

General Faculties Council (GFC)  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, January 30, 2023  
Zoom, Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:10 PM

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### OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands and our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

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

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

In his comments, the Chair thanked the Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Verna Yiu for chairing the November meeting of GFC while he was in Egypt for the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27). The Chair made note of the College Dean and Vice-Provost appointments: Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (College of Natural and Applied Sciences), Brenda Hemmelgarn (College of Health Sciences), and Marvin Washington (College of Social Sciences and Humanities). The Chair also spoke about the search for a new University Secretary.

Interim Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Karsten Mündel, was asked to provide some comments on work underway to consider the impacts of the generative artificial intelligence (AI), ChatGPT. K Mündel noted that this was an issue being considered across the post-secondary sector and that he was forming a task force on AI and the learning environment.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 14, 2022

Approval of the October 17, 2022 minutes was deferred.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of November 14, 2022.

**CARRIED**

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT:

The following Acting NASA President to serve on GFC for a term commencing January 30, 2023 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Sydney Tancowny

The following Acting Vice-Provost and Dean of Students to serve on GFC for a term commencing January 30, 2023 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Helen Vaillanatos

**CARRIED**

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory academic staff members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2025:

Minn-Nyoung Yoon, Medicine and Dentistry

**CARRIED**

5. Duolingo English Test: Extension of Short-term Use, Office of the Registrar

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed extension to accept the Duolingo English Test (DET) for all applicants to undergraduate and graduate programs as an additional option to demonstrate ELP through to the 2028-29 admission cycle.

**CARRIED**

6. SAT/ACT Test Optional Policy, Office of the Registrar

THAT the General Faculties Council approve an SAT/ACT optional policy for undergraduate applicants from US-patterned students from accredited institutions, effective for the 2024-25 admissions cycle.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

7. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s)*: Jerine Pegg, Professor and Chair of GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO)

*Discussion*:

J Pegg provided an overview of the proposed changes and noted that because this item had been deferred three times it had not been discussed at GFC.

There were no questions or comments.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Nominating Committee as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

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

#### *Discussion:*

Questions were submitted in advance regarding:

- College Dean appointment impacts;
- Religion 220 and concerns about inaccuracy and visual representations of the Prophet Muhammad;
- The elimination of "Academic Leader" positions across the university, the impacts of the cuts on the running of the university, and associated savings; and
- The College Dean selection processes, including questions and consideration of written feedback from public forum attendees.

During question period, members asked follow up questions to those submitted in advance. A member also asked a question about efforts to combat cheating on the Duolingo English Test.

### 9. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy Revised Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* Karsten Mündel, Acting Vice Provost (Learning Initiatives)

#### *Discussion:*

K Mündel provided an overview of the proposal including the approval pathway and plans to develop additional appendices for clinical and experiential learning, the Framework for Effective Teaching and mapped survey questions, and the pilot of the new questions.

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

- whether a question about overall student experience should be included;
- whether it was possible to have a mechanism that would allow instructors to choose their own questions from an approved list to ensure questions were applicable;
- a concern that the materials for this item were incomplete and did not include the history of GFC's directives related to student surveys including the motion that was made in 2016;
- that there was a considerable body of research showing that student surveys are discriminatory and that changing the questions would not fix the problem;
- that it was important to ensure that students were given the opportunity to submit feedback without contributing to discrimination;
- an opinion that the questions were too general and there were no questions about teaching assistants;
- whether there had been work done to mitigate the bias in these questions;
- a confirmation that research informed work in the Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME) had gone into mitigating bias in these questions;
- a reminder that student survey results were only one aspect of the larger requirement for multifaceted evaluations of teaching;
- that there was a balance to be struck between getting student feedback, informing instructors, and mitigating bias;

- concern with low student participation and how best to show students the value of the surveys and encourage them to respond;
- an observation that passive learning was highlighted in the questions;
- whether student response data broken down by Faculty and Department could be shared;
- that this had been a work in progress over the past three years, the current questions were outdated and GFC needed to move forward; and
- that work to mitigate bias would continue.

10. Definition of Full-time Academic Staff, General Faculties Council and Faculty Council Composition

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* Jerine Pegg, Professor and Chair of GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO); Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

*Discussion:*

J Pegg noted that this discussion concerned only the statutory elected members of GFC and that there was no impact on student members or any other appointed members. She provided an overview of the issue noting that GFC and GFC Executive had made decisions over the years to define who qualified as a “full-time academic staff member” and this needed to be addressed in order for GFC and Faculty Councils to be in compliance with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA). She explained that all full-time Academic Staff under Category A as defined in UAPPOL *Recruitment Policy (Appendix A) Definitions and Categories of Academic Staff*, are eligible to stand for election to GFC and are members of Faculty Councils.

A member asked about the apportionment of elected academic staff members from the Faculties and whether that should be reconsidered. K Peters replied that she was comfortable leaving the apportionment as is for now.

11. Update on the College Dean's progress and plans (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, College Dean (Interim), College of Natural and Applied Sciences  
Greta Cummings, College Dean (Interim), College of Health Sciences; Joseph Doucet College Dean (Interim), College of Social Sciences and Humanities

*Discussion:*

M Kalcounis-Rueppell, G Cummings, and J Doucet spoke about communication channels used to share information and provided some examples of progress made across the Colleges including consolidation of processes and coordination on institutional initiatives. Each College Dean made note of some College-specific examples of progress, plans for the future, and invited feedback from members.

Members discussed plans for graduate student services and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) unit review that was underway.

