



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2020
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

David Turpin, Chair
Chris Andersen
Dale Askey
Steven Dew
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Shanthi Johnson
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Gitta Kulczycki
Diane Kunyk (delegate)
Brooke Milne
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kerry Mummery
Melissa Padfield
Steve Patten (delegate)
Matthias Ruth
Andrew Sharman
Kelly Spencer
Jennifer Tupper

Elected Faculty:

J Nelson Amaral
Nicholas Beier
Heather Coleman
Gary Eitzen
Tarek El-Bialy
Anastasia Elias
Duncan Elliott
Nadir Erbilgin
Mary Forhan
Michael Frishkopf
Nat Kav
Eva Lemaire
Pierre Lemelin
Kathleen Lowrey
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula
Lynn McMullen

Al Meldrum
Sue-Ann Mok
Sarah Moore
Shannon O'Byrne
Dan Romanyk
Carolyn Sale
Richard Schulz
John Seubert
Eleni Stroulia
Amy Tse
Alan Underhill
Kristof Van Assche
Dilini Vethanayagam
Akiko Watanabe
Jonathan White
Lynne Wiltse
Ian Winship
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Yan Yuan

Students:

Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Jared Larsen

Appointed Members:

Matthew Barnett
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Yiming Chen
André Costopoulos
Natalie Diether
David Draper
Shannon Erichsen
Shawn Flynn
Jill Hall
Olivia Harris
Mohamad Jamaledine
Kevin Kane
Wade King
Rajesh Kumar

Janice Kung
Rowan Ley
Habba Mahal
Milad Nazarahari
Alesha Reed
Sarah Severson
Andrei Tabirca
Janet Williamson
Donna Wilson
Adrienne Wright
Ding Xu
Larry Zhong

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Cathy Adams
Ayman Adwan
W. Ted Allison
Adarsh Badesha
Katherine Binhammer
Stanford Blade
Amlan Bose
Meijun Chen
Melinda Chisholm
Lesley Cormack
Greta Cummings
Neal Davies
Piet Defraeye
Joseph Doucet
Fahed Elian
Fay Fletcher
Fraser Forbes
Bill Foster
Paul Gareau
Ian Gatera
Tahra Haddouche
Robert Haennel
Osman Hojanepesov
Basil Hubbard

Abigail Isaac
Peter Johnson
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Alana Krahn
Christopher Lupke
Maria Mayan
Stephanie McKenzie
Sean McMurtry
Rojin McVea
Roger Moore
Vivian Mushahwar
Anthony Nguyen
David Percy
Milad Rezvani Rad
Christina Rinaldi
Victoria Ruetalo
Amber Sayed
Lindy Schaffrick
Georg Schmolzer
Susan Sommerfeldt
Dhanvanth Soora
Kisha Supernant
Catherine Swindlehurst
Shahed Taghian
Dehaghani
Frederick Tappenden
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Samantha Tse

Staff:

Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Yimmie Sonuga, GFC
Secretary
Heather Richholt, Scribe

Observers:

Norma Rodenburg

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

Motion: Mocquais/Sharman

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President

- Introduction of GFC Secretary
- Joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit Debrief
- Student Vacancies on GFC and GFC Committees
- Budget Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor

Discussion:

The Chair expressed his sadness at the tragic loss to the university community as a result of the crash of flight PS752 leaving Iran on January 8, 2020, and offered his deepest condolences to those affected here in Edmonton and around the world. He spoke about the memorial service and thanked everyone for the considerable outpouring of support for those in need. He encouraged individuals to reach out to the Dean of Students or to the President's office with any concerns.

The Chair welcomed the new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Brenda Hemmelgarn, and the new GFC Secretary, Yimmie Sonuga.

The Chair provided a brief update on the budget. He highlighted the significant in-year Campus Alberta Grant reduction and efforts made, across the university, to tackle this challenge. He also mentioned the elimination of the Infrastructure Maintenance Funding and the temporary use of non-endowed investment reserves to offset expenditures already incurred in this area.

The Chair thanked the organizers and attendees of the joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit on January 24, 2020. He reflected that the presentations were interesting and insightful and that the discussions were valuable. He noted that the Provost was unable to attend because he was at a meeting of the Alberta Council of Senior Academic Officers (ACOSAO).

Dr Dew gave a brief presentation about performance based funding. During his presentation he shared some information regarding the Alberta government's 13 proposed performance based measures. He informed GFC that, as of April 1, 2020, the government would be implementing 3-year Investment Management Agreements (IMAs). He noted that IMAs are essentially contracts between the government and the university over a 3-year funding horizon.

Members discussed: the inclusion of Indigenous student numbers in enrolment measures for performance based funding, and whether other marginalized groups could be identified; the challenges of accurately gathering and reporting on the proposed measures; the amount of funding at stake and ability to negotiate

terms; the percentage of funding tied to performance metrics rising from 15 - 40% over the next 3 years; the support and advocacy of the members of the Board of Governors; the accessibility of performance data; reporting at the institutional level, as opposed to the Department or Faculty level; and what would happen with the funding that an institution failed to receive when a target was not met.

The Chair noted that the previous week, following announcement of the IMAs, the Advanced Education Ministry also requested that the University of Alberta's mandate statement be submitted to government in a new format and that this would be coming forward for approval in February.

The Chair informed members that the Provost had indicated that he would like to stand for a second term and that an Advisory Review Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic) would be struck. He noted that up to three faculty members elected by GFC would sit on the review committee.

The Chair acknowledged that Ellen Macdonald, Professor of Forest Ecology and Chair of Renewable Resources, had been named as the newest University Cup recipient. He noted that the University Cup was the highest honour awarded to faculty members at the University of Alberta.

