

General Faculties Council
Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2022
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM

ATTENDEES:

Joanna Harrington, Chair
Kelvin Au
Cirila Bartley
André Costopoulos
Joannie Fogue
Devshri Lala
Judith Spiers

Monisha Vinod
Adrienne Wright
non-voting:
Chris Hackett
David Johnson
Kate Peters
Marcel Roth
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Brad Hamdon
Carla Prado
Geoffrey Rode

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Professor and Chair of SCPC

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 8, 2022

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Joanna Harrington, Professor and Chair of SCPC

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee approve the open session minutes of September 8, 2022.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

3. Proposed Changes to Membership Restrictions for Academic Staff on University Appeal Boards

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Laura Riley, Appeals and Compliance Coordinator; Heather Richholt, Associate GFC Secretary

Discussion:

L Riley and H Richholt provided an overview of the proposal, noting the issue of persistent vacancies on the university appeal bodies as well as conversations with Faculties and hearing that the restrictions placed on academic staff categories were a barrier to finding members who were able to serve in these roles.

A member noted that this change was overdue as there were members from other categories of academic staff who were interested in serving in these positions. Members were informed that there was a larger than normal volume of appeals at present, and the large number of vacancies provided even more challenges to clearing a backlog of appeals.

Members discussed whether it was necessary to open these positions up to all members of the academic staff or whether they should only be opened to teaching staff and faculty service officers. L Riley noted that teaching experience was not a requirement for these positions as the appeals really focused on matters of procedural fairness and that applicants were interviewed to ensure that they were suited to the work and aware of the expectations of the position.

Members also discussed whether it was fair to ask people to serve in these positions if they were not recognized for their service. Members discussed whether non-academic staff members should also be eligible and which academic staff member categories had a service expectation included in their contracts.

The committee agreed to make a friendly amendment to the proposed changes so that members of the academic staff "with a service component in their contracts" would be eligible to serve.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee recommend the GFC Executive Committee approve the proposed changes to eligible staff categories for service on the GFC Academic Appeals Committee (AAC) and the University Appeal Board (UAB) as set forth in the attachments, as amended, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Proposed New Academic Integrity Policy Suite

Presenter(s): Chris Hackett, Director, Student Services - Student Conduct & Accountability

Discussion:

C Hackett explained that the recent changes to the Sexual Violence Policy, the creation of a new Student Conduct Policy suite, and the rescission of the non-academic portions of the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) were made on a deadline imposed by the Ministry of Advanced Education. He noted that the remaining portions of the COSB required an overhaul as well and that this work would happen over the coming months. He went over some of the changes that were needed including: greater opportunity to educate the community with respect to academic offences, mitigating the long standing effects of sanctions on student careers, and building tools to help instructors.

Vice Provost and Dean of Students, Andre Costopoulos noted his support and expressed that the university must create an environment where students could learn from their mistakes while also including a way to address egregious offences through a judicial component.

Members discussed:

- student engagement in the consultation process;
- how to ensure equity and fair process in the new policy suite;
- expectations regarding communication and training for students and instructors;
- considering students from different educational backgrounds and levels of knowledge about expectations;
- the need for fair and equitable outcomes across the university;
- the role of the instructor in the process, concern with problematic patterns and the need for data and analysis in order to be able to address the issues;
- whether the data could be shared publicly;
- the need for clear and plain language so that everyone can understand the policy documents;
- that we could learn from interesting ways of addressing remediation at other universities; and
- the need for clear and comprehensive data to base decisions on.

CLOSING SESSION

5. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of SCPC: November 24, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 14, 2022