



General Faculties Council  
 Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 25, 2017  
 Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)  
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:**

**Statutory Members:**

***Ex-Officio:***

David Turpin, Chair  
 Chris Andersen  
 Lisa Collins  
 Lesley Cormack  
 Greta Cummings  
 Kathleen DeLong  
 Steven Dew  
 Walter Dixon  
 Joseph Doucet  
 Gitta Kulczycki  
 Pierre-Yves Mocuqais  
 Kerry Mummery  
 Paul Paton  
 Jonathan Schaeffer  
 Andrew Sharman  
 Jacqui Tam  
 Jennifer Tupper  
 Heather Zwicker

***Elected faculty:***

Jason Acker  
 Susan Andrew  
 Jeff Birchall  
 Cary Brown  
 Sylvia Brown  
 Peter Carver  
 Ryan Dunch  
 Tarek El-Bialy  
 Duncan Elliott  
 Nadir Erbilgin  
 Dean Eurich  
 Bill Foster  
 Kim Frail  
 Murray Gingras  
 Lesley Harrington  
 Eva Lemaire  
 Pierre Lemelin

Mark Loewen  
 Lisa McDermott  
 Rob McMahon  
 Lynn McMullen  
 Al Meldrum  
 Alice Nakamura  
 Carla Peck  
 Leonard Ratzlaff  
 Carolyn Sale  
 Jorge Sousa  
 Lisa Stein  
 Eleni Stroulia  
 Brent Swallow  
 Benjamin Tucker  
 Dilini Vethanayagam  
 Akiko Watanabe  
 Ian Winship

***Students:***

Firouz Khodayari  
 Shane Scott  
 Ilya Ushakov

**Appointed**

**Members:**

Solomon Amoateng  
 Ruben Araya  
 Marina Banister  
 Matthew Barnett  
 Darcy Bemister  
 Robert Bilak  
 Katherine Binhammer  
 Michelle Borowitz  
 Meijun Chen  
 Darren Choi  
 André Costopoulos  
 Jonah Dunch  
 Kyle Foster  
 Srosh Hassan

Connor Hastey  
 Palindat  
 Delane Howie  
 Maryam Kebbe  
 Maryse Ndilu Kiese  
 Monica Lillo  
 Steven Lin  
 Kyle Monda  
 Sean Oliver  
 Michael Sandare  
 Babak Soltannia  
 Andrews Tawiah  
 James Thibaudeau  
 LJ Valencia  
 Amanda Wakaruk  
 Janet Williamson  
 Ziyu Yang

**REGRETS:**

Katherine Aitchison  
 Allen Berger  
 Stanford Blade  
 Abigail Bridarolli  
 Heather Bruce  
 Katy Campbell  
 Li-Kwong Cheah  
 Brandon Christensen  
 David Cooper  
 Pamela Mayne  
 Correia  
 Neal Davies  
 Benjamin Denga  
 Genna DiPinto  
 Shannon Erichsen  
 Shawn Flynn  
 Fraser Forbes  
 Adam Gaudry  
 Robert Haennel

Daanish Hamid  
 Irehobhude Iyioha  
 Mahmoud Kenawi  
 Dennis Kunimoto  
 Alex Kwan  
 Leijun Li  
 Wei Liu  
 Habba Mahal  
 Godfrey Man  
 Heather McCaw  
 Laurie Mereu  
 Roger Moore  
 Vivian Mushahwar  
 Katelynn Nguyen  
 Anthony Nguyen  
 Smit Patel  
 Georg Schmolzer  
 Marc Secanell  
 Carrie Smith-Prei  
 Kim Solez  
 Sarah Stahlke  
 Bruce Sutherland  
 Amy Tse  
 Eddie Wang  
 Bonnie Watt  
 Jonathan White  
 Brayden Whitlock  
 Erin Wright  
 Kue Young

**STAFF:**

Meg Brolley, GFC  
 Secretary  
 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: Dew/Cormack

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of June 5, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Dew/Nakamura

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of June 5, 2017.

**CARRIED**

### 3. A. Indigenous Welcome B. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

#### *Discussion:*

Following an Indigenous welcome provided by Ms Marilyn Buffalo, the Chair welcomed special guests from the University of Alberta Senate and all new and returning members of GFC, including several new Deans and Senior Administrators.

