



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2020
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

David Turpin, Chair
Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Steven Dew
Duncan Elliott
Mary Forhan
Bill Foster

Christopher Lupke
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Melissa Padfield
Eleni Stroulia
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Yimmie Sonuga

REGRETS:

Adarsh Badesha
Sean McMurtry
Roger Moore

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

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

Motion: Padfield/Lupke

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

Discussion:

The Chair referred to the joint Board of Governors and GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) budget briefing that took place on February 7th. He noted that the discussion covered options available for revenue generation and spending reductions as the university contemplated significant reductions to its provincial operating grant. The Chair confirmed the budget was scheduled to come to APC for recommendation on February 26 and to the Board of Governors for approval on March 13.

The Provost provided an update on the provincial government's new performance based funding model. He explained that the percentage of grant funding tied to performance measures would start at 15% in year one, increase to 25% in year two, and to 40% in year three.

Members provided the following highlights, during a de-brief on the joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit: excellent presentations by candid and expert speakers, the value of bringing members of the governing bodies together with a common vision, the excellent facilitation of the breakout sessions by the Deputy Provost, the constructive solution based discussions, and the positive feedback of the attendees surveyed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Padfield/Stroulia

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 13, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of January 13, 2020.

CARRIED

4. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2019-20

Purpose of the Proposal: To receive the Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2019-20 for information.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Changes to Composition of Science Faculty Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Dean of the Faculty of Science

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because Science Faculty Council voted to revise its membership and decisions pertaining to the composition of Faculty Councils must be approved by GFC Executive Committee, acting on behalf of GFC with delegated authority.

Discussion:

Dr. Kalcounis-Rueppell indicated that all of the relevant information was included in the documents. In response to a question about the number of Vice-Deans in the Faculty, she replied that there was one at present.

Motion: Mocquais/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of the Council of the Faculty of Science as set forth in Attachment 1, submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

6. An Ethics Framework for Student Learning Analytics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Services & Technology)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the General Faculties Council for endorsement as a framework for future policy development.

Discussion:

Dr. MacGregor expressed thanks to everyone for their feedback on the framework and especially to the Vice-Presidents (Academic) of the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association.

Members expressed opinions and asked questions including: how this framework interacts with policy on research ethics and privacy; the contexts to which the framework applies; that the framework would be used whenever a request for data was made; that any data request should trigger a request for consent; and that further work on communications and education, and on policy and procedure development was needed.

Motion: Ashley/Dew

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommends that General Faculties Council endorse the Code of Practice for Student Learning Analytics at the University of Alberta as set forth in attachment 1.

CARRIED
1 abstention (E Stroulia)

7. Proposed Addition to the Code of Student Behaviour Regarding Weapons on Campus

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Marcel Roth, Director, University of Alberta Protective Services

Purpose of the Proposal: To propose an addition to the Code of Student Behaviour related to Weapons on Campus.

Discussion:

Mr Roth explained that the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) applied to students of the university while they were on campus or at any university related event. He noted that the proposed addition to the COSB was meant for specific complaints of weapons which would require an elevated response. He also noted that the advice of the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee had been incorporated into the definition of a weapon.

Members discussed: when the COSB would not apply - such as a student at a private residence off campus; bear spray and pepper spray and the prohibitions under Canadian law; and that the definition of "possess" in this context, meant to be in possession of or to be carrying.

Motion: Foster/Ashley

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend to General Faculties Council the proposed addition to the Code of Student Behaviour, as recommended by the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee, and as submitted by University of Alberta Protective Services, to take effect July 1, 2020.

CARRIED

8. University of Alberta Mandate Statement

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because the Ministry of Advanced Education has asked all institutions to review their mandates and revise them according to a provided template. The approved mandate will be a component of the new Investment Management Agreement.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that the mandate was not changing but was being put into a new template as directed by the Ministry.

Ms Sonuga noted the two motions, one to recommend the revised mandate and one to recommend the rescinding of the current mandate.

