



General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

David Turpin, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Adarsh Badesha
Lesley Cormack
Steven Dew
Duncan Elliott
Mary Forhan

Bill Foster
Al Meldrum
Melissa Padfield
Eleni Stroulia

REGRETS:
Sean McMurtry
Brent Swallow

Staff:
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary
Marion Haggarty-France, University
Secretary
Heather Richholt, scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Chair noted that he had received a proposed motion for the May 27 GFC meeting on May 10. He proposed that this be discussed during Item 20, approval of the GFC agenda.

Motion: Agarwal/Padfield

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 GFC Executive Committee

The Chair spoke about the change in government and noted a budget announcement would likely occur in the fall. He noted the university would continue advocating around system capacity, the role of grants and loans in affordability, and the importance of research, innovation, and skills development. He noted that the new Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis, has a PhD in Political Sciences, an MA in Conflict Studies, and is a trained mediator.

The Chair mentioned the International Research Symposium that was hosted on campus the previous week: Navigating International Research Opportunities in Times of Global Change. He noted that over 80 people attended from organizations across the country.

The Chair also noted two recent awards: Dennis Hall was named a Killam Research Fellow for his work in organic chemistry; and Hongbo Zeng was awarded the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship for his work in chemical engineering.

The Chair welcomed the new student members whose term commenced May 1.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion for Consent Agenda: Cormack/Stroulia

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 15, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of April 15, 2019

CARRIED

4. Proposed Termination of the Bachelor of Physical Education specializations in (1) Cultural and Managerial Study of Sport and Leisure and (2) Activity and Nutrition, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: Approval of the proposed termination of the Bachelor of Physical Education specializations in (1) Cultural and Managerial Study of Sport and Leisure and (2) Activity and Nutrition

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the termination of the Bachelor of Physical Education specializations in (1) Cultural and Managerial Study of Sport and Leisure and (2) Activity and Nutrition, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. Revision of the Terms of Reference for the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve revised Terms of Reference for the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC)

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed revision to the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee Terms of Reference as recommended by the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee and as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

6. Taking Care of our Campuses for the Future: An Integrated Asset Management Strategy (2019-2035)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The University's executive leadership, the General Faculties Council, and the Board of Governors have all had the opportunity to review, comment, and provide revisions to the guiding principles upon which the Integrated Asset Management Strategy was developed. The General Faculties Council is being asked to endorse the strategy, which will steer infrastructure decisions across all campuses for the foreseeable future.

7. Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC) 2018 Annual Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

ACTION ITEMS

8. Education Faculty Council Quorum

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Douglas Gleddie, Associate Chair, Department of Elementary Education, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: This proposal is before the committee to approve the change to the quorum for Education Faculty Council.

Dr Gleddie explained the proposed change to the quorum for Education Faculty Council.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Foster/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the quorum for Education Faculty Council as 40% of voting membership, not including those on leave, as recommended by the Education Faculty Council, to take effect July 1, 2019.

CARRIED

9. Parchment for the Joint Degree Program with Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (Federal Republic of Germany) and Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Interim Vice-Provost and Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To adjust the wording of the program-specific University parchment to reflect the shared credential of a Doctor of Philosophy between the University of Alberta with Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (Federal Republic of Germany).

Ms Padfield presented the new parchment for approval. It was noted that approval of the program would be considered by the GFC Academic Planning Committee at its next meeting.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Cormack/Meldrum

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed parchment wording for cohorts of students receiving a Doctoral degree under the shared credentials policy with Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (Federal Republic of Germany) pending program approval by GFC Academic Planning Committee, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

10. Parchment for the Joint Degree Program with Saarland University (Germany) and Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Interim Vice-Provost and Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To adjust the wording of the program-specific University parchment to reflect the shared credential of a Doctor of Philosophy between the University of Alberta with Saarland University (Germany).

Ms Padfield presented the new parchment for approval.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Padfield/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed parchment wording for cohorts of students receiving a Doctoral degree under the shared credentials policy with Saarland University (Germany) as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

11. Proposed University of Alberta International Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs); Doug Weir Executive Director, Student Programs and Service, University of Alberta International

Purpose of the Proposal: To present the University of Alberta International Strategic Plan for discussion and recommendation to General Faculties Council.

Discussion:

Dr Dew explained how the proposed International Strategic Plan related to the Institutional Strategic Plan, *For the Public Good*, and how it signaled the direction the University would move in. He noted that a companion document, describing the details of implementation and accountability, would come forward in the fall.

Members discussed the consultation process, the meaning of "home country", the role of University of Alberta International and the Faculties, editorial updates still required, and the oversight by the Provost's office.

Motion: Dew/Foster

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the approval of the proposed University of Alberta International Strategic Plan, as recommended by the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as proposed by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and as contained in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval by the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

EARLY CONSULTATION

12. Request for Early Consultation: Recruitment Policy Review

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Logan Mardhani-Bayne, Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek early input to inform a forthcoming review of the Recruitment Policy and associated procedures.

Dr Rodgers noted that the UAPPOL Recruitment Policy and its 22 Procedures cover the appointment of Vice-Presidents, Deans, Chairs, and other positions across the university. She noted that the task ahead would infuse these documents with the principles of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) Strategic Plan.

Dr Mardhani-Bayne noted that questions were raised about the Recruitment Policy and Procedures during the EDI Strategy consultations. He indicated that they were looking for input from the committee to inform the proposed changes that would be drafted over the summer and would come forward for consultation in the fall.

Discussion:

Members discussed bias awareness, advice and guidelines that supports different sections of campus, language in job advertisements, collecting data on applicant pools, implications for promotion and tenure, and faculty agreement guidelines.

