

General Faculties Council  
Executive Committee (EXEC)  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2023  
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31  
2:00 PM - 3:10 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Jerine Pegg  
Pedro Almeida  
Rija Kamran  
Christopher Lupke  
Spencer Proctor

Tracy Raivio  
Dan Romanyk  
Nese Yuksel  
*non-voting:*  
Brad Hamdon  
Kate Peters

**REGRETS:**

Jelena Holovati  
Shanthy Johnson  
Norma Rodenburg  
Aiman Saif  
Verna Yiu

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged the territory. He welcomed the new student members and led a round of introductions.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that item 4 would be deferred until the next meeting.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Executive Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

In his comments the Chair made note of the election of Dilini Vethanayagam to a second three-year term as the GFC Nominee to the Board and asked the governance team to provide an update on the ranked voting process. He also spoke about the upcoming GFC Standing Committee replenishment; the employee engagement survey; and provided an update on the University Secretary search.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 3, 2023

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the open session minutes of April 3, 2023.

**CARRIED**

4. Kinesiology Sport & Recreation Faculty Council Composition

Item was deferred.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Update on the work of the Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research); Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment)

*Discussion:*

The Chair spoke about GFC's unanimous endorsement of *Braiding Past, Present, and Future, the University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan* one year ago and the plan's call for Indigenous leadership to work to reclaim Indigenous identities, languages, cultures, and worldviews. He made note of the work of GFC's standing committees to integrate *Braiding* into their decision-making and the work of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI). He noted that in light of EXEC's responsibilities over governance procedures and terms of reference, the co-chairs of CDI agreed to provide an update on the work of the committee.

F Glanfield spoke about the responsibility of the committee to determine the standards, and approve policy and *Calendar* language respecting the documentation of Indigeneity in Canada for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students with respect to admissions and awards that were specifically meant for Indigenous students. She noted the controversies over the past few years of non-Indigenous students having access to these opportunities. She explained that all the voting members of the committee are Indigenous staff, students, and community members, and that non-Indigenous staff members also provide support to the committee. She spoke about Article 33 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Second Principle, which both speak to the rights of self-determination. She acknowledged the sensitivity of CDI's work and noted that all deliberations of the committee are held in closed session.

M Padfield added that the committee did not evaluate identity but rather documentation for the purpose of admission and awards.

The Chair noted that the University of Alberta was a national leader in this matter. F Glanfield noted that CDI focussed on students but similar questions about staff documentation were emerging as a national conversation.

Members asked for clarification on the role of the committee, the Office of the Registrar, and the individual Faculties and heard that the list of acceptable documentation was published in the *University Calendar*.

F Glanfield noted there would be a TRC dashboard launched in the fall (Item 8.F.) to both acknowledge harm and recognize the work done across the University to respond to the TRC's Calls to Action.

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Proposed Changes to the GFC Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Jerine Pegg, Professor and Chair of Executive's Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight

*Discussion*:

J Pegg provided an overview of the proposed changes noting that they did not include changes to the composition apart from formatting to add some clarity to the categories of appointed members.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Terms of Reference as set forth in attachment 1, and receive for information the Reapportionment Procedure which has been reformatted for clarity, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Clean Air Strategy (no documents)

*Presenter(s)*: Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

*Discussion*:

The Chair noted that at the April 17, 2023 meeting of GFC, a member asked about the Clean Air Strategy and he committed to bring the discussion to EXEC. He explained that this item was brought to EXEC in September 2021 for placement on the GFC agenda but at that time EXEC felt that additional consultation was required before it could go to GFC for decision.

A Sharman spoke about the motion passed by GFC in March 2018: "THAT General Faculties Council direct administration to develop a clean air strategy to minimize student, staff, and faculty exposure to smoke from cigarettes, inhaled cannabis, vapes and hookah pipes." He noted that a working group had done significant consultation before bringing a recommendation forward to EXEC in 2021. He also noted that there are two main opinions that conflicted: one that a complete ban is the way forward; and another that a complete ban would disproportionately affect vulnerable members of the University community. He further noted that he was willing to bring the recommendation back to EXEC in the fall so that it could move forward to GFC.

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

- A concern that people did not respect the current City of Edmonton bylaws and that a complete ban would protect those with pulmonary issues;
- Questions about the package and information gathered by the working group;
- Confirmation that the proposal included cigarettes and vapes;
- Concerns raised by students in earlier conversations about whether a complete ban would be enforced by Campus Security and the impact on vulnerable and racialized people;
- The importance of communication if a complete ban was approved; and
- Whether a partial ban and designated smoking areas were feasible on campus.

**PREPARATION OF THE GFC AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

8. A. School of Library and Information Studies  
B. FGSR Graduate Exam Committee Membership  
C. University Strategic Plan (no documents)  
D. Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework  
E. Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation  
F. TRC Report to Community Dashboard (Update)  
G. Budget Model 2.0

### **ACTION ITEMS**

9. 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, Chair of EXEC

#### *Discussion:*

Members discussed the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) item to clarify the status of SLIS under the non-departmentalized structure in the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)'s proposed changes to graduate exam committees. Members decided that the FGSR item should not be on the consent agenda and determined that it should be a stand-alone item. Members also agreed that the GFC Composition discussion should be deferred and Question Period should be scheduled for 20 minutes.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the May 29, 2023 meeting of General Faculties Council, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings  
- **\*\*ACTION REQUIRED\*\*** Electronic Vote

### **CLOSING SESSION**

12. Adjournment  
- Next Meeting of Exec: June 19, 2023  
- Next Meeting of GFC: May 29, 2023