



General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Jason Acker
J Nelson Amaral
Heather Coleman
Steven Dew
Anastasia Elias
Nat Kav

Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Abner Monteiro
Melissa Padfield
Jerine Pegg
Moin Yahya
non-voting:
Kate Peters

REGRETS:

Ghalia Aamer
Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon

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 calling the meeting to order, the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people.

The Chair noted that there was no question period on the agenda so proposed an amendment to add it after item 8 and before the GFC agenda items.

Motion: Acker/Mocquais

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted that he would ask for an update from the chair of the GFC ad hoc Committee for the Formal Review of the Consultations and Action Processes for Academic Restructuring in the fall of 2020 during item 7. He also suggested that Executive Committee revisit the discussion on meeting format for GFC at the March 14 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 10, 2022

Item was deferred.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Notice of Motion – Changes to Composition of General Faculties Council (GFC) and to the Reapportionment Procedure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): J Nelson Amaral, Elected Faculty Member of GFC

Purpose of the Proposal: At the January 31, 2022 meeting, a member made a Notice of Motion as set out in 8.7 of the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules (MPR) for debate at the next meeting of GFC. GFC Executive Committee is asked to recommend on a motion to change the composition of General Faculties Council by adding 8 additional appointed elected faculty and 8 elected student members as set out in Section 25 of the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) for a total of 173 members.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that the notice of motion as submitted by Dr Amaral had been revised to ensure compliance with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) and to clarify the decision that GFC was being asked to make.

Dr Amaral indicated that the four appointed members of senior administration should be balanced out by an additional eight elected faculty members and eight elected student members and that any time GFC chose to add more members of senior administration, additional elected faculty and students should be added as well.

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

- concerns about adding to the already considerable size of GFC;
- that members of administration made up 19% of GFC membership at present and approval of this motion would change that to 17%;
- whether there were other ways to address the issues without adding to the size of GFC;
- concern about trying to address this in a piecemeal fashion without a more comprehensive review of GFC's composition;
- an observation that the "spirit of the PSLA" was that the faculty members would be the most numerous group;
- an opinion that changes were being made on campus to increase the power of administration and take power away from the "rank and file" faculty members;
- whether the limits of Council Chamber should be a consideration when deciding the size of GFC;
- a concern that there had been many vacancies in student seats in the past and a response that the process to fill in-year vacancies had been amended and there were only two student vacancies at present and in the previous year there had been none;
- a recognition that student voices made the university's governing bodies stronger;
- a concern that faculty members were underrepresented and an observation that this motion would not really change that;
- an opinion that GFC's composition should be reconsidered;
- that GFC's composition was due to be reviewed in the fall; and
- a remark that GFC's review could proceed whether or not this motion was approved at GFC.

Motion: Acker/Elias

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve changes to the GFC composition as set out in attachment 1, effective April 1, 2022.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the Committee on the Learning Environment and the Proposed Disbanding of the Facilities Development Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the addition of delegated authority from the Board of Governors to the Academic Planning Committee and the Committee on the Learning Environment to enable the proposed disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC).

Discussion:

Ms Peters provided some background on the conversations and consultation to date including advice from Exec's Subcommittee on Governance Procedural Oversight to emphasize that this should be done as a two-step process. The first step would be to disband the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC) and move its delegated authority to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) to ensure no interruption in decision-making. The second step would be to complete a comprehensive review of APC and CLE's terms of reference, as scheduled, in fall 2022.

Members discussed:

- the importance of the next phase of the review of terms of reference and delegated authorities;
- how decisions around space reduction and use would be made;
- the authority of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) to allocate space;
- the space audit that was underway and the potential for APC's input;
- whether FDC did not meet because the committee was not consulted and whether their function could be re-thought;
- work that had been done to re-invigorate the FDC including regular updates on facilities planning and initiatives; and
- the recent changes to APC's terms of reference related to programs which would free that committee up to take on this responsibility which was well aligned with its mandate.

6. Review of the GFC Guiding Documents

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the proposed revisions to the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules regarding special meetings, tabling items and debate and to discuss the approval path for the GFC Guiding Documents.