The Chair then provided a summary of the Board of Governors retreat, the status of the provincial reviews of the funding model and tuition review, an update on the bargaining process, a reminder of the importance of donating to the United Way campaign launching in October, and a summary of advocacy efforts in support of the recommendations within the Naylor Report. The Chair thanked members for their participation in recent Green and Gold Day events, Alumni Weekend, and the Canada 150 celebration at South Campus.

Following these opening remarks, members discussed the use of the term “fake news” within the President’s Report.

### 4. New Members of GFC

[Note: A motion to appoint may be proposed only by a statutory member of GFC. A motion to receive may be proposed by any member of GFC.]

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To appoint, re-appoint and receive new members of General Faculties Council.

#### *Discussion:*

GFC Secretary Meg Brolley provided a verbal update of two additional names for consideration.



Rob McMahon	Faculty of Extension
Katherine Aitchison	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Tarek El-Bialy	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Vivian Mushahwar	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Georg Schmolzer	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Ian Winship	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. A. Goals from the Students Union (SU) 2017-2018  
B. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Strategic Work Plan 2017-2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Marina Banister, President, Students' Union; Babak Soltannia, President, Graduate Students' Association

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide members with the strategic goals of the Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) for 2017-2018.

*Discussion:*

Following the presentations delivered by Ms Banister and Mr Soltannia on the current strategic goals of the Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association for 2017-2018, questions arose during the discussion in relation to funding advocacy as well as use of the CPI in tuition calculations.

6. University of Alberta Senate Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Douglas Stollery, Chancellor

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide members with a summary of the Senate Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

*Discussion:*

Chancellor Stollery provided a brief summary of the Senate Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to members, noting that five goals will be tackled in the coming year. These goals are based on the themes of the Senate's role: Connect, Inquire, and Promote.

There was no further discussion.

7. Budget Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide GFC with an update of the university budget.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew and Ms Kulczycki provided an overview of the University of Alberta budget framework.

Dr Dew provided an update on the current provincial government reviews of tuition and the funding model, both of which will impact the university's budget. He indicated that these reviews will be complete sometime this fall.

Ms Kulczycki presented the financial overview of the institutional budget including current financial challenges. These include provincial funding uncertainties tied to the Alberta economy and the ongoing structural deficit at the university.

Dr Dew reported that there are several budget initiatives in development at the university including the creation of the new budget model, planning framework and annual budget cycle, and the utilization of uPlan software intended to support the budget planning process.

During the discussion, members enquired about the benefit of the one-year budget framework and Faculty involvement in budget framework decisions.

**ACTION ITEMS**

8. Proposed Changes to the University of Alberta Convocation Admission

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Douglas Stollery, Chancellor

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To discuss and approve proposed changes to the University of Alberta Convocation Admission.

*Discussion:*

Chancellor Stollery reported that, since his initial consultation with GFC, the Chaplains' Association provided a range of feedback on this proposal including a perceived lack of spirituality in the language of the Convocation Admission.

During the ensuing discussion, the Chancellor addressed a question around whether the proposed changes isolate people of faith.

Motion: Doucet/Banister

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Convocation Admission, as set forth in Attachment 1, and as proposed by the University of Alberta Senate, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Increase to Required English Language Proficiency (ELP) Scores for Undergraduate Admission

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To make changes to the minimum overall TOEFL score and the minimum band score for the IELTS Academic to better support student success and increase the likelihood of improved academic outcomes. The proposed changes are supported by research undertaken by the Office of the Registrar.

*Discussion:*

Ms Collins provided members with a summary of the proposal. She noted that research conducted by Enrolment Management in the Office of the Registrar showed the correlation between a higher overall ELP score and student success in first year courses, as indicated by final GPA and/or course withdrawals. She added that the proposed requirements align with those of the other U15 institutions.

Ms Collins, during the discussion, noted that students not admitted due to the increased requirement would still be able to apply to the university through the Bridging program.

Motion: Collins/Cormack

THAT General Faculties Council approve:

- the minimum overall TOEFL score be increased 4 points to 90, with no change to the required score of 21 on each band.

