



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, June 22, 2020  
Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:**

**Statutory Members:**

***Ex-Officio:***

David Turpin, Chair  
Chris Andersen  
Dale Askey  
Stanford Blade  
Greta Cummings  
Neal Davies  
Steven Dew  
Walter Dixon  
Joseph Doucet  
Robert Haennel  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Shanathi Johnson  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell  
Gitta Kulczycki  
Maria Mayan  
Brooke Milne  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Kerry Mummery  
Melissa Padfield  
Steve Patten (delegate)  
Andrew Sharman  
Kelly Spencer  
Catherine Swindlehurst  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Jennifer Tupper

***Elected Faculty:***

Jason Acker  
Cathy Adams  
J Nelson Amaral  
Nicholas Beier  
Heather Coleman  
Piet Defraeye  
Gary Eitzen  
Tarek El-Bialy  
Anastasia Elias  
Duncan Elliott  
Nadir Erbilgin  
Fay Fletcher  
Mary Forhan

Bill Foster  
Michael Frishkopf  
Peter Hurd  
Eva Lemaire  
Pierre Lemelin  
Kathleen Lowrey  
Susanne Luhmann  
Pirkko Markula  
Lynn McMullen  
Al Meldrum  
Sue-Ann Mok  
Roger Moore  
Sarah Moore  
Shannon O'Byrne  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Carolyn Sale  
Richard Schulz  
John Seubert  
Susan Sommerfeldt  
Eleni Stroulia  
Kisha Supernant  
Amy Tse  
Alan Underhill  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Akiko Watanabe  
Jonathan White  
Lynne Wiltse  
Ian Winship  
Minn-Nyoung Yoon  
Yan Yuan

***Students:***

David Draper  
Katie Kidd  
Sachiketha Reddy

**Appointed Members:**

Ananya Ananya Sarkar  
Samar Barazesh  
Paramita Chaudhuri  
Basu  
Chris Beasley  
Dhir Bid  
Katherine Binhammer  
Amlan Bose

Karl Buchanan  
Daniela Carbajal  
Meijun Chen  
Breda Cormack  
Nicole de Grano  
Talia Dixon  
Eric Einarson  
Shannon Erichsen  
Shawn Flynn  
Christian Fotang  
Makboolee Fyith  
Ghoman Ghoman  
Shivani Gupta  
Jill Hall  
Purna Hariharan  
Kevin Kane  
Simran Kaur Dhillon  
Zaryab Khan  
Emily Kimani  
David Konrad  
Rahul Korde  
Christopher Lupke  
Habba Mahal  
Lucas Marques  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Abner Monteiro  
Ana Oliveira  
Nicole Patrie  
Tyler Saretzky  
Sarah Severson  
Khandaker Akib Shahriar  
Lee Smith  
Andrei Tabirca  
Shahed Taghian  
Dehaghani  
Frederick Tappenden  
Marc Waddingham  
Adan Wang  
Janet Williamson  
Donna Wilson  
Adrienne Wright  
Ding Xu  
Xinxin Zhang

**REGRETS:**

Joel Agarwal  
W. Ted Allison  
Adarsh Badesha  
Marwan Burhani  
Yiming Chen  
Lesley Cormack  
André Costopoulos  
Fraser Forbes  
Paul Gareau  
Basil Hubbard  
Nat Kav  
Harnoor Kochar  
Janice Kung  
Devshri Lala  
Sharonne Lee  
Sean McMurtry  
Vivian Mushahwar  
Jacob Park  
David Percy  
Christina Rinaldi  
Dan Romanyk  
Georg Schmolzer  
Kristof Van Assche

**Guests:**

Bill Flanagan, President-  
elect  
Peggy Garritty,  
Chancellor-elect

**Staff:**

Marion Haggarty-France,  
University Secretary  
Yimmie Sonuga, GFC  
Secretary  
Heather Richholt,  
Assistant GFC Secretary  
Brad Hamdon, General  
Counsel  
University Governance:  
Ann Hodgson  
Edyta McLoughlin  
Laura Riley

## **OPENING SESSION**

The Chair began the meeting by reminding members of the virtual meeting protocols

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC)

#### *Discussion:*

A member asked for clarification as to whether there should be a formal addition of the circulated letter and associated motions to the agenda at this time. The Chair answered that the GFC Executive Committee decided to add the letter as discussion Item 10 and that after discussion, GFC would decide if further action was required.

Motion: Dew/Elias

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.
--

**CARRIED**

### 2. Comments from the Chair

- Report on *For the Public Good*

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC

*Purpose of the Proposal*: This item is before GFC to share the *For the Public Good* Report 2020, which provides an update on the University of Alberta's progress towards its strategic plan, For the Public Good.