The Chair mentioned that there was a question raised at GFC Executive Committee in December regarding student vacancies on GFC and GFC Standing Committees and that members of the GFC Nominating Committee, the Students' Union, and University Governance met to discuss the issue and were working on strategies for the future. He noted that GFC would hear more about this as potential solutions were recommended.

The Chair noted that with the recent cold snap, there was a question raised by a member related to university policy regarding the potential to cancel classes when there is a severe cold warning issued. He said that GFC Executive Committee would be discussing this at their February meeting.

Regarding the coronavirus, the Chair noted that there were no cases at the university or in Alberta and the risk remained low. He encouraged members to visit the University Health Centre website for information.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 25, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor

Discussion:

The Chair noted that a member had asked for revision of the minutes in order to include additional information regarding the rationale for the amended motion on Freedom of Expression. He confirmed that the University Secretary would work with the member to revise the minutes, as needed, and that the revised minutes would be considered for approval at the next meeting of GFC.

Motion: Sale/Nelson

THAT General Faculties Council remove the minutes of November 25, 2019 from the consent agenda.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Sharman/Padfield

4. New Members of GFC

TO RECEIVE:

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term beginning January 1, 2020 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Brenda Hemmelgarn, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

CARRIED

5. Proposed Increase to Minimum English Language Proficiency Entrance Requirement for Graduate Programs, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed increase to the FGSR English Language Requirement as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and as set forth in attachment 3, for implementation for Fall 2021 admissions and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

EARLY CONSULTATION

6. Addition of Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) language to UAPPOL Recruitment and Selection of Faculty and Staff Policy Suite

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed changes to the Recruitment Policy and associated procedures look to ensure that recruitment and employment processes are equitable and inclusive. By adopting EDI principles and practices, the University hopes to achieve equality in the workplace and correct employment disadvantages experienced by persons historically underrepresented at the University, while maintaining its high quality workforce.

Discussion:

Dr Rodgers spoke about the proposed changes to the Recruitment Policy and associated procedures to add language regarding the university's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). She noted that she was working with Governance to ensure that committee selection was not unduly burdensome and asked for feedback.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: methods of advertising and strategies for increasing the diversity of the applicant pool; avoiding overly restrictive policies that would make it impossible to populate a committee; the diversity of the government appointed members of the Board of Governors; the suggestion that when applicants are otherwise equal, a member of an underrepresented group would be selected; that it was clear that under-qualified individuals would not be chosen; the addition of more Academic Teaching Staff members to committees; the risk of administrative creep on the hiring process which had the potential to undermine the input of tenured and tenure-track faculty members; the difficulty with following "best practices" as no university had solved the problems of racism and sexism; the merits of bias awareness training; that the "definitions" in the policy were actually guidelines taken from the EDI Strategic Plan; and that preliminary and formal consultations with the Association of the Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA) were upcoming.

7. Effective Teaching and Learning: A Framework for Multifaceted Assessment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Miller-Young, Academic Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL); Cheryl Poth, Associate Director, Education, CTL; Luis Fernando Marin, Senior Research Coordinator, CTL

Purpose of the Proposal: To gather feedback on the work of the Centre for Teaching and Learning to develop a framework to describe effective teaching. The framework will guide efforts to provide robust supports, tools, and training to develop and assess teaching quality in the University. The framework may also be used to identify qualitative and quantitative criteria that are fair, equitable, and meaningful across disciplines for teaching assessment and evaluation. In this way, it may be used in developing policy to replace and revise GFC Policy 111.

Discussion:

Dr Miller-Young explained that the Framework was developed in part to support the work of replacing and revising GFC Policy 111 - Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation.

Dr Poth noted that this framework could be applied across all forms of teaching and learning.

Members discussed: emphasis on the effective use of time in teaching and learning; the next steps in the policy development; undergraduate research courses and evaluation of one-on-one relationships between instructors and learners; some of the concerns with over reliance on Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIs); the cost of required materials; and consideration for those who are teaching a course but are not involved in its development.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to discuss the proposed changes to the process for program approval.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper gave a brief overview of the recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes including establishment of a new GFC standing committee with a mandate to approve all aspects of new programs and changes to existing programs. She explained that elements of these approvals now rest with three separate standing committees and the process of GFC Policy Manual Section 37 and that the recommendations seek to simplify and streamline the process.

There was no discussion.

9. Replenishment of GFC, Standing Committees, and other bodies (no documents)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor; Jonathan White, Chair of GFC Nominating Committee

Discussion:

Dr White spoke about the annual replenishment of GFC and noted that early replenishment of vacant seats on GFC would help the GFC Nominating Committee to fill the vacancies on GFC standing committees as well.

Ms Bhatnagar asked faculty members to encourage their students to put their names forward for the upcoming student elections.

A member asked about the Nominating Committee's consideration of EDI. Dr White replied that ensuring the broadest possible base of representation and diversity was explicit in the Nominating Committee's mandate and was considered very seriously in the work of the committee.

10. Student Rights and Responsibilities Resource

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Akanksha Bhatnagar, President, University of Alberta Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to gain feedback on a planned approach to improving students' awareness of their rights and responsibilities in the context of University Policy.

Discussion:

Ms Bhatnagar presented the proposed resource and spoke about how it would be beneficial for students and staff to have all of the university's diverse policy information accessible in one place.

Members expressed general support of the proposal. A member suggested that the tone of the preamble could be more aspirational.

11. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

13. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

14. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

15. GFC Nominations and Elections A. GFC Recent ElectionsB. Current Vacancies on GFC Committees

16. Report of the Board of Governors

17. Information Items

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

18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - Announcement - Vice-Provost and University Registrar
 - Announcing the New Dean of Law
 - Announcement Regarding Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
 - Invitation to the Joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit- Approval of the Statement on Free Expression

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.