- the minimum band score for the IELTS Academic be increased from 5.0 to 5.5, with no change to the required minimum overall score of 6.5

as recommended by the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Academic Standards Committee, as set forth in Attachment 4, to take effect fall 2018.

**CARRIED**

10. Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) on Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation and the Use of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an Evaluation Tool

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Sarah Forgie, Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment; Norma Nocente, Associate Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL); L Francisco Vargas, Research Coordinator

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) was requested by GFC to report on research into the use of student rating mechanisms of instruction in university courses. This report fulfills this request.

*Discussion:*

Prior to the presentation on the Report, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services Meg Brolley provided an update to members on the amended wording of the original motion to include the term “non-discriminatory”, and that although the meeting material did not include the term, the Report did address it.

Chair of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Sarah Forgie provided members with a summary of the Report including details about the scholarly methodology of researching and compiling the data presented. She noted that this project also obtained ethics approval and included consultation with Department Chairs at the university. Dr Forgie indicated that the CLE recommendations provided with the report were crafted to lay out the next steps for further action.

A member expressed concern with the omission of “non-discriminatory” from the wording of the motion and indicated that it had impacted the findings within the report, in that it does not adequately address gender bias,

and bias against visible minorities. The member further noted that, because of these biases, student ratings of instruction should not be used in promotion and tenure decisions at the institution.

Dr Nocente reported that the literature clearly reflects the value of student ratings of instruction and that student feedback at the post-secondary level is important. She noted that the USRI tool is not designed to be used as the only measure, but that Department Chairs may not have the resources to consider multifaceted evaluations.

Following a motion to extend the meeting, the President vacated the Chair due to another commitment and the Provost assumed the role of Acting Chair.

Following this, members continued to debate the relevance and prevalence of biases within the literature.

Citing time constraints and with consensus from members that additional discussion was required, the Acting Chair suggested a motion to table this item to the next meeting of GFC.

Motion: Mocquais/Nakamura

THAT General Faculties Council table the Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) on Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation and the Use of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an Evaluation Tool for further discussion at the next meeting of General Faculties Council.

**CARRIED**

#### 11. Budget Model Principles

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To recommend for approval by GFC the principles that will guide and inform the development and application of a new budget model for the University of Alberta.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew reported that the new budget model moves from the current increment-based model to one that is based on activities. Ms Kulczycki led members through a review of each proposed budget model principle.

Members, during the ensuing discussion, sought clarification on whether Faculty-based budget data would be made public, how these principles recognize research, and how accountability would be achieved.

Motion: Kulczycki/Mocquais

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Budget Model Principles, as recommended by the GFC Academic Planning Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

#### 12. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Revisions to existing Supervision and Examinations policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Heather Zwicker, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Deborah Burshtyn, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The revisions are intended to clarify the policies, elaborate on procedures, and improve policies. The impact will be to have greater clarity for students, faculty and staff in the administration and conduct and outcomes of examinations in thesis-based programs.

*Discussion:*

With the consent of the proposers, this item was deferred to the next meeting of GFC due to time constraints.

13. Proposed Faculty name change: Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (from Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To change the name of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to a name that more accurately depicts its academic mission and offerings, in support of attracting the best and brightest students and faculty, and being recognized as a leader among its peers.

*Discussion:*

Dean Mummery reported that the 2014 President's Visiting Committee recommended a name change for the Faculty to reflect the evolution of the field of physical education. Following wide consultation with faculty members, staff, students and alumni, the proposed name was approved by Faculty Council earlier this year. He noted that the addition of the word 'sport' to the title originated from inside the academy to reflect the Faculty's expertise in sports-related subjects. Dean Mummery indicated that the proposed name would define and differentiate the Faculty on the national and international level.

Motion: Mocquais/Dixon

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed name change for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to the '**Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation**', as submitted by the Dean of the Faculty, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

14. Question Period

There were no questions.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

15. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (June 12, September 11, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

16. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (June 14, September 13, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.



17. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (June 15, September 21, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

18. Report of the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

19. Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee (June 26, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

20. Report of the Board of Governors (June 23, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

21. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

22. Information Items

- GFC Membership 2017-2018

**CLOSING SESSION**

23. Adjournment

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.