



General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 05, 2020  
Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Steven Dew  
David Draper  
Anastasia Elias  
Christopher Lupke  
Sean McMurtry  
Pierre-Yves Mocquais

Roger Moore  
Melissa Padfield  
Sachiketha Reddy  
Eleni Stroulia  
*non-voting:*  
Brad Hamdon  
Kate Peters

**REGRETS:**

Adarsh Badesha  
Mary Forhan

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

**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 Executive Committee (EXEC)

*Motion:* Mocquais/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

In his comments the Chair touched on the following points:

- Instruction in the 2021 winter term would continue to be delivered with a blend of in-person and remote delivery, subject to evolving public health guidelines;
- Members of GFC received a request the previous week to provide feedback on the proposed application process to provide in-person learning opportunities. This item was not discussed at GFC due to the agenda changes;
- Two important consultations on U of A for Tomorrow which occurred the previous week, first at General Faculties Council on September 28, and second, at the town hall on September 30, provided evidence of serious engagement with the interim report and the three scenarios presented for feedback in the questions that were asked; and
- Congratulations to Michael Houghton who was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus. Dr Houghton was recruited to the University of Alberta in 2010 as the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Virology in the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Moore/Mocquais

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 14, 2020

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of September 14, 2020.

**CARRIED**

4. To Receive for Information from GFC APC: Proposed Suspension of the Sport Coaching Major in the Bachelor of Kinesiology Program, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

## **ACTION ITEMS**

5. 2021-2022 Academic Schedule

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide term and deadline dates for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

*Discussion:*

Ms Padfield gave an overview of the Academic Schedule.

There were no concerns.

Motion: Mocquais/Moore

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Academic Schedule for 2021-2022 as set forth in Attachment 5 and, in doing so, empower the Registrar to make any editorial changes as needed as long as the changes do not have the force of policy.

**CARRIED**

6. Changes to Extension Faculty Council Composition and Quorum

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Maria Mayan, Interim Dean, Faculty of Extension

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee because Extension Faculty Council voted to revise its membership and decisions pertaining to the composition of Faculty Councils must be approved by GFC Executive Committee, acting on behalf of GFC with delegated authority.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), noted the recent changes to the Faculty of Extension including moving Masters programs to other Faculties. He noted that the Continuing Professional Education and English Language School would remain.

Dr Mayan explained that the departure of Academic Staff from the Faculty prompted the changes to the Faculty Council Composition.

Motion: McMurtry/Padfield

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to Extension Faculty Council Composition and Quorum, as set forth in attachment 1, to take effective upon approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 7. A. University of Alberta Students' Union (SU) Executive Goals 2020-2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Joel Agarwal, President, Students' Union

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The UASU is presenting this information item by invitation, to brief General Faculties Council, GFC Executive Committee, and the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee on its priorities for 2020-2021.

*Discussion:*

Mr Agarwal presented the Students' Union executive goals and priorities within the five themes:

1. Empower students to lead
2. Secure a strong future for students
3. Break down barriers
4. Ensure a high-quality university experience
5. Build a better campus community

### B. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Board Strategic Work Plan 2020-2021

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Marc Waddingham, President, Graduate Students' Association

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The information item is before the committee because the GSA has been invited to brief GFC Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) on its key priorities for 2020-2021 as identified by the GSA in its Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP).

*Discussion:*

Mr Waddingham spoke about the Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan and their vision and mission:

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and all levels of government in pursuit of a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

A member asked about the 16 pilots that were currently underway across the university using the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Supervisory Tools: Supervisor-Student Guidelines and Standardized Annual Progress Report.

### 8. Waiver of Advertising Requirements: Report to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide GFC with summary information regarding the number of waivers of advertising for full-time academic staff vacancies as required through UAPPOL policy.

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that the Provost is called upon to annually report to GFC on this item and that it would appear on the GFC agenda as an information item.

Dr Dew explained that there were low numbers of exceptions this year because of reduced hiring.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Debrief on GFC Discussion on University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of EXEC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

The Chair asked members for feedback and thoughts on UAT.

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

- feedback on the pros and cons of each scenario;
- the potential benefits of a combined Faculty of Arts and Science;
- that Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) process would need to be completely reworked in some of the scenarios;
- that many voices in the community were saying that they believed scenario B had already been decided upon;
- a request for more of the data that was being used to determine the scenarios so that people could really dig into the numbers;
- the need to be clear that student experience would not be compromised;
- feedback from students emphasizing concern that program specific supports would be centralized and the relevance lost;
- that any final proposal coming forward to GFC would have to be very detailed as to where the savings were found;
- trouble understanding how shifting responsibility to a higher level of administration would realize savings without compromising community engagement;
- how a new structure could find efficiencies and provide opportunity for the academy and administration to work together;
- a request for elaboration on how administrative and academic leadership roles would be separated and that this was not just adding another layer of administration;
- the plans for FGSR in the scenarios; and
- concerns that small Faculties would be overwhelmed by large Divisions.

The Chair went over the proposed timeline for UAT and noted that there would be a special meeting of Exec on November 30 and a special meeting of GFC on December 7 for the final recommendation to the Board. He explained that this would allow for discussion at the October and November GFC meetings.

The Chair also noted that the motion from the floor of GFC to recommend to the Board on the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative would go to the Board at their meeting of October 16 and he would report back to GFC at their meeting of October 19.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

11. Draft Agenda for the Next Meeting of General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To approve the Agenda for the GFC meeting to be held on Monday, October 19, 2020.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the potential to move the action items to the consent agenda in order to provide more time for discussion on UAT. They were assured that anyone with concerns could ask to have an item pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and that the proponents would be invited to attend GFC

Motion: Moore/Mocquais

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the October 19, 2020 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended.

**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

12. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

13. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of Exec: November 2, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 19, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.