



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 02, 2016  
Council Chamber, University Hall  
2:00 PM-4:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

David Turpin	Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Chris Andersen	Member, Dean, Native Studies (Interim)
Susan Andrew	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Marina Banister	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)
Howard Bashaw	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Beamish	Member, Dean, Science (Acting), Statutory
Gerald Beasley	Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Darcy Bemister	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Faiza Billo	Member, Board of Governors Representative, NASA Appointee
Vic Adamowicz (Delegate)	Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Statutory
Michelle Borowitz	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sylvia Brown	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather Bruce	Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Deborah Burshtyn	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Alicia Cappello	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Colin Champagne	Member, Board of Governors Representative
Shreyak Chaplot	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Phyllis Clark	Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
Lisa Collins	Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory
David Cooper	Member, Board of Governors Representative and AASUA Appointee
Pamela Mayne Correia	Member, Academic Staff (FSO), FSO (Academic Staff Representative)
Benjamin Denga	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Steven Dew	Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Francesca El Ghossein	Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life
Tarek El-Bialy	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Duncan Elliott	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Shannon Erichsen	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Robin Everall	Member, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Richard N Fedorak	Member, Dean, Medicine and Dentistry (Interim)
Sarah Ficko	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Graduate Students' Association)
Kyle Foster	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Kim Frail	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Lise Gotell	Member, Dean, Arts (Acting), Statutory
Meor M Hakeem	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Shumaila Hemani	Member, Graduate Student at-Large

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Don Hickey	Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Calvin Howard	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Jennifer Jay	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Michal Juhas	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Paul Jurasz	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Maryam Kebbe	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
James Kehrer	Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Firouz Khodayari	Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)
Maryse Ndilu Kiese	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Alex Kwan	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Reed Larsen	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cerina Lee	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Bernard Lemire	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Monica Lillo	Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Wei Liu	Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)
Mark Loewen	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kathleen Lowrey	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Godfrey Man	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Maria Mayan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Pierre-Yves Mocquais	Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Debra Pozega Osburn	Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Fahim Rahman	Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Students' Union)
Bahador Rashidi	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Leonard Ratzlaff	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jeremy Richards	Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee
Carolyn Sale	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Peter Smith	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Kim Solez	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Terry Sperling	Member, Academic Staff (APO), APO (Academic Staff Representative)
Marcia Spetch	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bruce Sutherland	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Amy Tse	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mirko van der Baan	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Elizabeth Wallace	Member, University Library Academic Staff
Akiko Watanabe	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jonathan White	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brayden Whitlock	Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sheena Wilson	Member, Statutory Academic Staff
 <u>Presenter(s):</u>	
David Turpin	President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)
Duncan Elliott	Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group
Mirko van der Baan	Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Operations  
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

Prior to the approval of the Agenda, the Chair reminded members of the role of the GFC Executive Committee in approving the agenda and outlined the process for members adding items to the agenda. He encouraged members to contact the GFC Secretary for assistance in preparing such submissions.

Motion: Mocquais/Burshtyn

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 21, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Collins/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of March 21, 2015.

**CARRIED**

3. Report from the President

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

*Discussion:*

The Chair welcomed new student members to their first GFC meeting. He noted that they were full voting members of GFC and encouraged them to engage fully in academic governance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Discussion:*

A member corrected the spelling of a student member name within Motion II.

Motion I: Mocquais/Cooper

**MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:**

The following undergraduate student members elected by the Students' Union (SU) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for terms that are concurrent with their terms on the Board (May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017):

Fahim Rahman  
President, Students' Union (SU)

Colin Champagne  
Board of Governors Representative

The following graduate student member elected by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with her term on the Board (May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017):

Sarah Ficko  
President, Graduate Students' Association

**CARRIED**

Motion II: Pozega Osburn/van der Baan

**MOTION II: TO RECEIVE [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:**

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students' Union (SU) to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017:

Marina Banister, Vice-President (Academic), SU  
Francesca El Ghossein, Vice-President (Student Life), SU

