

General Faculties Council  
DRAFT Open Session Minutes

Monday, January 29, 2024  
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**OPENING SESSION**

The Chair began with a land acknowledgement:

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

*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*: The Chair made comments regarding:

- The appointment of Simaan Abourizk as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering;
- The appointment of Rickey Yada as dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES) for a five-year term, effective Oct. 1, 2024;
- Recognition of Stan Blade's two-term tenure as Dean of the Faculty of ALES;
- The appointment of Shannon Scott as acting dean of the Faculty of Nursing through to June 30, 2024; and
- The return of Jennifer Tupper to her role as Dean of the Faculty of Education.

The Chair asked T Gilchrist to provide an update on the Enterprise Risk Management policy, recently approved by the Board of Governors as included in the Information reports.

J Lemieux provided an update on the Presidential Review Committee process and informed members that a ballot had been distributed to the GFC electorate made up of the 52 elected and 10 appointed academic staff members.

**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 20, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of November 20, 2023

**CARRIED**

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT:

The following elected academic staff representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2026:

Cameron Carlyle Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term ending on June 30, 2024:

Shannon Scott Nursing

The following ex-officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2024 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Simaan AbouRizk Engineering

**CARRIED**

5. Pro-dean for Graduate Examinations

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Graduate Regulations - Conduct of Examinations section of the University Calendar including the Common Examination protocols Pro Dean regulations for examinations, for implementation upon approval, and inclusion in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

6. Program Revitalization for the Bachelor of Commerce Program, Faculty of Business

THAT the General Faculties Council (GFC), on the recommendation of the GFC Academic Planning Committee, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed suspensions of the following majors in the Bachelor of Commerce Program as set forth in the attachments:

- Decision and Information Systems
- Distribution Management
- East Asian Business Studies
- European Business Studies
- Latin American Business Studies
- Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment
- Retailing and Services

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Question Period

7.1 Question and Response on Campus Saint-Jean

7.2 Question and Response on Wellness Supports

7.3 Question and Response on Electricity Demands and Power Usage

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:* Members asked questions concerning:

- the recent decisions by the federal government concerning international student visas and the implications for the U of A Foundation Program;
- numbers for international student visas allocated to the Province of Alberta and how they would be managed;
- Plans for implementation of a new Learning Management System including maintenance of the eClass/Moodle content and which decisions could be made by the instructor; and
- if the proposed minimum funding level of \$25,000 for PhD students would be the same for international students who face higher tuition levels.

#### 8. Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite

*Presenter(s):* Ravina Sanghera, Vice Provost and Dean of Students; Chris Hackett, Discipline Officer, Student Conduct and Accountability;

*Discussion:* R Sanghera and C Hackett presented on the proposed suite of changes and the consultations to present. They noted in particular the creation of a new position in response to consultation feedback concerning the importance of education and supporting faculties and colleges in the implementation of the policy.

There were no questions.

#### 9. Development of a U of A Foundation Program

*Presenter(s):* Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment); Rebecca Nagel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Academic Director, U of A Foundation Program

*Discussion:* M Padfield presented the rationale and proposed implementation plan for a U of A Foundation Program, comparing it to the existing Transition Year Program which sees students register in Open Studies. She noted that the University has already made a request for proposals for a third-party recruitment partner and expressed a hope that this model could be expanded to domestic students. R Nagel noted that the program regulations were under consideration by the GFC Programs Committee.

Members discussed:

- the role of the English Language School in the initiative;
- interest by third-party providers and a question of what supports they would be providing;
- the proposed tuition rate to participate in the program;
- how the allocation of federal International student visas would impact implementation;
- how domestic and rural students might access the program;
- whether ministerial approval would be required;
- a concern that instructors would be expected to provide additional supports to Foundation students; and
- how community members may perceive the program when there are qualified domestic students who cannot gain admission to the University.

#### 10. People Strategy (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)

*Discussion:* The Chair thanked members for their participation in the Summit on January 26<sup>th</sup>. T Gilchrist noted the next steps for the People Strategy including the release of the "What we Heard" Document and Town Halls to discuss the feedback. They noted that the Steering Committee would be tasked with drafting the strategy and the hope that this document could be distributed to the community in March.

There were no questions.

11. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan (no documents)

Presenter(s): Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

*Discussion:* C Smith reflected on the importance of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan published in 2019 and the learnings from the implementation of that framework. She spoke to the aspiration that a new EDI Action Plan could integrate measurable actions. She noted the context of multiple strategic plans within the University, as well as the Scarborough Accord. She signaled the three phases of engagement and the proposed launch of a living implementation and explained the process of engagement and co-creation with the EDI Leads Network. She emphasized the objectives and scope for the planning process and shared the operating principles for the planning process.

