



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 30, 2016  
Council Chamber, University Hall  
2:00 PM-4:00 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Chris Andersen	Member, Dean, Native Studies (Interim), Statutory
Susan Andrew	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Katherine Aitchison	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Lorne Babiuk	Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Marina Banister	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)
Howard Bashaw	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Darcy Bemister	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Allen Berger	Member, Dean, Augustana Faculty, Statutory
Stanford Blade	Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Statutory
Michelle Borowitz	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sylvia Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather Bruce	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Caulfield	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Alicia Cappello	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Colin Champagne	Member, Board of Governors Representative
Shreyak Chaplot	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
Kathleen DeLong	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Benjamin Denga	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Francesca El Ghossein	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Robin Overall	Member, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Richard N Fedorak	Member, Dean, Medicine and Dentistry (Interim), Statutory
Sarah Ficko	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Graduate Students' Association)
Kyle Foster	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kim Frail	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Meor M Hakeem	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Shumaila Hemani	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Statutory
Calvin Howard	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Jennifer Jay	Member, Statutory Academic Staff

---

Michal Juhas	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Maryam Kebbe	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)
Maryse Ndilu Kiese	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Alex Kwan	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Reed Larsen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cerina Lee	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Wei Liu	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Godfrey Man	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brian Maraj	Member, St Joseph's College
Pamela Mayne Correia	Member, Academic Staff (FSO), FSO (Academic Staff Representative)
Heather McCaw	Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Lisa McDermott	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
Dorsa Nahid	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Steve Patten	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Carla Peck	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Andrea Smith(Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Fahim Rahman	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Students' Union)
Sandra Rein	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jeremy Richards	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Terry Sperling	Member, Academic Staff (APO), APO (Academic Staff Representative)
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sarah Stahlke	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Henry Su	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bonnie Watt	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan White	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kue Young	Member, Dean, Public Health, Statutory

Presenter(s):

David Turpin	President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)
Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Joseph Doucet	Dean, Alberta School of Business
Elaine Geddes	Associate Dean, Alberta School of Business
Nat Kav	Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Richard Fedorak	Interim Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
David Zygun	Divisional Director, Critical Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Wendy Rodgers	Deputy Provost
Allen Berger	Dean, Augustana Faculty
Karsten Mundel	Associate Dean, Augustana Faculty
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Vice-Principal, Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC)
Duncan Elliott	Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group
Mirko van der Baan	Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group
Deborah Burshtyn	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Sarah Forgie	Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services  
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

The Chair reminded members of the role of the GFC Executive Committee in approving the agenda and outlined the process for members adding items to the agenda. In addition, he suggested that, in order to improve transparency and collegiality, GFC move to voting by a show of hands; the members indicated their agreement by a show of hands.

In response to a concern that the agenda was too full, the Chair replied that it is customary for academic senates to have such agendas and that the GFC Executive Committee had thoughtfully organized this particular agenda. He explained that GFC would likely be seeing more agendas of this length as more items are brought forward. A member suggested reordering the Agenda to move a discussion item up, and the Chair indicated that it would be addressed appropriately in the current order.

Motion: Solez/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Minutes of May 2, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Dew/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of May 2, 2016.

**CARRIED**

3. Report from the President

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

*Discussion:*

The President and Chair, David H Turpin, welcomed all to the 405th meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and provided several comments. He thanked members of the community who had volunteered their time and resources towards the various initiatives in support of the evacuees from Fort McMurray. The Chair encouraged members to attend Spring Convocation and noted that the new Chancellor of the University of Alberta Senate, Mr Douglas R Stollery, would be officially installed at the last session of Convocation in June.

Finally, the Chair thanked the elected faculty members of GFC who were attending the final meeting of their term.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Institutional Strategic Plan: *For the Public Good*

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To establish a new strategic direction for the institution under the leadership of the President and Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Upon approval of the plan, the university community will move from the planning phase into priority setting (short-, medium- and long-term); the development of measures to monitor our progress; the establishment of an institution reporting process to ensure accountability.

