



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2016  
Council Chamber  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Vice-Chancellor
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Duncan Elliott	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Sarah Ficko (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Nicole Hammond	Member, Undergraduate Student Representative, elected from/by GFC
Paul Jurasz	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Anita Molzahn	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Eleni Stroulia	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Kathleen Weiss	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Jonathan White	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC
Sheena Wilson	Member, Academic Staff, elected from/by GFC

#### Presenter(s):

David Turpin	President and Chair, GFC Executive Committee
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Meg Brolley	Secretary to GFC and Manager of GFC Services
Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost ( Programs) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)
Sarah Ficko	President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)
Fahim Rahman	President, Students' Union (SU)
Dean Zaragoza	Executive Director, Health Sciences Council

#### Staff:

Meg Brolley, General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary and Manager of GFC Services  
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

### **OPENING SESSION**

#### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Banister/Molzahn

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 21, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Molzahn/Dew

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of June 21, 2016.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all to the 2016-2017 academic year. He reported on recent major funding announcements from the Provincial and Federal Governments towards infrastructure renewal and institutional energy and environmental research, as part of the Strategic Investment Funding and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.

He invited members to visit the Sweetgrass Bear north of the Administration Building, adding that it represents the University's commitment towards reconciliation and increased efforts towards cultural diversification on the campuses of the University of Alberta.

Finally, the Chair acknowledged recent leadership transitions within the Offices of University Relations, Finance and Administration, and Facilities and Operations. He reported to members on the recent GFC Chairs' Orientation session planned in advance of a busy and impactful year of academic governance at the University of Alberta.

4. Welcome and Committee Member Development and Orientation

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Marion Haggarty-France; Meg Brolley

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide members with an orientation for the 2016-2017 academic year and to update the Committee on recent activities related to academic governance at the institution.

*Discussion:*

University Secretary Marion Haggarty-France welcomed members to the 2016-2017 academic year and thanked them for their service to the community. In addition to providing an overview of the Committee's mandate, she referred members to the new institutional strategic plan, *For the Public Good*, adding that the goals outlined within the document will impact the work of the GFC Executive Committee in the coming months and years.

GFC Secretary Meg Brolley then provided members with an online orientation of resources available on the University Governance website. In addition, she noted changes to the Outline of Issue (OI).

Member and GFC Nominating Committee Chair-Elect Jonathan White pointed out that members of the GFC Executive Committee are also members of the GFC Nominating Committee. He invited members to contact him if they have any questions about this dual role.

**ACTION ITEMS**

5. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To recommend Terms of Reference for the GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority that was established by GFC on May 30, 2016.

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that an earlier version of this document was circulated to members of GFC and Standing Committees during the summer. He noted that once the Terms of Reference are approved by GFC, the Ad Hoc Committee can begin its work to review delegated authority and terms of reference in order to provide recommendations to GFC by April 30, 2017.

Motion: Molzahn/Elliott

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed Terms of Reference for the GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority as set forth in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Membership for the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority

Materials were distributed to members at the meeting and are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To recommend to GFC the approval of the membership of the GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority.

*Discussion:*

The Chair reported that the proposed list of members would be recommended to full GFC for approval at the meeting of September 26, 2016.

During the discussion, members discussed the current vacancy for an undergraduate student member, as well as the possibility of Dean Anita Molzahn providing a link between the Ad Hoc and Executive Committees. A revised list which included an undergraduate student member was provided to the committee for comment after the meeting prior to being included in the GFC agenda.

Motion: Weiss/Collins

THAT the GFC Executive recommend that General Faculties Council approve the membership of the GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority as set out in Attachment 1, effective upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Revisions to the Bloodborne Pathogens Regulation for the University of Alberta Calendar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Nataraj (Nat) Kav; Dean Zaragoza

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To recommend to GFC revisions to the University Bloodborne Pathogens Regulation to align with current practice in infection control and prevention of bloodborne pathogens.

