



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2016  
University of Alberta Council Chamber 2-100 University Hall  
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Jason Acker	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Katherine Aitchison	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Howard Bashaw	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Beamish	Member, Dean, Science (Acting), Statutory
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Faiza Billo	Member, Board of Governors Representative, NASA Appointee
Sylvia Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather Bruce	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Katy Campbell	Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory
Alicia Cappello	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Brandon Christensen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
Alix Clarke	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
Pamela Mayne Correia	Member, Academic Staff (FSO), FSO (Academic Staff Representative)
Chris DeGara	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Joseph Doucet	Member, Dean, Business, Statutory
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Kim Frail	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Lise Gotell	Member, Dean, Arts (Acting), Statutory
Raj Gupta	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Hampson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Jennifer Jay	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Michal Juhas	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Paul Jurasz	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sushmitha Karunakaran	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Vivian Kwan	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life
Alex Kwan	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cerina Lee	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Justin Leifso	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Wei Liu	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)

---

Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Laurie Mereu	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Anita Molzahn	Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Roger Moore	Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Science
Colin More	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Graduate Students' Association)
Kerry Mummery	Member, Dean, Physical Education & Recreation, Statutory
Kabir Nadkarni	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Dorsa Nahid	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carla Peck	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Neesha Persad	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Cheng Qian	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Fahim Rahman	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)
Leonard Ratzlaff	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jeremy Richards	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Sean Robertson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Vincent Spurrell	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Science
Harsh Thaker	Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)
Ben Thronson	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Elizabeth Wallace	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Akiko Watanabe	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sheena Wilson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

Presenter(s):

David Turpin	President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)
Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Duncan Elliott	Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Chair, Academic Governance Working Group
Harsh Thaker	Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and Member, Academic Governance Working Group

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Operations  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

The Chair acknowledged the absence of Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell due to an unexpected personal matter but noted that the discussion surrounding the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) would remain on the Agenda.

Motion: Doucet/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of January 25, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rahman/Patten

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of January 25, 2016.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

*Discussion:*

The Chair welcomed all to the 403<sup>rd</sup> meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC), and commented on the arrival of the new Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Michael Phair. The Chair acknowledged the engagement of the departing student members of GFC on their last meeting, and congratulated the winners of the recent Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) elections.

Dr Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost, invited by the Chair to address members, reported that an Aboriginal/Indigenous button had been added to the ualberta website. She noted that the button links to a new site which provides a directory of links to University of Alberta initiatives, activities, partnerships and programs related to Indigenous and Aboriginal communities. In response to a member question, she reminded members of the newly created central unit, UAlberta North, and its mandate to forge new research and community relationships with northern communities.

Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Steven Dew, reported on the recent appointments of Neal Davies, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students.

The Chair reported on advocacy efforts for investment in Tri-Council funding and post-secondary infrastructure and that several Federal Ministers visited campus on March 4, 2016. He further noted the following from the Province: the Provincial Budget announcement on April 14, 2016, the new Minister of Advanced Education is the Honourable Marlin Schmidt, and Marcia Nelson has been named Deputy Minister of Executive Council.

Ms Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), provided members with an update on the University of Alberta Budget. Specifically, she reported on the projections within the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) for 2016-17, budget sensitivities, and key long-term success factors. Following her presentation, she took questions from members and provided numerous points of clarification regarding how merit and faculty renewal are factored into the data; whether prior fiscal estimates are available; how the \$25 million of special funding was allocated; whether comparators from the United States have been reviewed; and that dependency on primarily one source of revenue is risky.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 4. Draft Institutional Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC); Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion and feedback. Member input will be used in the refinement of the new institutional strategic plan.

*Discussion:*

The Chair reviewed the how the draft institutional strategic plan had been developed starting with a Senior Administration retreat in summer of 2015, and including the first joint retreat of GFC, the Board of Governors, Senate, and Alumni Council Executive ever held at the University of Alberta. He noted that the key issues identified during these exercises were included within the subsequent Discussion Paper. In addition to this early consultation, he reported that there was extensive consultation including round tables, updates, and forums with over 850 individuals, online feedback and finally, the creation of the Institutional Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. He emphasized that members of this Committee were diligent in attending each meeting or forum, considering all responses and feedback, identifying themes, and working with the writing team to compose the actual draft.

The Chair noted that the document has been created around five verbs: Build, Experience, Excel, Engage, Sustain; each of which includes a related goal, objectives and strategies. He also acknowledged the tension between those calling for a short and succinct document and those in favour of a detailed, in-depth review of the academy's activities. In response, the document was crafted in such a way to allow readers to peruse it for three minutes, review it in 30 minutes, or examine it in three hours.

During the discussion members expressed support for the draft including the use of the five verbs and the manner in which it captures current and future areas of focus.

In regards to the title of the document, members provided numerous favourable comment, including that "For The Public Good" reflects that the University of Alberta is a public institution and that is it important for the unique mission of the academy. On this point, the Chair noted that the University of Alberta is a major international research institution and that the document must also reflect this. A member suggested

“Uplifting the Whole People”, and the Chair acknowledged that the academy would always preserve that particular promise in its actions. A member noted that the tax payer should be considered when considering a title for the document.

The Chair thanked members for their comments and invited them to provide any additional thoughts *via* the website. He reminded members that the final document would be presented for final recommendation by General Faculties Council to the Board of Governors at the May 30, 2016 meeting.

In conclusion, the Chair recognized Dr Amy Dambrowitz and Dr Anne Bailey for their work on the development and draft of the institutional strategic plan.

