



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

### General Faculties Council (GFC) Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, June 06, 2022

Council Chamber-University Hall (In-person meeting with remote option by Zoom)

2:00 PM - 4:35 PM

#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### **Statutory Members:**

##### **Ex-Officio:**

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Simaan AbouRizk  
Chris Andersen  
Dale Askey  
Barbara Billingsley  
Stanford Blade  
Steven Dew  
Todd Gilchrist  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Nick Holt  
Christine Hughes  
Shanthy Johnson  
Diane Kunyk  
Brooke Milne  
Melissa Padfield  
Steve Patten  
Wendy Rodgers  
Andrew Sharman  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Jennifer Tupper  
Frederick West

##### **Elected Faculty:**

Jason Acker  
J Nelson Amaral  
Nicholas Beier  
Ahmed Bouferguene  
Jennifer Branch-Mueller  
Marie Carrière  
Heather Coleman  
Gary Eitzen  
Anastasia Elias  
Michael Hendzel  
Carol Hodgson Birkman  
Peter Hurd  
Nat Kav  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Hollis Lai  
Jacqueline Leighton

Derek MacKenzie  
Al Meldrum  
Sourayan Mookerjea  
Weimin Mou  
Mario Nascimento  
Pauline Paul  
Jerine Pegg  
Elena Posse de Chaves  
Keith Rourke  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Carolyn Sale  
John Spence  
Alan Underhill  
Shauna Wilton  
Richard Wozniak  
Moin Yahya  
Nese Yuksel  
**Students:**  
Bishoi Aziz  
Joannie Fogue  
Gurleen Kaur

##### **Appointed Members:**

Abdul Abbasi  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Haruun Ali  
Fateh Arslan  
Rebecca Avila  
Susan Babcock  
Cirila Bartley  
Josephine Bolaji  
Marsha Boyd  
Jayden Brooks  
Heather Bruce  
Daniela Carbajal  
Ryan Dunch  
Anas Fassih  
Levi Flaman  
Kyle Foster  
Tahmid Al Hafiz  
Jill Hall  
Rachel Hislop-Hook

Emily Holden  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell  
Valentina Kozlova  
Devshri Lala  
Ariane Lamoureux  
Warren Leung  
Angie Mandeville  
Tim Mills  
Priyanka Mittapelly  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Tessa Monaghan  
Abner Monteiro  
Hubert Piatkowski  
Jad-Julian Rachid  
Milan Regmi  
Marian Sanchez  
Meruja Selvamanikkam  
Sarah Severson  
Srivathsan  
Shanmuganathan  
Subrat Sharma  
Sophie Shi  
Chanpreet Singh  
Allison Sivak  
Pien Steinbusch  
Andrei Tabirca  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Adrienne Wright  
Rachel Yang

##### **REGRETS:**

Sandeep Agrawal  
Saadet Andrews  
Robert Burrell  
Greta Cummings  
Charvi Dhamija  
Alexander Dorscheid  
Michael Dyck  
Shawn Flynn  
Jaida Han  
Jaymie Heilman

Tammy Hopper  
Leo Huang  
Simran Kaur Dhillon  
Mobashhir Khan  
Jessica Kolopenuk  
Mohit Kumar  
Pierre Lemelin  
Lionel Liu  
Runjuan Liu  
Elan MacDonald  
Precious Majekodunmi  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  
Sarah Moore  
Kyle Murray  
Sarah Opena-Sakar  
Sujata Persad  
Frances Plane  
Polina Reisbig  
Aminah Robinson Fayek  
Dan Romanyk  
Dweej Shah  
Sargun Sokhi  
Laura Stovel  
Rana Sunjog Singh  
Thind  
Frederick Tappenden  
Amy Tse  
Mani Vaidyanathan  
Helen Vallianatos  
Kristof Van Assche  
Vedant Vyas  
Adrian Wattamaniuk  
Yan Yuan

##### **Staff:**

Brad Hamdon, General  
Counsel and University  
Secretary  
Kate Peters, GFC  
Secretary  
Heather Richholt, Scribe  
Erin Plume  
Laura Riley

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

that we are located on Treaty 6 territory. Today, we will be endorsing and making a collective commitment to the Indigenous Strategic Plan, giving today's land acknowledgement a particular resonance. We are privileged to reside on lands in Treaties 6, 7, 8 at the University of Alberta. To respect these agreements and to honour our relations with these Nations, we recognize this territory as we convene today. This is a sign of our commitment to working and living in good relations with Indigenous Peoples and nations who, through the treaty process, generously offered their lands.