*Discussion*:

The Chair of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC), Dr Nat Kav, provided members with a brief summary of the proposal, noting that GFC ASC recommended that GFC approve the proposal. He stated that the proposal aligns the University's regulations on bloodborne pathogens with current Alberta Health Services (AHS) standards.

During the ensuing discussion, members asked whether students would require all vaccinations under the proposed revisions; Mr Zaragoza clarified that some students may request medical waivers in rare instances. He further noted that the work conducted during the development of these revisions considered how Faculties could work with students to ensure understanding and compliance.

A member pointed out that the proposed regulation spoke to conditions such as tuberculosis which were not bloodborne; a friendly amendment was suggested to revise the name of the proposal to reflect this. Upon further consultation after the meeting, the title of 'University Infectious Diseases Regulation' was agreed upon.

Motion: Collins/White

THAT the GFC Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the GFC Academic Standards Committee, recommend to General Faculties Council the proposed revisions to the University Bloodborne Pathogens Regulation contained in the University Calendar, as set forth in Appendix 1 with a revised title of University Infectious Diseases Regulations, to take effect in 2017/2018.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8. For the Public Good - Update

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s)*: David Turpin; Steven Dew

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To provide members with an update in regards to the new institutional strategic plan, *For the Public Good*.

*Discussion*:

The Chair reported that General Faculties Council (GFC) and the Board of Governors had both unanimously approved *For the Public Good*. Since that time, members of the campus community including the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deans and others within senior leadership had engaged in several sessions aimed at prioritizing elements of the plan as well as the stages and outcomes of implementation.

The Chair explained that the initial process would include the prioritization of activities related to the five pillars within the plan (Build, Experience, Excel, Engage, Sustain), and would also establish measures of

accountability, reporting processes, and the assignment of leads to specific initiatives. He emphasized that these activities will align with Unit plans across the institution. The Chair acknowledged that Objective 21 related to academic governance and is a critical element and a very timely one at the University of Alberta. He further noted that, while some of the initiatives would be led by individual units, others would involve participants from across many units.

He thanked members for their engagement during the consultation and draft process and noted that the Committee would be involved during the implementation of the plan.

9. 9A. Goals from the Students Union (SU) 2016-2017  
9B. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Strategic Work Plan 2016-2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Fahim Rahman; Sarah Ficko

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide the GFC Executive Committee with goals for the 2016-2017 Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA).

*Discussion:*

Students' Union (SU) President Fahim Rahman provided members with the goals of the 2016-2017 SU Executive Team. He reported on key considerations in setting the annual goals, as well as the individual themes of focus for the current academic year, including alignment with student needs, building foundations for student success, learning and affordability and respecting student autonomy. Following his presentation, Mr Rahman clarified the goals in relation to flexible course loads and planning for a cap on international tuition.

Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President Sarah Ficko provided a summary of current initiatives being undertaken by the 2016-2017 GSA Executives. In addition to an explanation of the planning and consultation process, she provided highlights from the current goals, including providing an equitable and welcoming environment for graduate students, ensuring reasonable accommodation for success, as well as continued engagement and advocacy for graduate students.

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

## **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):* David Turpin

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To approve the next Agenda for General Faculties Council (GFC).

*Discussion:*

The Chair invited members to discuss the draft Agenda for the September 26, 2016 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC). Members engaged in a discussion on the GFC Executive Committee's role in recommending items to full GFC.

Motion: Dew/Wilson

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the September 26, 2016 meeting of General Faculties Council.

**CARRIED**

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

12. Election of Chair to GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Meg Brolley

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To advise the GFC Executive Committee on the election of a new Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee for a three year term of office.

*Discussion:*

Ms Brolley informed members that following an open expression of interest process, the GFC Nominating Committee had fully endorsed the nomination of Dr Jonathan White (Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry) as Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee for a three year term ending June 30, 2019.

There was no further discussion.

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

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.