Discussion:

Ms Peters provided a brief introduction of the proposed changes to the procedures regarding special meetings, extending meetings, postponing items, and alternating debate.

Members discussed:

- whether a two-thirds majority should be required to schedule a special meeting;
- that a special meeting would need to have a quorum in order to make decisions;
- whether requiring a two-thirds majority vote to extend a meeting would address matters of equity;
- variations in what tabling or postponing a motion meant in different contexts; and
- how alternating debate could be managed and whether it needed to be enshrined in the procedural rules.

In addition, members agreed that the language regarding question period procedures should be softened and that a time limit for debate should not be included in the rules. Ms Peters explained that, because of the changes, Executive Committee would have to rescind their previous motion and recommend a revised package to GFC. She noted that this would be on the agenda for the March Executive and GFC meetings.

7. Update on the 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 in response to the recommendations of the report of the committee of the whole on February 8, 2021.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that two of the recommendations were still in progress: recommendation 3, on improving consultation, and recommendation 4, on the review of decision-making.

GFC Secretary Kate Peters referred members to attachment 3 in the materials related to University Governance's responsibility related to improving consultation.

Heather Coleman, Chair of the GFC ad hoc Committee for the Formal Review of the Consultations and Action Processes for Academic Restructuring in the fall of 2020, noted that the committee had begun drafting their report and hoped to have it ready for the March meeting of Executive Committee.

8. Update from the GFC Executive Committee Subcommittee on Governance Procedural Rules and Oversight (GPO)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jason Acker, Elected Faculty Member of GFC and Chair of GPO

Discussion:

Dr Acker provided a brief update on the work of GPO and pointed members to the link in the agenda to the Workplan. He noted that the Workplan was a public document and would continue to be updated as the subcommittee worked through the reviews.

Question Period

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

Discussion:

A member expressed concern regarding a branding exercise survey that the university was using that had outdated, colonial, and sexist language and no mention of academic excellence or commitment to the public good. She asked what measures would be made to ensure in depth consultation with staff and students.

Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steve Dew replied that the Vice-President (External Relations) had already issued an apology about that survey, that her office was committed to engaging an Equity, Diversity, and

Inclusion (EDI) working group, and that he was sure she would commit to engaging with students and staff as well.

PREPARATION OF THE GFC AGENDA

9. **Information - Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2021-22**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. **Discussion - College Strategic Plans**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. **Action - Faculty of Education Restructuring**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Tupper, Dean, Faculty of Education; Lynn McGarvey, Vice Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the change to a non-departmentalized structure of the Faculty of Education.

Discussion:

Members asked questions about the status of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) within the proposed non-departmentalized structure and expressed concerns related to clarifying that status in the proposal.

Dean Tupper explained that SLIS would remain a distinct academic unit according to the specific requirements set out in the accreditation standards. She noted that there was variance in the structure of such units across institutions, as they must also operate within each institutional framework.

Members asked that this be made clear in the proposal and Dean Tupper agreed to update the materials to clarify the status of SLIS in the proposed structure.

12. **Action - Approval of the Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy Suite and Rescission of GFC Policy Manual Section 111: Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. **Action - Approval of the Proposed Residence Community Standards Policy Suite and Rescission of the Current University of Alberta Residence Community Standards Policy**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

ACTION ITEMS

14. **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:

Members discussed the proposed agenda and agreed that the discussion items: Path Forward for the Review of the GFC Guiding Documents, College Strategic Plans, and Update on the Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole, would be included for information instead of discussion, and that the timing for those items would be reallocated to the other items. They also agreed that the agenda would be approved by e-vote later in the week once the updates to the Faculty of Education Restructuring materials were made and the members were satisfied that their concerns were addressed.

Motion: Kav/Mocquais

Approved by e-vote February 18, 2022

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the February 28, 2022 meeting of General Faculties Council, as amended and set forth in the Email Attachment.

CARRIED

INFORMATION REPORTS

15. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
-LWOP Memo to GFC Exec and BOG
-Membership of the AIT
-Final Recommendations of the BGC and GFC Exec Joint Meetings

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of Exec: March 14, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: February 28, 2022

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