13. Early consultation on development of a statement on free expression

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

Dr Rodgers noted the recent legislation in Ontario and free speech statements issued by universities in Ontario and British Columbia.

Mr Hamdon noted that the Chicago Principles are based on US laws. He spoke about the autonomy of Canadian Universities, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and other Canadian legislation.

Discussion:

Members discussed the distinction between academic freedom and freedom of expression, GFC as a place to discuss free expression, and the discussions during the 2018 Board/GFC/Senate Summit regarding freedom of expression.

14. A Protection of Minors Policy for the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Rob Munro, Acting Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services); Andrew Leitch, Director, ERM Programs (Risk Management Services)

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this item is to gather feedback from GFC to inform the development of a policy and procedure to help protect minors in university programs.

Mr Leitch provided an overview of the context of the item and noted that summer programs on campus had many procedures and controls to keep minors safe. He indicated that the lack of a formal policy was, however, a known gap for the university.

Mr Munro explained that they were seeking input to inform the development of this policy.

Discussion:

Members expressed several comments and questions including, but not limited to: comparison with policies of public schools and university associated daycares; when police and vulnerable sector checks would be required; implications to university research and medical programs involving minors as patients; and the rules regarding students of the university who were under age 18; exemption of research and medical activities which already have processes in place.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. Final Report of the Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): James Allen, Associate Vice-President (Operations and Management); Rob Munro, Acting Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services)

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this item is to present the working group's final report and to advise on progress to date and next steps.

Mr Allen and Mr Munro presented the final report of the CFSS Working Group and spoke about the actions implemented in response to the report's recommendations.

Discussion:

Members discussed the data included in the heat map, the importance of communication and education; safety and security on the other campuses; and collaborating with social services organizations to help those who are seeking shelter.

16. Housing for Students Who Parent Consultation - Final Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); Aman Litt, Student Success Specialist, Residence Services

Purpose of the Proposal: In follow up to the recommendations from University administration, and partnered with the 2020 closure of the Michener Park residence, this report is being brought forward to inform the committee of the findings related to the consultation related to housing needs for students who parent.

Mr Sharman noted that the main concerns identified in the report were affordable rental rates, and childcare location and availability, including emergency childcare. He noted that the Office of the Dean of Students was working on addressing these concerns.

Discussion:

Members discussed the decline and closure of the family residences at Michener Park, and supports for International and Indigenous students who parent.

17. Decommissioning of GFC Policy Manual - Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

Purpose of the Proposal: This item provides an update on the decommissioning of the GFC Policy Manual and the transfer, as appropriate, of GFC-approved academic policies and procedures into the UAPPOL (University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On Line) environment.

Ms Brolley updated members on the decommissioning of the GFC Policy Manual.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

18. PhD Learning Outcomes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Maxine Clarke, Senior Officer Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide an update on work presently underway to develop a system to support U of A PhD programs in explicitly articulating their learning outcomes.

Ms Clarke presented an overview of the PhD Learning Outcomes project and noted the alignment with the Alberta Credentials Framework.

Discussion:

Members discussed aspirational and general expectations, and the potential to include teaching skills and publications.

19. Question Period

There were no questions.

ACTION ITEMS

20. 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 GFC Executive Committee

Discussion:

Prior to approving the agenda, the committee considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by a GFC member on May 10 for inclusion on the May 27 GFC agenda:

That, with the exception of the academic faculty, which has statutory seats, every constituency of the academic staff designated to the Association of Academic Staff by the Board of Governors shall have at least one appointed seat for the constituency on the General Faculties Council. The Academic Teaching Staff (ATS) shall have 5 appointed seats.

The committee discussed the motion and decided not to add the item to the agenda for both procedural and substantive reasons.

Procedural – The committee noted that, over the last three years, GFC had developed, approved, and implemented principles to enable strategic discussions at a stage that allows members to engage early in the development of proposals and to provide feedback that can be incorporated into the final item coming forward for approval. It was noted that the Transition Committee brought GFC composition forward to GFC on February 25 for early consultation, and on March 18 for discussion. Input was discussed and incorporated as appropriate before the item came back on April 29 for approval. The committee considered that this level of consultation and discussion adhered to the principles of GFC, and deemed that revisiting the approved item was not appropriate at this time.

The committee recognized the importance of having terms of reference and composition that were appropriate for the role and mandate of GFC and all of its committees. It was noted that a commitment is included in all new terms of reference for each committee (and GFC) to review its terms of reference at least every three years.

It was also noted that there was a long-standing practice that approval items of this nature do not go forward at the May meeting of GFC when attendance is lower, as many students are away for the summer and academic staff have research and conference commitments.

Substantive - The committee noted that the proposed motion raised issues which were not raised during consultation and discussion. Members questioned consultation, rationale and data supporting the proposal. The committee reviewed the composition changes that were approved on April 29 including the change from 2 seats for FSOs/APOs to 2 seats for FSOs/APOs/MAPs which recognized that individuals in the APO category were de-designated. It was also noted that this category, and the ATS category, have historically been difficult to fill and often remain vacant.

It was recognized that there were recent changes to the ATS category in the latest collective agreement that may result in these individuals participating in academic matters differently in the future. As this development is currently in flux, it was determined that it would be premature to make changes at this time without understanding the full scope of the matter. It was emphasized, however, that this should be considered in three years (or sooner if necessary) when the GFC terms of reference come up for review.

It was agreed that the rationale for not including this item on the GFC agenda should be included in the committee's regular report to GFC as part of the agenda package and the GFC member should be informed of the decision of the committee's decision.

INFORMATION REPORTS

21. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by Email Ballots

There were no items.

22. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

23. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.