



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Student Conduct Policy Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Steven Penney, Chair
Dylan Ashley
André Costopoulos
Brent Epperson (delegate)
Chris Hackett (delegate)
Rajesh Kumar
Jared Larsen

Rebecca Nagel
Wioletta Polanski
Shahed Taghian Dehaghani
non-voting:
Marion Haggarty-France
Janice Johnson
Michael Peterson

REGRETS:

Meg Brolley
Deborah Eerkes
Carla Prado
Marcel Roth
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Nagel/Costopoulos

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 11, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Nagel/Ashley

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the open session minutes of April 11, 2019

CARRIED

3. Welcome and Committee Member Development and Orientation

Presentation before members is contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Heather Richholt, Assistant Secretary to GFC

Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Richholt gave a presentation on the structure of academic governance at the University of Alberta. They spoke about recent changes to processes stemming from the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority. They also covered the mandate and role of the Student Conduct Policy Committee related to the Code of Student Behaviour, the Code of Applicant Behaviour, the Practicum Intervention Policy, and the Residence Community Standards Policy. Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Richholt highlighted the importance of early consultation, which allowed opportunities for members to engage in early and meaningful debate on important issues. They explained that by participating

members could contribute to the content of significant proposals and shape the direction of policy on matters of significant academic importance or interest, before items proceed through the regular approval pathways.

4. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Steven Penney, Chair of GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee

Discussion:

The Chair thanked Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Richholt and added that the Committee's responsibility related to the Codes and Policies mentioned in its mandate, is to recommend substantive changes and to approve editorial changes. He pointed out that if there were ever a question of whether a change was substantive or editorial, the committee would elect to recommend.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. 2018/19 Annual Report of the Student Conduct Responses, Dean of Students' Portfolio

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

Discussion:

Dr Costopoulos explained that this was the second year that the data was presented in a more comprehensive report to give a holistic view of the work of the Dean of Students portfolio. He noted that the trends reflect that while the Code of Student Behaviour is the appropriate tool for some situations, there are other tools such as community resolution, which may better serve in others. He also pointed to the Protocol 91 numbers, which reflect extreme cases and had been statistically constant over the years.

Members asked questions and expressed comments related to: graduate and undergraduate numbers in the data; disclosures from survivors and from those who may have caused harm; the implications of the Statement on Free Expression to the Dean of Students portfolio; smoking and vaping as breaches of Residence Community Standards; and Safe House statistics as related to sexual assault.

A member noted that there was a new student conduct management system in place which was expected to result in better tracking and analysis of data, and that there were procedural changes in residences underway which would come forward to the committee for information.

Ms Haggarty-France noted that Protocol 91 referred to Section 91 of the GFC Policy Manual, which was last updated in 2004, and that it was time to revisit that policy.

6. Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2018-2019)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Peterson, Appeals and Compliance Officer, University Governance

Discussion:

Mr Peterson gave an overview of his report and noted the increase in the number of appeals and the overall rise in the numbers of decisions made by Deans and Discipline Officers as reflected in Figure 5 of the Statistical Attachments.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: a perception of imbalance of power between the student and the Faculty in appeals, the role of the Appeals and Compliance Officer to keep both parties informed, and how the Office of the Student Ombuds works to support students through the process; feedback on the process from students, Deans, and Discipline Officers; the nature of *de novo* hearings; the training for panel members regarding fairness and consistency; the challenges for international students who come from a different cultural context and have a different understanding of how the process works; the disproportionate number of international students involved in the appeals process; the support and methods used to mitigate these numbers; and the need for both judicial and pedagogical elements to address plagiarism and cheating.

Members discussed criticisms regarding previous sexual violence hearings and the training that all decision makers receive regarding the sexual violence policy. Mr Peterson explained that because the process is confidential, some critics may not have all the facts. Members discussed the potential for information to be withheld from a Discipline Officer and later disclosed to the UAB. A member noted that the community needed to have a conversation about how sexual violence complaints are addressed and how the decisions are made.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

8. Items Approved by the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items.

9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.