*Discussion:*

The Chair provided an overview of the Plan, reported that the territorial statement would be finalized following consultation undertaken by Deputy Provost Wendy Rodgers, and spoke about the next steps which would involve prioritization and the development of measures and accountability.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Rahman/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Institutional Strategic Plan: For the Public Good, as set forth in Attachment 1 to be effective upon approval, and empower administration to make any editorial changes to the plan, as needed, as long as the changes do not have the force of policy.

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed New Copyright Regulations

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Research)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To update and revise the language in Article 10 related to copyright in the various academic collective agreements (APO Agreement, Faculty Agreement, FSO Agreement, Librarian Agreement, CAST Agreement, SOTS Agreement, TRAS Agreement).

*Discussion:*

Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew provided an overview of this proposal, noting that it had taken a number of years to draft and would still require approval from AASUA and the Board of Governors. He reported that the intent of the proposal was to clarify that ownership rests with the creator and provide additional clarity on exceptions and use rights.

Following this summary, Dr Dew addressed questions concerning the second part of this review.

Motion: Richards/Elliott

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed new Copyright Regulations for the various Academic Staff Agreements.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed new Embedded Credit Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies, Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Joseph Doucet, Dean, Alberta School of Business; Nat Kav, Vice-Provost (Programs); Elaine Geddes, Associate Dean, Alberta School of Business

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies will provide students with formal recognition of the leadership skills they have acquired through their coursework and through their experiences at the PLLC. The certificate will indicate to employers and graduate schools that the students have taken courses, have participated in co-curricular programs, and have had stretch experiences through which they have developed the ability to tackle the challenges of leadership in all aspects of their lives. It will be available to students in multiple Faculties.

*Discussion:*

Vice-Provost (Programs) Nat Kav, on behalf of the GFC Academic Standards Committee, noted that the Committee brought the certificate forward for approval to GFC as it was considered to be of strategic significance to the institution. Dean Joseph Doucet, Alberta School of Business, noted that this certificate would be administered by the Faculty of Business and is made up of four courses taught by four Faculties: Arts, Science, Business, and Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES).

The ensuing discussion included, but was not limited to, comments and questions on: the role of the Academic Oversight Committee in creating and maintaining the academic components of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC); interest to extend the PLLC experience to Augustana Faculty and Faculté Saint-Jean; funding for stretch experiences; a suggestion to include undergraduate students on the Academic Oversight Committee; concerns with the establishment of the PLLC as an administrative unit as

well as its founding principles; clarification regarding compensation for instructors and Teaching Fellows at the PLLC.

Motion: Doucet/Blade

THAT General Faculties Council, on the recommendation of the GFC Academic Standards Committee, approve the Embedded Credit Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Business, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon approval.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposal for the creation of a Critical Care Department, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Richard N Fedorak, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; David Zygun, Divisional Director, Critical Care Medicine

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To transform the existing free standing Division of Critical Care Medicine into a Department of Critical Care Medicine. The Division currently operates much like a Department, with a director who sits on the Faculty Evaluation Committee (for evaluation of its own members) and on the Faculty's Chairs Committee. The Division has the responsibility for managing its own budget and teaching plan. We also recommend the current division director become chair of the department.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew noted that this proposal comes forward to GFC as a recommendation from the GFC Academic Planning Committee. He provided members with an overview of this proposal citing increased recruitment and research potential. Interim Dean Richard Fedorak noted that the proposal would be cost neutral and represented an evolution in the field of critical care medicine. Dr David Zygun (Divisional Director, Critical Care Medicine) emphasized that this proposal would bring the University of Alberta in line with peer institutions who already possess departmentalized academic critical care medicine units.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Dew/Fedorak

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a Department of Critical Care Medicine, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, and the concurrent termination of the Division of Critical Care Medicine, to take effect July 1, 2016.

**CARRIED**

8. Academic Governance and Delegated Authority

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Duncan Elliott and Mirko van der Baan, members, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chairs, Academic Governance Working Group

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To propose a plan forward for GFC and its Standing Committees to carry on with business for the next academic year, and to forward a proposal for consideration to establish an ad hoc committee to continue the work and deliver a recommendation to General Faculties Council by April 30, 2017.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the Motion provided to establish an *ad hoc* committee to lead the revision of the terms of reference of GFC and its Standing Committees with the terms of reference and composition to be presented for approval to GFC on September 26, 2016.