#### *Discussion:*

The Chair acknowledged that the previous day was National Indigenous Peoples Day and affirmed that:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

The Chair also mentioned that the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) saw an increase of more than 3,600 learners registered the previous week.

The Chair spoke about the Chancellor's Installation the previous Thursday and welcomed Chancellor-elect Peggy Garritty. The Chancellor-elect thanked the President for his welcome and noted that she was happy to be taking on this role.

The Chair spoke to the *For the Public Good* summary that was included in the meeting materials, to the university's ongoing commitment to the public good, and to the demonstration of the community's creativity and resilience. He especially made note of the important work done under the Goal of Sustain and highlighted how renewed governance processes, a new budget model, implementation of administrative benchmarking against global peers, and an integrated asset management strategy had allowed the university to be best prepared for the challenges ahead.

Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Steve Dew, provided a brief update on the budget and noted the unprecedented cuts to the operating grant, the required monthly reporting on budget to government, as well as the provincial government's recent decision to postpone the implementation of the Institutional Management Agreement and Performance Based Funding Measures until 2021, and the suspension of the Expenditure Reduction Targets.

Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Gitta Kulczycki, added that the university would carefully monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fall enrollment numbers and tuition revenue.

Vice-Provost (Library and Museums) and Chief Librarian, Dale Askey, provided an update on Libraries and noted that throughout the closure, their digital presence had remained strong. He announced that curbside service was beginning that day and that Rutherford Library would be extending in-person service for the fall with the health and safety of the community at the forefront of consideration. He also noted that he would provide more information to the GFC Secretary for distribution to members.

Dr Dew gave an update on the transformation of the Faculty of Extension due to budget constraints and explained that the English Language School and the Continuing Professional Education Unit would remain but that the academic programs were being relocated to other Faculties.

Dr Askey updated members on the closure of the HT Coutts Library due to budget cuts and noted that the collections and librarians had been relocated but would still be available to the community.

The Chair offered the following congratulations and thanks:

- Steve Patten on his interim appointment as Dean of Arts effective July 1, 2020;
- Dean Lesley Cormack for her 30 years of service to the university;
- Dilini Vethanayagam on her election as the GFC Nominee to the Board of Governors; and
- Breda Cormack as the NASA appointee to the Board of Governors.

The Chair spoke about the virtual Convocation that was held on Friday, June 12th and thanked the Office of the Registrar and Convocation and Ceremonies for their good work.

The Chair closed his remarks by noting that this was his final GFC and offered thanks to GFC Members who were finishing up their terms at the end of June, and all the Members of GFC for participating in academic governance at the university.

University Secretary, Marion Haggarty-France, added sincere thanks to the Chair for his leadership and support of academic governance over his term as President

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Dew/Elias

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 25, 2020

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Open Session Minutes of May 25, 2020.

**CARRIED**

4. New Members of GFC

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023:

Elena Posse de Chaves, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
Frances Plane, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
Sujata Persad, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
Hollis Lai, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
Keith Rourke, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
Carolyn Sale, Faculty of Arts  
Christine Hughes, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**CARRIED**

TO APPOINT:

The following undergraduate student to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning June 22, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021:

Makboolee Fyith, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The following appointed NASA representative to the Board of Governors to serve for a three-year term concurrent with her appointment to the Board of Governors:

Breda Cormack, NASA Appointee to the Board

The following elected NASA representative to serve on GFC for a one-year term, beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Shannon Erichsen, NASA Representative to GFC

**CARRIED**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 5. Final Report of GFC Executive's Transition Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Eleni Stroulia, Professor and Chair of GFC Executive's Transition Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to report on the activities and outcomes of the transition committee.

*Discussion:*

Dr Stroulia thanked the members of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority and the GFC Executive ad hoc Transition Committee for their work. She gave an overview of the recommendations and their implementation including:

- a standard template for GFC Committee terms of reference;
- revision of GFC and GFC Committee terms of reference;
- more frequent GFC meetings which include early consultation items in order to allow GFC to weigh in early on important issues;
- increased orientation materials and activities;

- the annual Board, GFC, Senate summit, meant to increase connection between the Board of Governors and GFC;
- the curated delegations of authority document; and
- the completion of the Program Approval Pathways revision.

Motion: Lupke/Elias

THAT the General Faculties Council discharge, with thanks, the GFC Executive ad hoc Transition Committee. **CARRIED**

6. University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Bill Flanagan, President-elect; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The Purpose of this Proposal is to continue GFC's engagement with President-elect Bill Flanagan's vision for transformation at the University of Alberta. In particular, today's item includes discussion of the principles drafted by the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG).

