolidated final exams are scheduled. The Department of Mathematical and

Statistical Sciences will have a greater ability to achieve consistency of evaluation across the multiple sections of STAT 151. The Exams and Timetabling Division (Office of the Registrar) will be impacted because they will need to operationalize the request for consolidated exams in a large enrolment course.

*Discussion:*

Dr McNeilly explained that there are many different sections of STAT 151 for which the Department is now looking to provide consolidated exams. He noted that there are approximately 800 students in STAT 151 but, if a larger centre for examinations were available, in the future STAT 141 could be eliminated for strong pedagogical reasons with the content incorporated, instead, into STAT 151.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: the risk of conflicting exam times; plans for future revision of the exams set for this course; the consistency of the STAT 151 lab exams; uniformity in the grading of the consolidated exams; the supervision by course captains for multi-section courses; and the logistics of setting up consolidated exams, as undertaken by the Office of the Registrar.

Motion: Saunders/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposal from the Faculty of Science for the addition of STAT (Statistics) 151 (Introduction to Applied Statistics I) to the list of courses with consolidated exams, to take effect in the 2012-2013 academic year.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Changes to the Review of Faculty Deans Procedure (UAPPOL)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee; Donna Herman, Special Advisor to the Provost, Faculty Relations, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Revisions have been proposed by the Administration to the Review of Faculty Deans Procedure in UAPPOL to (1) provide more clarity to the process (including a flow chart) and (2) to provide greater flexibility in the ability of the University to initiate a review and to suspend or terminate the appointment of a Dean.

*Discussion:*

At the request of the Chair, members agreed that the GFC Executive Committee would conduct its discussion *in camera* as confidential personnel issues were to be taken under consideration (as per the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) and its affiliated regulation 186/2008).

Motion: de Gara/Johnston

THAT the GFC Executive Committee move into an *in camera* session to discuss, in relation to the proposed changes to the Review of Faculty Deans Procedure (in UAPPOL), confidential personnel issues, as per the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) and its affiliated regulation 186/2008.

**CARRIED**

Later in the meeting, the Committee resumed its session in public.

Motion: Csorba/de Gara

THAT the GFC Executive Committee resume its meeting in public.

**CARRIED**

Motion: Amrhein/Kendal

Abstentions: de Gara/Livingstone

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, acting under delegated authority from General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors, recommend proposed changes to the existing Review of Faculty Deans Procedure (in UAPPOL), as set forth in Attachment 1 and as amended, to be effective July 1, 2012.

**CARRIED**

Members understood that Ms Herman would review with the University's lawyers certain aspects of the proposed wording that had given rise to concerns expressed by individual members. In particular, the proposed wording in the new Section 5 (Exemptions to the Procedures), as highlighted in the following—"Notwithstanding the provisions in these procedures, the President in his/her discretion may, **at any time**, recommend the suspension or termination of the appointment of a Dean..."—would be discussed further with legal counsel to determine if the highlighted clause could be removed completely or should remain in order not to significantly alter the intent of this procedure.

[Subsequent to the meeting, Ms Herman reported back to the GFC Executive Committee, by means of an e-mail follow-up on the above-noted issue raised, that she had, as she committed to do, consulted with the University's legal advisors and further with the Provost and, based on this consultation, had determined that the three words highlighted and struck out below can be omitted from the first sentence in Section 5 of the revised Procedure. At the same time, she, the Provost, and legal counsel had reviewed and confirmed the additional wording in the final sentence.

"Notwithstanding the provisions in these procedures, the President in his/her discretion may, ~~at any time~~, recommend the suspension or termination of the appointment of a Dean without establishing a review committee where any action, omission or behaviour of the Dean, alleged or in fact, becomes or reasonably could become materially injurious to the University and its reputation. Termination of the appointment as Dean does not alter the academic appointment of the Dean under the relevant University academic staff agreement. The recommendation of suspension or termination of the appointment of a Dean under such conditions will be made by the President to the Board, **following which the Board will decide whether to suspend or terminate the appointment of the Dean.**"]

8. Draft Agenda for the May 28, 2012 Meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC)

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Executive Committee

*Discussion:*

Mr Bodnar explained to members that there was no draft agenda at this time—currently, there are no pressing items for the May 28, 2012 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC). He noted that there will

be a GFC Executive Committee meeting on May 7, before the next General Faculties Council on May 28, during which a draft Agenda for this Council meeting will be presented for discussion.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 9. The Umbrella Committee (TUC) and TUC Working Groups Draft Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

#### *Purpose of the Proposal:*

Reporting to the President's Executive Committee-Strategic (PEC-S), the Umbrella Committee will provide oversight and coordination to the three working groups leading to the preparation of a final report on options. This final report will outline strategies, plans and recommendations that:

- provide greater flexibility to the academic community in support of their contributions to the University's cornerstone of learning, discovery, and citizenship;
- align models for the provision of benefits with the more flexible structures within the academic community; and
- lead to the delivery of administrative services in ways that provides greater flexibility to the academic community

#### *Discussion:*

Dr Amrhein introduced the discussion item to members by explaining that many in the academic and wider communities are asking about what condition the academy will be in in the next decade, especially considering that 72% of the faculty at the University of Alberta have been appointed since 2000.

[At this time, Dr Amrhein was required by other obligations to leave the meeting; Dr Skidmore assumed the chair.]

Dr Blackburn entreated members to participate in this process by putting forth suggestions for the betterment of the University. He noted that The Umbrella Committee (TUC) included members (of which he was one) from hugely diverse backgrounds.

Dr Skidmore explained that TUC would likely put forward some (proposed) changes that could be quickly executed and some that aimed for long-term implementation. She noted that a deadline for the group had been set in October, 2012 in order to save next year's budget from the 2%-4% reallocations that would likely be necessary unless real change is realized.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members including, but not limited to, the following: the possibility of a permanent student representative on the Academic Activity Working Group; the President, at her recent University town hall, not announcing TUC as a way by which the University would be working to save money; the possibility of more interaction on the TUC-oriented website in taking suggestions and ideas for institutional change; and the process of choosing members for TUC.

### 10. Question Period

There were no questions.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### 11. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

### 12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

### 13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.