5. Academic Governance at the University of Alberta - Update from the GFC Executive Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Duncan Elliott and Harsh Thaker, Academic Governance Working Group

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To provide General Faculties Council (GFC) with additional information regarding the role of GFC and delegated authority to GFC Standing Committees and to engage GFC in a discussion on the merits of the current delegations. To ask members to serve on the working group to provide recommendations for GFC’s consideration at the May 30, 2016 meeting.

*Discussion*:

Mr Thaker provided members with an update in regards to the Academic Governance Working Group established by the GFC Exective Committee in response to the Motions passed at the January 25, 2016 meeting of GFC to review and vote upon GFC’s delegated authorities to its Standing Committees. He acknowledge the assistance of Ms Marion Haggarty-France (University Secretary) and Ms Meg Brolley (GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services) in this endeavour.

Dr Elliott highlighted the issues of concern under review including a perceived lack of transparency and the perception that nothing substantive comes before GFC. Following this overview, the delegated authorities and organizational chart of all GFC Standing Committees. Dr Elliott noted the number of hours of committee meetings and of GFC meetings. He pointed out a summary of Motions passed under delegated authority by GFC’s Standing Committees from 2015-2016.

Dr Elliott suggested that, while GFC retains authority related to high level strategic and stewardship policy issues, items that a Standing Committee considers to be of major strategic significance or long term impact, and those where there was a strong division of opinion at the Standing Committee level, the full potential of GFC is underutilized, and that more strategic issues should come forward to GFC. He acknowledged that this may require a culture change. He reported that the members of the Working Group did not identify any issues with existing delegations.

There was a brief discussion on how many meetings of GFC there should be each year; a member suggested that GFC members may request additional meetings if more substantive business were to come forward.

On the issue of transparency, Dr Elliott reported that a high level of transparency already exists, although not many members may be aware of this. He cited, as examples, the availability of all Standing Committee meeting materials online and that all of these are open meetings. In addition, he noted a number of operational changes, some of which are recommended Students’ Union paper, “A Reflection on the State

of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta”, had already been implemented. These changes include name cards at GFC, the availability of GFC attendance letters for students, increased communication and interaction between GFC and the Board of Governors and the availability of all past meeting materials on the University Governance website from March 1, 2016 onward.

Finally, Dr Elliott invited members of GFC to join the Working Group to provide further viewpoints. He also noted that a link was provided on the University Governance website for comments which would be provided to the working group.

During the ensuing discussion, members agreed that a special meeting of GFC would need to be scheduled to address this topic in greater detail, and to allow for more discussion. In addition, a member emphasized that there could be more focus on the SU Report during the discussions as it contained many relevant ideas.

A member suggested that more meetings would not solve the issue of GFC’s limited engagement in large, strategic issues. She recognized that, although recent meetings had improved, there could be further work to ensure that meetings contain appropriate proposals.

A member thanked the Working Group for their work and added that it seems like GFC’s Standing Committees are doing all of the real work, with the GFC Executive Committee considering urgent items and routine items. He encouraged the Chair to bring more items of importance to GFC and noted that meetings have improved.

A couple of members expressed concern about application deadlines and the method of GFC Standing Committee member elections, adding that there was confusion surrounding the role of the GFC Nominating Committee. A member also noted that GFC is not aware of items being considered by its Standing Committees. She questioned how this could be changed.

A member requested a review of GFC’s delegations of authority to individuals, as well.

The Chair thanked members for their important comments and added that the individual GFC Standing Committees would be reflecting on these issues and would report back to the Working Group. He noted that another meeting would be required to fully discuss these issues and that this opportunity to review the processes of self-governance is valuable. He reminded members that the GFC structure and processes had developed over many years and that GFC members continue to drive change in response to current context. He noted, for instance, that the use of secret ballots for GFC was an unusual practice. He encouraged GFC members to volunteer for the Working Group.

Ms Meg Brolley, in the absence of Dr Mirko van der Baan, Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee, provided members with a reminder to check the governance website for current vacancies on standing committees.

#### 6. Update on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For information and discussion.

*Discussion:*

The Chair reported that Dr Ferguson-Pell was unable to attend this meeting due to a family emergency and invited them to comment on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC).

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion on the issue which included several comments related to the manner in which the PLLC was created and defined as an administrative unit rather than an academic unit. Members also expressed frustration that GFC has not been involved in the approval of items related to PLLC. Members also commented on the approval of the academic components of the PLLC's programming, and a member suggested that the upcoming certificate be recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) to full GFC for approval.

The Chair thanked members for their candour and acknowledged the frustration felt by members on the issue of establishment. He reported that he would consider this feedback while contemplating next steps.

7. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

**7.1 Q Question from GFC Member John Hampson, Regarding updates on the inclusion of evacuation and lockdown procedures in course syllabi**

**and**

**7.2 R Response from the Vice-President (Finance and Administration)**

*Discussion:*

Mr Hampson thanked Ms Clark for the response to his written question. A member suggested providing lockdown and evacuation procedures on posters within classrooms, as well as in a prominent location on the UAlberta webpage. Ms Clark noted that these suggestions would be considered, as well as the development of an app.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

8. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (February 1, March 7, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (February 5, February 10, February 24, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (February 18, March 17, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the GFC Nomination Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Report of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (November 26, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the Board of Governors

There were no items.

14. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

15. Reports

- Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) 2014/2015 Annual Report and Statistics
- Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer 2014/2015
- University of Alberta Museums Annual Report to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

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