



General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 12, 2021  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Steven Dew  
David Draper  
Anastasia Elias  
Mary Forhan  
Nat Kav  
Christopher Lupke  
Sean McMurtry

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

**REGRETS:**

Adarsh Badesha

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)

*Discussion:*

Before asking for a mover and seconder, the Chair noted that a GFC member had sent a communication with requests regarding the Executive's *ad hoc* committee and their work. He noted that these requests would be reviewed under Item 12.

Motion: McMurtry/Dew

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:*

During his comments the Chair made note of the following:

- the Board/GFC/Senate Summit held on March 26 and the summary of the discussions posted on the Quad;
- the joint meeting with the Board Governance Committee and EXEC; and
- the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) search.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 3. Consent Agenda

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that there was a change to the consent agenda as a member had requested some discussion on the Student Financial Supports Procedure changes, which were related to administrative changes made through the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative. He noted that the item would be deferred and the Registrar's Office would look further into the matter with University Governance and come back to the committee for further discussion at a later date, and that the item would also be pulled from the GFC consent agenda.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Moore/Elias

### 4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session Minutes of March 8, 2021.

**CARRIED**

### 5. Student Financial Support Procedure Updates

Item was deferred.

### 6. Proposal from the Faculty of Science to Add STAT 161, 252, and MATH 154, 146, 214, 125, 225, 144, 156, 215 to the List of Courses with Consolidated Exams

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 125 Linear Algebra to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 144 Calculus for Physical Sciences I to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 146 Calculus for Physical Sciences II to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 125 Linear Algebra to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 156 Calculus for Business and Economics II to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 214 Intermediate Calculus I to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 215 Intermediate Calculus II to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of MATH 225 Linear Algebra II to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of STAT 161 Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of STAT 252 Introduction to Applied Statistics II to the list of courses with Consolidated Final Examinations, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect 2021-2022

**CARRIED**

7. Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement for Graduate Students (formerly titled the Academic Integrity and Ethics Training)

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the revision of the Ethics and Academic Citizenship Requirement (formerly titled the Academic Integrity and Ethics Training Requirement) as set forth in Attachments 1-4, for immediate implementation, and inclusion in the 2022-2023 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Changes to Composition of Faculté Saint-Jean Council, Faculté Saint-Jean

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approves, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of the Faculté Saint-Jean Council as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Changes to Composition of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Faculty Council

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of the Council of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation (KSR) as set forth in Attachment 1, submitted by the Faculty of KSR, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

10. Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR) and Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights (OSDHR) Annual Reports

*Purpose of the Proposal:* HIAR reports annually to GFC Executive and to the Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee on data related to the previous years' reports, services provided, and on priorities. The OSDHR reports annually to General Faculties Council Executive and the Board Audit and Risk Committee on activity and areas of focus.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

11. Proposal for the Establishment of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Chris Andersen, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies; Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

*Discussion:*

Ms Padfield gave an overview of the proposal and the logistics of how CDI would function.

Dr Andersen spoke about his research and experience regarding ancestry and self-identification as the basis for claims of Indigeneity. He noted that the proposal was meant to ensure that the resources go to who they were intended for and empower Indigenous people to make the decisions. He also noted that the proponents were speaking to Indigenous student groups regarding the potential for student involvement in CDI.

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

- Indigenous groups from outside of Canada;
- Indigenous groups whose traditional territory overlapped the Canada and US border;
- regulations regarding the funding and seats for Indigenous students at the University of Alberta;
- the removal of "Canadian" from the proposed committee title because Indigenous groups pre-dated Canada as a country;
- the potential for student involvement on the committee;
- the importance of membership and belonging to a community;
- the rationale for establishing a standing committee of GFC;
- the authority of GFC and the Faculties related to admissions;
- international Indigenous peoples and francophone authentication; and
- whether this committee's authentication could be applied to Indigenous hires in a human resources context.

## 12. Executive *ad hoc* Governance Procedural Review Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary, and co-Chair of Executive *ad hoc* Governance Procedural Review Committee; Moin Yahya, GFC Elected Faculty Member and co-Chair of Executive *ad hoc* Governance Procedural Review Committee; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The proposal is before the committee because of their responsibility for governance procedural oversight. The Executive *ad hoc* committee's work will fulfill GFC's commitment to regular review of its processes.

### *Discussion*:

The Chair spoke about a GFC member's requests related to the work of the *ad hoc* committee. He explained that the *ad hoc* committee had no authority to make decisions and all of its recommendations would come back to EXEC and GFC. He also noted that both the *ad hoc* Review and the Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole were on the GFC Agenda for the April 26 meeting.