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of GFC

#### *Discussion:*

A member raised a point of order noting that Question Period was supposed to be a mandatory thirty minutes but the agenda allowed only twenty minutes for the item. GFC Secretary Kate Peters noted that the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules had been amended and approved and there was no longer a mandatory thirty minutes for Question Period.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of GFC

#### *Discussion:*

In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- Appointments of Deans:
  - Tammy Hopper appointed Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine for a five-year term effective July 1, 2022;
  - Kyra Pyke appointed Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation for a five-year term effective August 1, 2022; and
  - Appointment of Nathalie Kermoal as the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies for a one-year term while Dean Andersen takes an administrative leave;
- Two weeks of convocation celebrations in-person for the first time since 2019 and congratulations to all graduands; and
- Thanks to the members of GFC who were finishing their terms as of June 30, 2022 for their service during a challenging time for the university.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The consent Agenda motion was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 2, 2022

Item was deferred.

4. New Members of GFC

**TO APPOINT:**

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing June 6, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:

Rachel Hislop-Hook, Educational Psychology  
Meruja Selvamanikkam, Medical Sciences

**CARRIED**

**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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:

Christopher Lupke, Faculty of Arts  
Chris Reyms-Chikuma, Faculty of Arts  
Susan Chatwood, School of Public Health

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2022 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Nathalie Kermaal, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning August 1, 2022 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Kyra Pyke, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed Termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences, as submitted by the Faculté Saint-Jean and Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research); Nella Sajlovic, Indigenous Strategies Manager

*Discussion:*

F Glanfield acknowledged the work of the advisory council and highlighted that this was an Indigenous-led plan to enact existing institutional commitments on Indigenous initiatives across the institution.

Members expressed support and offered congratulations, and discussed Canada's colonial and racist history, the ways in which Indigenous knowledge and western knowledge intersect in a post-secondary context, and

accountability regarding the University's commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council endorse Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan, as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. Change of Status of Faculty of Extension

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Wendy Rodgers, Interim Dean, Faculty of Extension

*Discussion:*

S Dew and W Rodgers explained that this proposal was to rescind the "Faculty" status of the Faculty of Extension in order to facilitate creation of the administrative structure to support growth in continuing education across the University.

Members discussed operational and financial concerns, the evolution of Extension over the last 100 years, and how the change would affect Faculties, instructors, and learners.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors rescind the Faculty status from the Faculty of Extension, effective upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE), and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Jason Acker, Elected faculty member and Chair of GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

*Discussion:*

J Acker and K Peters provided an overview of the proposed disbanding of FDC and related changes to the terms of reference for APC and CLE. They explained that the powers currently held by FDC would be transferred to APC and CLE according to their mandates. They further noted that a review of APC and CLE's terms of reference and authority was scheduled for the fall and that the authorities transferred through this proposal would be further reviewed at that time.

Members discussed the cancellation of FDC meetings, the difficulties in constituting and situating committees that had very little work to do, the importance of GFC weighing in on facilities related matters, and the authority of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) related to space management.

A member proposed amendments to the authority that would be transferred to APC and CLE so that approvals related to the loss of space for classrooms or academic staff offices would require GFC approval.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as set forth in attachment 1, and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, as set forth in attachment 2, and the concurrent disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, all to take effect on July 1, 2022.