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to serve on GFC for a term beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017:

Firouz Khodayari, Vice-President (Academic), GSA

The following undergraduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017:

Hasan Birer, Faculty of Arts  
Bismillah Kiani, Faculty of Arts  
Reed Larsen, Faculty of Arts  
Monica Lillo, Faculty of Arts  
LJ Valencia, Faculty of Arts  
Nicole Hammond, Alberta School of Business  
Xiaoqi Deng, Faculty of Engineering  
Meor M. Hakeem, Faculty of Engineering  
Dorsa Nahid, Faculty of Engineering  
Henry Su, Faculty of Engineering  
Jason R. Wang, Faculty of Engineering

Andy Cajina, Faculte Saint-Jean  
Elizabeth Chen, Faculty of Law  
Umer Farooq, Faculty of Science  
Alex Kwan, Faculty of Science  
Calvin Howard, Faculty of Science  
Xingyu Liu, Faculty of Science  
Habba Mahal, Faculty of Science  
Andrew Newman, Faculty of Science  
Kevin Wang, Faculty of Science  
Abhishek Warriier, Faculty of Science

The following graduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017:

Ahmad Al-Dabbagh, Engineering  
Alicia Cappello, Arts  
Shreyak Chaplot, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences  
Michal Juhas, Science  
Cerina Lee, School of Public Health  
Brayden Whitlock, Medicine and Dentistry  
Darcy Bemister, Science  
Michelle Borowitz, Arts  
Benjamin Denga, Education  
Kyle Foster, Science  
Shumaila Hemani, Arts  
Maryam Kebbe, Medicine and Dentistry  
Maryse Ndilu Kiese, Arts  
Bahador Rashidi, Engineering

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2016 and extending for the duration of his re-appointment:

Allen Berger, Dean, Faculty of Augustana and Executive Office of Augustana Campus

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2016 and extending for the duration of his appointment:

Andre Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning September 1, 2016 and extending for the duration of his appointment:

Neal Davies, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The following statutory faculty member who has been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for term of office beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019:

Jorge Sousa, Faculty of Education

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 5. Academic Governance and Delegated Authority: Report of Working Group and Discussion of GFC Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Duncan Elliott, Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group; Mirko van der Baan, Member, GFC Executive Committee and Co-Chair, Academic Governance Working Group

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide General Faculties Council (GFC) with an update from the Academic Governance Working Group. To engage GFC in a discussion on the terms of reference of GFC with particular attention to “3. Mandate of the Committee”. GFC will be asked to consider: Are we living up to the principles of the Mandate? What is the desired level of clarity on delegated authority? Is current practice matching the Mandate? Are we striking a correct balance between full delegation and no delegation? Are appropriate matters being referred to full GFC from Standing Committees? Is this your vision of Academic Governance?

*Discussion:*

Dr Elliott reported that the Academic Governance Working Group had added a number of new members and had met several times since the March GFC meeting. He noted that the Working Group identified a number of operational improvements that had been implemented and initiated a process to review the Terms of Reference for each GFC Standing Committee.

Dr Elliott provided an overview of GFC’s authority over academic affairs as articulated in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)* and spoke of the shared governance model utilized by the University. He then spoke on the principles of delegation.

Dr van der Baan, as Chair of the GFC Nominating Committee, gave an overview of the processes used to fill GFC and GFC Standing Committee vacancies emphasizing that the Nominating Committee strives to ensure that there is a breadth of representation from across the University and that the interests and expertise of the applicants are considered. He pointed out that most of the Nominating Committee members also sit on the Executive Committee and hence a separate committee (Replenishment) is responsible for providing candidates to GFC in this instance.

A member expressed concern that the process seems restricted to those members already involved and that creating a bank of names to fill vacancies limited the ability of members to serve on committees. Dr van der Baan acknowledged that the Terms of Reference in this regard are out of date with current practice and reiterated the commitment to broad representation on standing committees.