*Discussion*:

The President-elect spoke about the Town Hall that was held on June 2nd and noted that more than 8000 people had viewed it since it was posted to the website. He said that he had also met with the Faculty Councils and that his consultations and feedback to date had shown a shared sense of urgency, an openness to do things differently, and a shared sense of optimism.

Dr Dew gave a presentation, which touched on the following points:

- the financial and non-financial benefits of academic reorganization;
- a comparative look at the university's current state and that of other U15 institutions;
- the examples of efficiency initiatives at institutions in the UK and Australia;
- opportunities for economies of scale and how the university could be more efficient and effective with a new organizational structure;
- the importance of sensitivity to the tradition and history that is embedded in the current structure;
- the two branches of restructuring initiative and the plan to coordinate between them;
  - Academic Restructuring
  - Service Excellence Transformation (SET)
- the membership of the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG);
- the aggressive timelines for the restructuring as necessitated by budgetary constraints; and
- highlights of the draft principles before GFC for endorsement:
  - adherence to the vision, mission, and values in *For the Public Good*
  - a consultative approach, with regular engagement of GFC and the Board
  - the importance of expediency
  - the importance of data-informed decision-making
  - acting in the best interests of the institution
  - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).

Dr Dew concluded the presentation by stating that the overarching goals of these initiatives were to position the university for success and to reduce costs. He affirmed that there would be many opportunities for discussion and engagement on this process and that the final proposal would come to GFC and the Board of Governors for approval.

The motion was moved and seconded.

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

- the EDI impact on reducing the number of academics in leadership roles;
- the concern that transparency would be sacrificed to expediency;
  - Dr Dew noted that the administration would endeavor to be transparent while adhering to applicable privacy legislation and contractual obligations.
- a request that all of the information be made publicly available with sensitive information redacted;
- whether the reorganization would negatively affect the university's ranking;
- a request for the opportunity for members of the community to submit both confidential and public comments and feedback, and for a public record of the non-confidential submissions;
- a concern with the membership of the ARWG and a question as to why the GFC Nominating Committee was not involved in its composition;
  - Dr Dew noted that the ARWG was not a GFC Committee but was an advisory committee to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
- a reminder that the final proposal would come to GFC for both consultation and approval;
- a commitment to the overall student experience as reflected in *For the Public Good's* mission and values;
- that a reorganization as defined in article A10 of the Academic Faculty Schedule of the Collective Agreement with the Association of the Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA) was not currently under consideration but that if this happened the steps defined in the collective agreement would be followed;
- concern that making Faculties and Departments equal in size would contribute to loss of voice rather than increased equality;
- whether the ARWG appropriately reflected EDI;
  - Further to the discussion about the ARWG and its composition, Dr Sale proposed a motion to add additional members including the President of the AASUA, and two female Department Chairs and four academic staff members elected by GFC.
  - The Chair did not recognize the motion (a moved and seconded motion on another subject was on the floor and being debated) but noted that the ARWG was an advisory committee to the Provost and that GFC did not have the authority to determine its composition.
- the importance of EDI and Indigenization in the new organizational structure;
- the role of Faculty Councils in the consultation process;
- whether the requirements for student programs would shift under a new structure and the process for making any changes to academic programs;
- a request for representation of the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) on the ARWG or as a part of the SET initiative;
- the importance of protecting and retaining the role and voice of the Faculty of Native Studies and the School of Public Health on campus under the new structure; and
- that an ideal balance of voices must be sure to include the right voices and that strategic decisions made in the past must be upheld.

Motion: Lupke/Elias

THAT the General Faculties Council endorse the principles and objectives for academic restructuring, as described in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. **Building Capacity in the Graduate Student Experience, Graduate Student Success, and Excellence in the Graduate Student - Supervisory Relationship**

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to provide an update on a suite of initiatives introduced by the office of the Vice-Provost and Dean (FGSR) in the Fall of 2019 that, when operationalized, will lead to transformative changes to the graduate student experience at the University of Alberta.

*Discussion:*

Dr Milne presented a high-level overview of the work and consultation that had gone into the development of the tools toward the goal of contributing to graduate student success and a positive experience for both students and supervisors. She noted the pilots that were underway and the proposed timelines for full implementation.

There were no questions.

8. **Upcoming Considerations**

- Proposed Review of the Evaluation and Grading Procedure in the University Calendar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC; John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives); Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* This item is before General Faculties Council for early consultation and advice on a proposed review of the Evaluation and Grading Procedure in the University Calendar.