A member suggested the motion be amended to use the word, "reformatted" rather than "revised".

Motion: Mocquais/Padfield

THAT the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that GFC recommend that the Board of Governors approve the reformatted University Mandate Statement, as set out in Attachment 2, for submission to the Minister of Advanced Education for final approval.

CARRIED

Motion: Mocquais/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that GFC recommend that the Board of Governors rescind the previous University Mandate Statement, approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology on July 17, 2009, following ministerial approval of the new statement.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Report of the Senate ad hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees (no documents)

Presenter(s): Douglas Stollery, Chancellor

Discussion:

Mr Stollery spoke about the report of the Senate's ad hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees, which was struck in response to a strategy outlined in the 2017 University of Alberta Senate's Strategic Plan to enhance the honorary degree nomination, selection, and conferral processes to ensure best practices. He outlined the membership of the committee and noted that the report was presented to the Senate in May 2019.

Implementation of the recommendations was well underway. He identified two recommendations that he thought would be of interest to GFC:

1. Controversy - Information from additional vetting processes using publicly available information sources would be reviewed by the Chancellor as Chair, and relevant details would be shared with the Senate's Honorary Degree Selection Committee during the nomination review process. In the case of potential controversy, the committee would use its best judgement and consider the values of the university. The honorary degree scheduling process would also be expanded to include confidential consultation with Deans, Vice-Presidents and Vice-Provosts.

2. Revocation - The committee used the Order of Canada's process as a guide and made clear that it was a very significant step to revoke an honorary degree and this should be an extremely rare occurrence. Causes to consider would be a serious criminal offense or an ethical violation of magnitude that were a matter of public record. Steps to follow would include notice and an opportunity to return the degree, a confidential and independent inquiry, approval by 2/3 of the selection committee and the majority of Senate.

Members discussed what would happen if a degree was returned after notice was given, the severity of criminal offense that could initiate the revocation process, the importance of the public record, the process for the formal vetting of each nominee, and the Senate's statutory authority to award honorary degrees.

10. Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR) and Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR) Annual Reports 2018-2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wade King, Director, Safe Disclosure and Human Rights; Kris Fowler, Helping Individuals at Risk Coordinator

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and information about the activities of each office and to comment on trends and issues.

Discussion:

Mr King and Ms Fowler presented brief overviews of their reports.

Members discussed: the different types of data collected across Canadian universities; the increase in reports regarding women at risk; the role of HIAR to collect data and connect individuals at risk with available supports; the potential for HIAR to connect with university researchers to coordinate further investigation into concerning trends; the data breakdown between domestic and international students; and that increased reporting can be positive because there is somewhere to report and facilitate connection with other available supports.

11. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report : July 2018 - June 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janine Andrews, Executive Director, University of Alberta Museums; Michael Caldwell, Chair, University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences); Jocelyn Hall, Chair, University of Alberta Museums Curators Committee (Associate Chair, Department of Biological Sciences)

Discussion:

Dr. Andrews presented an overview of the report and explained the importance of supporting museums in the university's long term strategic planning. She observed that museums bring value to the university and must be protected. She also pointed to the new online search function, which could be used to find available artifacts across all disciplines.

Dr Caldwell noted the impact that the collections had on opportunities for student experiential learning.

Dr Hall spoke to the hundreds of independent visits to the university's museums over and above the data captured in the metrics.

Members discussed the history of the university, funding priorities, collections across campus that are held by Departments and Faculties that do not have an established museum, and the steps required to establish a university museum.

12. Joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit Debrief (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the summit was discussed in Comments from the Chair.

13. Question Period (no documents)

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

Discussion:

Dr. Duncan inquired about the level of industry support in this time of change. The Chair replied that industry partners are supportive and continue to advocate on behalf of the university.

ACTION ITEMS

14. 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

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the Agenda for the GFC meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020.

Motion: Mocquais/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the February 24, 2020 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

16. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.