She invited questions and feedback from members.

Members discussed:

- consistency across different faculties and programs in how students are supported to ensure better uniformity;
- the need for theory-based solutions and the accompanying issue of funding those initiatives which provide practical solutions for students facing barriers;
- how to support faculty development and education rather than imperatives;
- the work to support researchers to incorporate EDI into their research methodology to ensure increased success in their research; and
- whether the academic schedule could accommodate time for learning and collaboration in a more deliberate way.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

12. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

13. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

14. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

15. GFC Nominations and Elections

16. Report of the Board of Governors

17. Information Items:

- A. Annual Report Appeals and Compliance Officer
- B. Annual Report of Student Conduct Responses
- C. Emergency Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy
- D. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring

18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

-Save the Date: January 26, 2024 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM

-Board of Governors, General Faculties Council & Senate Summit

**CLOSING SESSION**

19. Adjournment  
- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: February 26, 2023

**ATTENDEES:**

<p>Bill Flanagan, Chair Kathryn Todd (delegate) Adetola Adesida Minhaal Akbar Hussain Alhussainy Declan Ali Wajid Ali Pedro Almeida Chris Andersen Bishoi Aziz Jill Bagwe Barbara Billingsley Angelina Botros Paige Boyer Jennifer Branch- Mueller Heather Bruce Jessica Butts Scott Jason Carey Cameron Carlyle Susan Chatwood Odile Cisneros Gavin Clark Chetan Dave Chathuranga De Silva Stephanie Dickie Bailey Dickie Bipro Dhar Duncan Elliott Carlos Fernandez- Patron Shawn Flynn Kyle Foster Christian Fotang Zachary Friggstad Megan Garbutt Kenneth Gariepy Julianne Gibbs-Davis Todd Gilchrist Douglas Gingrich Eva Glancy Lise Gotell Michael Griffiths Jodi Harding-Kuriger Brenda Hemmelgarn Carol Hodgson Birkman Jelena Holovati</p>	<p>Tammy Hopper Tracy Howlett Jun Hu Christine Hughes Zak Kaal Matina Kalcounis- Rueppell Rija Kamran Esther Kim Noel Kjemhus Tim Klassen Julia Kloet Valentina Kozlova Vadim Kravchinsky Sandeep Kumar Denise LaFitte Adrian Lam Corrine Langinier Pierre Lemelin Liran Levin Christopher Lupke Ola Mabrouk Elan MacDonald Derek MacKenzie Nikolai Malykhin Andrew McGee Aamir Mohamed Weimin Mou Joanne Olson (delegate) Pauline Paul Nathan Perez Spencer Proctor Kyra Pyke Tracy Raivio Christian Reyns-Chikuma Trish Reay Liam Richardson Aminah Robinson Fayek Norma Rodenburg Dan Romanyk Mikael Schmidtke Andrew Sharman Patricia Sherbaniuk Chris Sprysak Tom Stelfox Gordon Swaters Katherine Tamsett Frederick Tappenden</p>	<p>Nathan Thiessen Jennifer Tupper John Ussher Marvin Washington Robert Wood Tuesday Young</p> <p><b><u>REGRETS</u></b> Noor Abdelwahab Simaan AbouRizk Sandeep Agrawal Seun Akinfolarin Layla Alhussainy Saadet Andrews Damon Atwood Gabriel Ayoku Quinn Benders Stanford Blade Josh Boissonnault Marsha Boyd Ahmed Bouferguene Alyssa Burant Marie Carrière Jency Chhaiya Pierre Chue Ryan Dunch Maesha Elm Elahi Richard Field Taylor Good Shubham Goswami Magda Grzeszczuk Michael Hendzel Spencer Hoppe John Hu Hal Kohestani Jeff Johnson Jinfeng Liu Danielle Milln Divya Maisuriya Precious Majekodunmi Shivani Mandal Vikas Mehrotra Olena Mykhailenko Jennifer Passey Sujata Persad</p>	<p>Graham Pearson Elena Posse de Chaves Muneeba QaDir Bassem Raad Stephen Raitz (delegate) Aiman Saif Ravina Sanghera Shannon Scott Allison Sivak John Spence Reagan Tremblay Demetres Tryphonopoulos Aditya Tutika Dilini Vethanayagam Madison Villiger Liam Watt Yifeng Wei Lindsey Westover Shauna Wilton Richard Wozniak Verna Yiu, Vice-Chair Minn-Nyoung Yoon</p> <p><b><u>GOVERNANCE STAFF</u></b> John Lemieux, University Secretary Kate Peters, GFC Secretary Faiza Bill Erin Plume Juli Zinken</p>
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