Members engaged in a discussion of the mandate of GFC. Members raised the following issues: how are strong divisions within committees identified and brought forward; how much can GFC rely on Chair’s instinct to bring items forward; how does research fit in; technology enhanced participation should be available for online students to be able to participate in governance; GFC could benefit from seeing materials seen by the Academic Planning Committee (APC); GFC maintains the right to comment on anything of interest to the university.

A question arose about revisions to the PSLA; the Provost noted that changes to the Act would likely be limited to those related to the new labour legislation.

The Chair noted that although Chairs of GFC Standing Committees may play some part in setting the Agendas, most items come from other places. He emphasized that as Chair of GFC, he tries to ensure that GFC is engaged in big, strategic issues at the academy. A member suggested that the language within GFC's Terms of Reference could be strengthened in this regard to clarify that GFC should be the body to review important academic issues.

After a review of GFC's specific powers under the *PSLA*, members commented on whether the list was reflective of current practices or whether changes to the delegations were necessary. Comments provided included: the intersection of operational and academic affairs merits additional review including such things as the decision to transition the Centre for Writers from the Faculty of Arts; and the issues of delegation are complex and require more time to consider.

The Chair indicated that the work of unravelling past delegations is significant and thanked members of the Working Group and University Governance for their hard work in doing so for this meeting.

Members discussed the delegated authorities of GFC's Standing Committees and the balance of such delegations. On this point, the Chair noted that governance review is dependent on the contents of each proposal and that some items are approved by GFC while others must go forward to the Board of Governors. He reminded members that the Board of Governors retains ultimate authority over academic affairs of the University of Alberta and that preserving the roles of each body within the bicameral system of governance is critical to the success of the institution. He stated that in his role, he must ensure that the separate areas are clearly respected.

In response to a member's question, the Chair provided members with the history of General Faculties Council and why the University of Alberta Senate does not have the authority over institutional academic affairs. A question arose in relation to student discipline and a member expressed concern about the appeal process related to the Student Groups procedure. A GFC member serving on the Academic Planning Committee commented that delegation is an active process where committee members act on the behalf of GFC; he noted that trust in the individuals sitting on committees to exercise delegated authority appropriately is a paramount issue of consideration.

Members then engaged in discussion on the use of consent agendas, academic governance training opportunities, secret voting at GFC, clarifying the student role on GFC and making the process clearer to students. A member spoke in favour of constructive, collegial debate at GFC meetings. A member stated that the procedural rules of GFC seem ad hoc and unclear; the Chair commented that members of GFC have rejected the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order several times. Several student members commented that the 2:00 p.m. start time is problematic and that there was not enough advanced notification about today's meeting given that their terms had commenced May 1.

The Chair thanked members for their comments and reminded members that there is only one more meeting of GFC this academic year. He emphasized that reviewing GFC and its nine Standing Committees is an extremely complicated but very important exercise.

## 6. Question Period

### *Discussion:*

GFC member Dr Carolyn Sale enquired about the status of the Centre for Writers and requested additional information on its establishment and future organizational and administrative structure. Along with several other members, she expressed her support for the continuation of the Centre for Writers as a free and open resource for students, as currently provided through the Faculty of Arts. Several members pointed out that GFC should

have an opportunity to consider changes to the Centre for Writers, as it provides a valuable academic service to students. A member added that a faculty member has been removed as Director, with an administrator being installed in her place. She explained that this would impact the mentorship and teaching activities currently underway at the Centre for Writing. A member noted that the former Academic Director was key to providing tutor training and support, as well. The Chair replied that this issue would be reviewed and a response would be provided at the next meeting.

A GFC member asked where GFC Standing Committee vacancies were posted; in response, GFC Secretary Meg Brolley noted that there is an active link on each GFC Agenda leading to the University Governance website clearly outlining all vacancies and the processes to apply for them.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

7. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (April 11, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

8. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (March 23, April 20, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (March 17, April 21, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the Board of Governors (March 18, 2016)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Information forwarded to GFC Members between Meetings

There were no items.

13. Reports

There were no items.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.