12. Budget Model Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s):* Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

T Gilchrist spoke about the incremental model that was being used for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the development of Budget Model 2.0 to be in place for 2024-2025. He noted that provincial cuts to operating funding required a shift in the model and spoke about the timelines and plans for consultation and engagement.

A member asked if a change in government would impact the model. T Gilchirst answered that the model covered allocation of funds and could be applied even if there was a change in operating funds.

*The Chair departed from the meeting and the Vice-Chair, Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, Verna Yiu, assumed the role.*

A motion was passed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Members discussed:

- That GFC has only seen a very rushed and brief presentation by the former Provost and did not have time to discuss it;
- that GFC needed to talk about budget model principles;
- concerns about the plans for increasing revenue through student enrolment growth at a university that had been "destroyed" by budget cuts;
- the burden of higher tuition falling to the students especially when students are struggling;
- what appropriate increases in student supports could be made to meet student needs; and
- purposeful reinvestment of funds for the benefit of students.

The motion was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**

THAT the General Faculties Council extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
16. GFC Nominations and Elections  
- Recent Elections
17. Information Items:
  - A. Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR) Annual Report
  - B. Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR) Annual Report 2021-2022
  - C. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)
  - D. Proposed Changes to GFC Executive Terms of Reference
  - E. Embedded Certificate Framework
  - F. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring and University Operating Model (UAT/College and University Metrics)
18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings  
- Memo from President Flanagan

- Culture of Care - U of A Safety Action Plan
- Message from the Board Chair
- Message from the Interim Provost
- Board of Governors, General Faculties Council & Senate Summit 2023

### **CLOSING SESSION**

19. Adjournment
  - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: February 27, 2023

**ATTENDEES:**

**Statutory Members:**

***Ex-Officio:***

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Simaan AbouRizk  
Dale Askey  
Barbara Billingsley  
Stanford Blade  
Jessica Butts Scott  
Jason Carey  
Greta Cummings  
Roger Epp  
Todd Gilchrist  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Tammy Hopper  
Christine Hughes  
Nathalie Kermaal  
Elan MacDonald  
Kyle Murray  
Kyra Pyke  
Aminah Robinson  
Fayek  
Norma Rodenburg  
Andrew Sharman  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Jennifer Tupper  
Frederick West  
Robert Wood  
Verna Yiu  
***Academic Staff:***  
Jennifer Branch-  
Mueller  
Cary Brown  
Robert Burrell  
Susan Chatwood  
Chetan Dave  
Bipro Dhar  
Melanie Dreyer-Lude  
Michael Dyck  
Richard Field  
Zachary Friggstad  
Michael Hendzel  
Carol Hodgson  
Birkman

Jelena Holovati  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Hollis Lai  
Pierre Lemelin  
Liran Levin  
Lionel Liu  
Christopher Lupke  
Andrew McGee  
Weimin Mou  
Pauline Paul  
Graham Pearson  
Jerine Pegg  
Sujata Persad  
Frances Plane  
Elena Posse de Chaves  
Spencer Proctor  
Tracy Raivio  
Christian Reyns-  
Chikuma  
Dan Romanyk  
Kent Rondeau  
Keith Rourke  
Carolyn Sale  
John Spence  
Chris Sprysak  
Mani Vaidyanathan  
Mirko van der Baan  
Shauna Wilton  
Richard Wozniak  
Minn-Nyoung Yoon  
Nese Yuksel  
***Students:***  
Bishoi Aziz  
Joannie Fogue  
Gurleen Kaur

**Appointed Members:**

Abdul Abbasi  
Marsha Boyd  
Heather Bruce  
Telisa Courtney  
Greta Cummings  
Alexander Dorscheid

Joseph Doucet  
Ryan Dunch  
Levi Flaman  
Shawn Flynn  
Kyle Foster  
Eva Glancy  
Rachel Hislop-Hook  
Emily Holden  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell  
Valentina Kozlova  
Devshri Lala  
Warren Leung  
Priyanka Mittapelly  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Tessa Monaghan  
Abner Monteiro  
Jennifer Passey  
Hubert Piatkowski  
Jad-Julian Rachid  
Marian Sanchez  
Meruja Selvamanikkam  
Patricia Sherbaniuk  
Sophie Shi  
Allison Sivak  
Gordon Swaters  
Andrei Tabirca  
Sydney Tancowny  
Frederick Tappenden  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Adrian Wattamaniuk  
Rachel Yang

**REGRETS:**

Sandeep Agrawal  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Haruun Ali  
Saadet Andrews  
Fateh Arslan  
Rebecca Avila  
Jill Bagwe  
Cirila Bartley  
Josephine Bolaji

Ahmed Bouferguene  
Jayden Brooks  
Daniela Carbajal  
Marie Carrière  
Pierre Chue  
Charvi Dhamija  
Anas Fassih  
Tahmid Al Hafiz  
Jaida Han  
Shanthi Johnson  
Simran Kaur Dhillon  
Mobashhir Khan  
Mohit Kumar  
Diane Kunyk  
Ariane Lamoureux  
Jacqueline Leighton  
Jinfeng Liu  
Derek MacKenzie  
Precious Majekodunmi  
Angie Mandeville  
Milan Regmi  
Polina Reisbig  
Dweej Shah  
Srivathsan  
Shanmuganathan  
Subrat Sharma  
Chanpreet Singh  
Pien Steinbusch  
Rana Sunjog Singh  
Thind  
Helen Vallianatos  
Vedant Vyas  
Yifeng Wei

**Governance Staff:**

Brad Hamdon, General  
Counsel and University  
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Kate Peters, GFC  
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