Dr Elliott provided members with an historical context of previous reviews of GFC and delegations of authority, and noted that additional time would be needed to do a proper review of academic governance at the institution. Dr van der Baan noted that the GFC Standing Committee terms of reference had been reviewed both by the committees themselves and independently by the members of the Academic Governance Working Group adding that this information would be available to the proposed *ad hoc* committee. He added that each part of the Motion is important for the next phase of the review and was carefully considered and drafted by members of the Academic Governance Working Group and reviewed by the GFC Executive Committee.

During the discussion surrounding this item, it was expressed that membership on the *ad hoc* committee would benefit from including past Chairs and members of GFC Standing Committees, as well as others in the community who have an understanding of existing processes and structures impacting academic governance.

The Chair thanked members of the Academic Governance Working Group for their efforts.

Motion: Elliott/van der Baan

Whereas at its meeting of 25 January 2016 the General Faculties Council (GFC) approved the following motions:

*THAT the General Faculties Council will review the delegation of its authorities to all of its current committees, and by 30 June 2016 vote on whether to renew or revise these delegated authorities.*

and

*THAT the review of the governance and operations of the General Faculties Council is to be informed by the June 2013 report "A Reflection on the State of Academic Governance at the University of Alberta."*

At its meeting of 30 May 2016, the **General Faculties Council:**

- a. approves the interim renewal of delegated authorities to all GFC standing committees until revised "Terms of Reference" modifying the delegated authorities of these committees are presented to it for its final approval on or before 30 April 2017;
- b. affirms its authority to make recommendations to the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta on any matter that it deems to be of interest to the University; and
- c. affirms its ultimate overarching authority to recall to it at any time any matter being considered by its standing committees under delegated authority;

d. approves the creation of an *ad hoc* committee to lead, during the 2016-17 academic year, the process for the revision of the “Terms of Reference” for GFC and all of its standing committees, with “Terms of Reference” for and composition of this *ad hoc* committee to be approved by GFC at its September 2016 meeting;

e. directs the *ad hoc* committee to bring forward to GFC its recommendations for revisions to the “Terms of Reference” for GFC and its Standing Committees addressing delegated authority for final approval on or before 30 April 2017;

f. directs that during the 2016-17 academic year GFC meet as often as necessary between September and April to discuss and consider proposals of the *ad hoc* committee for the revision of the “Terms of Reference” of the General Faculties Council and its standing committees; and

g. moves that until such time as the “Terms of Reference” for the General Faculties Council and its standing committees are revised, anything in the current “Terms of Reference” for the General Faculties Council or any of its standing committees not consistent with any of the above is null and void.

**CARRIED**

9. Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation and the Use of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an Evaluative Tool

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To discuss a Notice of Motion submitted by a member of GFC regarding the use of USRIs.

*Discussion*:

Dr Dew reported that a member of GFC had submitted a Notice of Motion to the GFC Executive Committee regarding the use of the USRI. The GFC Executive Committee agreed that the issue was worthy of review, but that the scope needed to be broadened and provided GFC with a revised Motion.

Dr Wendy Rodgers indicated that the format of student evaluation was being examined as were other aspects of teaching evaluation and that this process would involve research into available evidence on the subject, as well as community consultation.

Following discussion about USRI response rates, a member suggested a friendly amendment to the Motion which would add “non-discriminatory” to the last sentence of the Motion. In addition, members engaged in a discussion surrounding incentivizing USRI completion.

Motion: Mocquais/van der Baan

THAT the General Faculties Council, on the recommendation of the GFC Executive Committee, request that the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment report by 30 April 2017, on research into the use of student rating mechanisms of instruction in university courses. This will be informed by a critical review of the University of Alberta’s existing Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIs) and their use for assessment and evaluation of teaching as well as a broad review of possible methods of multifaceted



assessment and evaluation of teaching. The ultimate objective will be to satisfy the Institutional Strategic Plan: For the Public Good strategy to: Provide robust supports, tools, and training to develop and assess teaching quality, using qualitative and quantitative criteria that are fair, equitable, non-discriminatory and meaningful across disciplines.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 10. Proposal for a new Scheduling Initiative for Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Allen Berger, Dean, Augustana Faculty; Karsten Mundel, Associate Dean, Augustana Faculty

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss a Augustana Scheduling Initiative which could potentially address student workload issues; faculty workload issues; greater flexibility in degree completion times; development of a first-year seminar; provide opportunities for first and second-year students to 'sample' courses; and the ability to accommodate students' varying learning styles.

