



General Faculties Council
Student Conduct Policy Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Joanna Harrington, Chair
Carla Prado
Karl Buchanan
André Costopoulos
Katie Kidd
Lucas Marques
Wioletta Polanski
Sachiketha Reddy (delegate)

Judith Spiers
Adrienne Wright
non-voting:
Deborah Eerkes
Janice Johnson
Kate Peters
Michael Peterson
Marcel Roth
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Brad Hamdon
Sridhar Parasharamatham

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Chair of GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC)

Discussion:

The Chair acknowledged, "The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community".

Motion: Spiers/Wright

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 23, 2020

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Chair of GFC SCPC

Motion: Kidd/Buchanan

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the open session minutes of January 23, 2020.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Chair of GFC SCPC

Discussion:

The Chair introduced herself and welcomed members to the first meeting of SCPC for the academic year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Election of a Vice-Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Chair of GFC SCPC

Discussion:

The Chair explained that in accordance with the terms of reference for the committee, a Vice-Chair would be appointed by the GFC Nominating Committee from amongst the elected academic staff of SCPC. The Chair thanked Dr Carla Prado for agreeing to let her name be put forward, and noted that she expected to receive confirmation soon.

5. GFC Committee Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide governance orientation to committee members.

Discussion:

Ms Peters provided an orientation, which touched on the following:

- delegated responsibility from GFC;
- approval pathways;
- member roles and responsibilities; and
- committee composition and expertise.

Members discussed current committee vacancies, and whether the Academic Restructuring initiative, currently in consultation with the university community, would have an impact on GFC and its standing committees.

6. 2019/20 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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC) with the annual report on student conduct across the Dean of Students' portfolio for the 2018/19 academic year.

Discussion:

Dr Costopoulos presented the report and noted that this was the third year of reporting with a consolidated format to include all of the data across his portfolio. He provided a brief overview of the sections in the report and spoke about the variety of tools that were used to address issues with student conduct.

During the discussion, members expressed opinions and asked questions including but not limited to:

- changes in conduct issues related to the remote environment;
- concerns about cheating in remote learning;
- how instructors were being encouraged to find alternative methods of assessment whenever possible;

- a question about the limits to the data in the report and number of issues on campus that were not reported to the office of Student Conduct and Accountability;
- sexual violence data released by Statistics Canada;
- systematic and substantial under-reporting of sexual violence on campus;
- concern with barriers and the Dean of Students' work to provide support for disclosure of sexual violence and to increase trust; and
- that interim measures often met the needs of survivors so that incidents did not proceed to a complaint.

Dr Costopoulos noted that the Sexual Violence Policy was approved in June 2017 so was ready for a review and he would be bringing that discussion forward.

7. Annual Report of Appeals and Compliance Officer (2019-2020)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide committee members with an annual report of statistical information on discipline cases, as required by GFC policy.

Discussion:

Mr Peterson presented his report and noted that it provided information about discipline decisions and the appeal processes under the *Code of Student Behaviour*, *Code of Applicant Behaviour*, *Academic Appeals Policy* and *Practicum Intervention Policy*, and included numbers from each of the Faculties. Mr Peterson spoke about trends observed and the potential impacts of the move to remote delivery.

Members asked questions about the scope of the reporting. Mr Peterson explained that current pending appeals would be reflected in next year's report because it reported when the decisions were made rather than when the incident happened, and that some non-academic instances required a year or more of investigation before they were decided.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of SCPC: November 26, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 23, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.