A member asked about how the members of the *ad hoc* were chosen. Ms Peters explained that the composition was a mix of EXEC and GFC members who had indicated interest in GFC procedures and who were asked to participate. She noted that in the case of those asked, there was an attempt to find a broad range of perspectives and to have a balanced committee.

Mr Hamdon gave an overview of the committee's workplan and the updated terms of reference.

Dr Yahya spoke about committee's discussion of their mandate and scope of work including their responsibility to EXEC and GFC. He noted that there was no expectation that the *ad hoc* would do the work described in the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole but would discuss and report to EXEC with advice.

Ms Peters noted that the discussions so far had focused on decision-making, voting, agenda items, special meetings, question period, debate and member engagement.

Mr Hamdon observed that there were no clear recommendations yet but that the *ad hoc* hoped to share some early draft documents with GFC in the coming weeks.

A member asked why the committee was also looking at the Principles for GFC Delegation of Authority and the Principles for GFC Standing Committee Composition. Ms Peters answered that GFC had committed to a three year review of its guiding documents and terms of reference.

A member noted his concerns about the relationship between GFC and the Board of Governors and between the Board of Governors and the Provincial Government. He noted his opinion that the independence of the Board had been eroded.

The Chair spoke about the upcoming Alberta government's *Review 2030* and the potential for the university to be deconsolidated which would enhance institutional autonomy.

### 13. Development of a GFC Position on Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee in response to a recommendation included in the report generated from the committee of the whole discussion at the GFC meeting on February 8, 2021.

#### *Discussion:*

Provost Dew spoke about the three proposed metrics: Cost-Reduction, Service Quality, and Interdisciplinarity. He noted that many of the outcomes of Academic Restructuring and the Colleges were impossible to separate from the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiatives and that the shared outcomes were reduced costs and maintenance of service quality. He explained that developing metrics related to Interdisciplinarity were especially challenging because defining and quantifying interdisciplinarity consistently across the spectrum of scholarly work was not feasible. He indicated that a phased approach would be preferable with a specific financial metric to look at cost-recovery, monitoring of service quality as changes rolled out, recognizing that different services were being restructured at different times, and a more comprehensive and qualitative analysis of interdisciplinarity, ideally after eighteen months.

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

- metrics related to student services in the Colleges;
- SET's commitment to gather regular feedback from those served and continuous improvement of service quality;
- that it was necessary to have conversations about interdisciplinarity within the Faculties and Colleges;
- that interdisciplinarity was difficult to define and even more difficult to measure;
- whether the university could determine what they were trying to achieve with interdisciplinarity and why;
- the importance of exit surveys for services as well as broader surveys that may capture those who are having trouble accessing services;
- SET's plan to launch high-level monthly surveys of stakeholders; and
- the university's use of UniForum's annual quality surveys.

### 14. Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole

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:* The purpose of this proposal is to continue to update GFC on the actions taken as a result of the recommendations of the report of the committee of the whole on February 8, 2021, and to support decision-making as a result of the report.

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that recommendations 1, 3 and 4 had already been discussed and that recommendation 5 resulted in a motion that was brought for approval at the last meeting of GFC. He noted that the remaining recommendation 2, concerning collaboration between the Board and GFC, had resulted in a meeting of EXEC and the Board Governance Committee (BGC) on March 31 and that this was an opportunity for EXEC to discuss that meeting.

Dr Moore was invited to start the discussion and he noted that BGC seemed to be open to the idea of joint meetings for advisory purposes.

The Chair remarked that there would be a follow up joint meeting of EXEC and BGC scheduled soon.

15. Question Period

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

*Discussion:*

A member noted that it had almost been a year since President Flanagan arrived at the University of Alberta and asked for his impressions.

The Chair replied that this had been a challenging year for the university and the community was pulling together in the face of those challenges. He observed that critical inquiry was part of the nature of universities and that members were passionate because they were debating important matters. He acknowledged that the University of Alberta mattered to the future of the people of Alberta and he felt privileged to be able to participate in something so significant.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

16. 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

*Discussion:*

The Chair reminded members that the item on updates to the Student Financial Support Procedures would be removed from the draft agenda as discussed.

Motion: Mocquais/Moore

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| THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the April 26, 2021 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended. |
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**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

18. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

19. Adjournment  
- Next Meeting of EXEC: May 10, 2021  
- Next Meeting of GFC: June 7, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.