**TABLED**

A motion from the floor was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**

Proposed amendment to the motion as set forth in the attachment: University of Alberta Mail - Proposed amendments for Item 6.

**TABLED**

General Counsel and University Secretary Brad Hamdon noted that the authority in question was delegated by the Board of Governors and that any changes to the language could be problematic.

There was a significant amount of uncertainty expressed by members, and the decision was made to table the item.

A motion from the floor was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**

THAT the General Faculties Council table the pending motion.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 9. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of GFC

*Discussion:*

Several questions were submitted in advance regarding:

- annual maintenance costs and deferred maintenance costs of university buildings;
- the university's current space related to that of other U15 institutions;
- the university's space related to current student numbers and to projected student numbers after the planned enrollment increases by 2025;
- the university's plans to remove buildings from inventory;
- whether there would be a building to trumpet the university's commitment to Humanities if the Humanities Centre was removed;
- how the university would replace classrooms and offices that would be lost from the Humanities Centre;
- the future of buildings at Augustana;
- student protests, the university's commitment to freedom of expression, and procedural issues at the May 19, 2022 meeting of the GFC Academic Planning Meeting (APC); and
- procedural matters regarding calling the GFC APC Special meeting of May 26, 2022.

During question period, members asked follow up questions to those submitted in advance. Members also asked questions regarding:

- Implementation of the GFC approved Exploration Credits policy;
- The Capital Plan and when it would be made available on the website;
- Impact of space optimization on graduate student space;

- Division of authority between governance and administration;
- Authority of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) over demolition procedures and considerations taken into account in decision-making;
- Delegated authority held by the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC); and
- Student consultation for tuition fee proposals.

A student member noted that the Chair had interrupted a member earlier in the meeting. The Chair responded that they were asking the member to state their motion.

Undergraduate student member C Singh made a notice of motion for debate at the next meeting of GFC as set out in the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules (8.7).

**Notice of Motion:**

1. TO make University Admin take any tuition increase proposal to the COSA before taking it to APC.
2. TO make the APC recommend tuition proposals to GFC and not the Board of Governors. Then the GFC should recommend such proposals to the BoG if it decides to do so.

10. Proposed changes to the Sexual Violence Policy and Proposed Student Conduct Policy

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Deborah Eerkes, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator; Jax Oltean, General Counsel

*Discussion:*

D Eerkes spoke about the proposed changes to university policy and procedure related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and other non-academic offences. She noted the directive from the Minister of Advanced Education which required specific changes aimed at ensuring procedural fairness and implementing trauma informed practices for both complainants and respondents to a complaint. D Eerkes explained how the proposed changes would meet the requirements of the Minister and noted that the changes had to be implemented by November 2022. She invited members to share comments and questions by email.

11. Early consultation on renewal of the Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI)

*Presenter(s):* Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Evelyn Hamdon, Senior Advisor, Equity & Human Rights

*Discussion:*

W Rodgers and E Hamdon spoke about the work of the EDI Scoping Group to seek input to inform the plan's renewal in 2022.

Members discussed training sessions, gender-neutral facilities, accessibility, and consultation with student groups including in French for Faculté Saint-Jean's francophone students.

12. Budget Model 2.0

*Presenter(s):* Steve Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services & Finance)

*Discussion:*

S Dew explained the rationale for why the budget model needed to evolve and presented the conceptual framework for the new budget model including three proposed new principles.

Members discussed student input in the consultation and concepts of strategic priorities and equity in a budgetary context.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
16. Report of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI)
17. GFC Nominations and Elections  
- 30 May 2022 NC Report to GFC  
- Remaining Vacancies for 2022-2023 Academic Year
18. Report of the Board of Governors
19. Information Items:
  - A. Report on Metrics
  - B. COVID Decision Tracker
  - C. For the Public Good Final Report
  - D. Centers and Institutes Annual Report
  - E. University of Alberta Technology Strategy
  - F. Report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Review of Teaching Awards Working Group

## **CLOSING SESSION**

20. Adjournment  
- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: September 19, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.