#### *Discussion:*

Dean Allen Berger and Associate Dean Karsten Mundel provided an overview of the Augustana scheduling initiative. This initiative would reorganize the term into courses which are offered in an intensive format for three weeks, followed by courses offered over the following 11 weeks; students would normally take one course over three weeks and four courses over 11 weeks. Dean Berger explained that this new schedule was intended to emphasize and accentuate the Faculty's focus on community-based education, international and outdoor educational experiences, undergraduate research and connections to rural and aboriginal communities.

A member noted his support of this initiative and invited the presenters to keep Council informed of the benefits to students through this endeavour. In regards to a question related to how the new schedule may impact student residence lease agreements, Dr Mundel clarified that the issue is currently under review.

The Chair added that this proposal is a novel approach to education and thanked presenters for their summary.

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

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Vice-Principal, Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide Council with an update in regards to recent activities undertaken at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC).

#### *Discussion:*

Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell provided members with an overview of activities offered by the PLLC; specifically, the PLLC's learning objectives, student enrolment, faculty composition and the program's unique teaching fellowship and mentorship elements.

Members engaged in a discussion surrounding student and administrative evaluation of the PLLC and Dr Ferguson-Pell clarified that the experience has been designed for undergraduate students only at this point.

## 12. Annual Report on Graduate Enrolment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Deborah Burshtyn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss the 2015/16 report on graduate enrolment.

### *Discussion:*

Dr Deborah Burshtyn presented key findings from the Annual Report on Graduate Enrolment 2015/16. Highlights of the Report included: FGSR programs remain attractive to students, incoming students are strong with high admission GPAs, and that support systems and supervision are adequate based on attrition rates and time to completion data. It was noted that, after a decade of growth, doctoral enrolments may be softening; however, demand for course-based Master's programs continues to increase.

## 13. Centre for Writers

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss the Centre for Writers.

### *Discussion:*

Dr Dew reported that the plan to transition the Centre for Writers from the Faculty of Arts to the portfolio of the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students has been deferred to further examine the model and provide for greater consultation.

In addition to comments on student participation in the consultation process, a member expressed concern surrounding the sudden discontinuation of an academic unit without input from GFC. On this point, Dr Dew clarified that the Centre for Writers was created as an administrative unit. Dr Dew further indicated that writing services are provided across campus to students and that the University was committed to continuing to provide no-cost service to students.

A member suggested inviting Dr Luci Moussu and Dr Betsy Sargent to the table to speak about the impact of this decision. The Chair ruled this out of order.

## 14. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

### *Discussion:*

In regards to her submitted questions concerning research conflict of interest forms, Dr Dilini Vethanayagam reiterated her concern that minor children of researchers should not be required to sign them. She also stated that the University of Calgary seems to have a simpler process. Dr Lorne Babiuk

(Vice-President (Research)) responded that this was mandated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and that funding agencies often have such requirements.

A member expressed concern that addressing the numerous items on the agenda had come at the expense of Question Period. The Chair invited members to pose any additional questions, and seeing none, concluded Question Period.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

15. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (May 16, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

16. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (May 11, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

17. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (April 21, May 19, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

18. Report of the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

19. Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

20. Report of the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

21. Report of the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

22. Report of the Board of Governors (May 13, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

23. Information Items

- 2016/17 dates for GFC and GFC Standing Committee meetings

- Changes to the Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Practicum Intervention Policy to reflect changes to the *Alberta Human Rights Act*

24. Information forwarded to GFC Members between Meetings

- Announcement of new Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
- Announcement of new Dean of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Announcement of new Dean of Engineering

**CLOSING SESSION**

25. Adjournment

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