*Discussion:*

Dr Nychka explained that a preliminary review of the university's evaluation and grading policies and procedures was beginning now in order to provide practical guidance to the community for the fall and that formal consultation and a full review toward making changes would begin in the fall.

Members discussed:

- the need to address the level of cheating with remote testing;
- student concerns regarding privacy with the use of webcams for proctoring exams;
- learning disabilities and the modification of remote exam accommodations;
- test anxiety and remote proctoring; and
- issues with synchronous testing, student access to reliable online connectivity, and different time zones.

9. **Academic Governance Emergency Protocols (Standing Item)**

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC

**A. Report of the GFC Executive Committee**

**B. COVID-19 Governance Decision Tracker**

**C. Fall 2020 / Winter 2021 Planning Overview**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* This is before GFC to provide an overview of university's plans to deliver the highest quality learning experience, ensure that world leading research continues, and that students have the opportunity to participate in a vibrant campus community from wherever they are for the fall 2020 term. Additionally, the planning overview highlights the parameters within which decisions will be made related to the winter 2021 term.

*Discussion:*

Mr Sharman explained that the provided document included a summary of the university's current state, actions taken to date, and plans for the future. Regarding requests for exceptions to remote instruction for the fall 2020 term, he noted that submissions for more than 900 course sections had been received, and were under consideration. He pointed out that more cases of COVID-19 had been identified in Edmonton and that the university had to ensure that the changes being made were sustainable.

The Chair added that there was a high probability that cases of COVID-19 would come up on campus and that the university would be required to respond appropriately. He noted that they hoped to avoid a repeat of the full closure of March 2020.

#### 10. Document Submitted by GFC Member

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To seek input and guidance from General Faculties Council on the letter received from Faculty of Arts Academic Staff Representative, Professor Sale.

*Discussion:*

The Chair provided a brief overview of the associated documents.

Two motions were made from the floor.

Motion: Sale/Kane

In taking its decisions for where in-person instruction for Fall 2020 courses will be permitted, the Institutional Review Committee will prioritize pedagogical considerations over financial considerations.

So that the University of Alberta may meet its pedagogical responsibilities in regard to Fall 2020 instruction, the Government of Alberta will be asked to provide special funds to cover the costs involved in providing all in person instruction approved by the Institutional Review Committee.

***RULED OUT OF ORDER BY THE CHAIR***

The Chair ruled the motions out of order and noted that the purpose of this item was to discuss the issues, that the motions were moot as the committee had already met and made its decisions, and that they were general statements already taken into consideration by administration.

Motion: Sale/Kane

Challenge to the Chair's ruling.

**DEFEATED**



11. Question Period

- 11.1 Question from GFC Member Andrei Tabirca Regarding the NOUS Group and Written Response
- 11.2 Question from GFC Member Anastasia Elias Regarding Housing for Students with Families and Written Response
- 11.3 Questions from GFC Member Kathleen Lowrey Regarding Consulting Fees and Intellectual Independence of the University

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC

*Discussion:*

In response to the question by the Chair, the members who submitted questions 11.1 and 11.2 confirmed that the written answers provided were satisfactory.

The Chair asked the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), Gitta Kulczycki to give a verbal response to the following questions posed in 11.3:

1. At the May 25 GFC, we heard that the university has paid some \$100,000 in consulting fees to the Nous Consortium for academic restructuring advice. What has been the cost to date and what are the projected total costs of the UniForum program (<https://www.ualberta.ca/vicepresident-finance/uniform/index.html>)?

Ms Kulczycki explained that the contract with NOUS was \$52,000 plus GST for a high-level review of experience and outcomes at other universities and that the university paid an annual subscription to Cubain Consulting for membership in the UniForum program and that they were contractually obliged not to disclose that fee.

2. At the May 25 GFC and again at the Town Hall, incoming President Flanagan referred to the university's "dependence" on public funding (60% at present) and said he plans to bring that down to around 40%. How will the intellectual independence of this great public university be preserved when it shifts to primary dependence on private sector donors, wealthy students, and profit-making ventures?

Ms Kulczycki noted that the government had made cuts to the operating grant and had announced further cuts to come. In addition, the province was facing an enormous deficit because of the pandemic so this was not likely to improve.

President-elect Flanagan explained that intellectual independence was ensured by university policy and the authority of General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors, and that the university would not accept funding from donors that did not agree with the university's values.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

12. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
13. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee
14. GFC Nominations and Election (no documents)  
- Apply Now! Submit Committee Application ([link](#))
15. Information Items

A.GFC Membership Reapportionment 2020

16. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings  
-Email [FOLLOW UP] General Faculties Council - May 25, 2020

**CLOSING SESSION**

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.