Attendees:

### Statutory Members:
- David Turpin, Chair
- Chris Andersen
- Dale Askey
- Stanford Blade
- Lesley Cormack
- Greta Cummings
- Neal Davies
- Steven Dew
- Joseph Doucet
- Fraser Forbes
- Robert Haennel
- Brenda Hemmelgarn
- Shanthi Johnson
- Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell
- Gitta Kulczycki
- Maria Mayan
- Brooke Milne
- Pierre-Yves Mocquais
- Kerry Mummy
- Melissa Padfield
- David Percy
- Matthias Ruth
- Andrew Sharman
- Kelly Spencer
- Catherine Swindlehurst
- Demetres
- Tryphonopoulos
- Jennifer Tupper

### Ex-Officio:
- Nadir Erbilgin
- Fay Fletcher
- Mary Forhan
- Bill Foster
- Michael Frishkopf
- Basil Hubbard
- Nat Kav
- Eva Lemaire
- Pierre Lemelin
- Kathleen Lowrey
- Susanne Luhmann
- Pirkko Markula
- Lynn McMullen
- Sean McMurtry
- Al Meldrum
- Sue-Ann Mok
- Roger Moore
- Sarah Moore
- Shannon O'Byrne
- Christina Rinaldi
- Dan Romanyak
- Victoria Ruetalo
- Carolyn Sale
- Georg Schmolzer
- Richard Schulz
- John Seubert
- Susan Sommerfeldt
- Eleni Stroula
- Kisha Supernant
- Alan Underhill
- Kristof Van Assche
- Dilini Vethanayagam
- Akiko Watanabe
- Jonathan White
- Lynne Wiltse
- Ian Winship
- Minn-Nyoung Yoon
- Yan Yuan

### Appointed Members:
- Adarsh Badesha
- Matthew Barnett
- Akanksha Bhatnagar
- Katherine Binhammer
- Amlan Bose
- Melinda Chisholm
- André Costopoulos
- Natalie Diether
- David Draper
- Fahed Elia
- Shannon Erichsen
- Shawn Flynn
- Ian Gatera
- Tahra Haddouche
- Jill Hall
- Olivia Harris
- Abigail Isaac
- Peter Johnson
- Kevin Kane
- Simran Kaur Dhillon
- Alana Krahn
- Rajesh Kumar
- Janice Kung
- Rowan Ley
- Christopher Lupke
- Habba Mahal
- Milad Nazarahari
- Alesha Reed
- Amber Sayed
- Lindy Schaffrick
- Sarah Severson
- Andrei Tabirca
- Shahed Taghian
- Dehaghani
- Frederick Tappenden
- Samantha Tse
- Janet Williamson
- Donna Wilson
- Adrienne Wright
- Ding Xu
- Larry Zhong

### Students:
- Joel Agarwal
- Jared Larsen
- Dylan Ashley
- Larry Zhong

### REGrets:
- Ayman Adwan
- W. Ted Allison
- Meijun Chen
- Yiming Chen
- Paul Gareau
- Osman Hojanepesov
- Peter Hurd
- Stephanie McKenzie
- Rojin McVea
- Vivian Mushahwar
- Anthony Nguyen
- Dhanvant Soora
- Amy Tse

### Guest:
- Bill Flanagan, President-Elect

### Staff:
- Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary
- Yimmie Sonuga, GFC Secretary
- Heather Richholt, Assistant GFC Secretary
- Ann Hodgson, University Governance
- Juli Zinken, University Governance
- Erin Plume, University Governance
- Laura Riley, University Governance
- Edyta McLoughlin
- Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

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**General Faculties Council**  
**Approved Open Session Minutes**

Monday, March 30, 2020  
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Before the meeting was called to order, the Chair welcomed, and introduced, President-Elect Bill Flanagan, who was in attendance for the virtual meeting of GFC. He acknowledged and thanked members of the University community for:

- their efforts in working together, collegiately, to respond to the unprecedented pressures of these extraordinary times; and
- modelling the way with empathy and kindness.

The Chair then noted he had received a request from a member to rescind motions made by General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Executive), under their delegated authority in accordance with section 4.1 of their Terms of Reference, to move to a credit/no-credit grading scheme for Winter 2020.

The Chair provided the following context to frame a pre-meeting discussion on this matter, given the risk of procedural wrangling, around the motion, derailing such a discussion:

- that the aforementioned motions passed, by GFC Executive Committee, were taken with full authority, delegated to the Committee, following the consideration of a number of University-wide enterprise risks.

The Chair invited the following members of GFC to speak to the rationale for the decision to move to a credit/no-credit grading system:

- Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar
- André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
- Akanksha Bhatnagar, Students’ Union President
- Fahed Elian Graduate Students’ Association President
- Lesley Cormack, Dean of the Faculty of Arts
- Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean of Faculté Sainte-Jean

Points discussed included but were not limited to:

- the university’s primary institutional goals of health and safety, and academic integrity;
- how credit/no-credit grades would be viewed by accreditation bodies;
- the explanatory transcript notation regarding the winter 2020 grading scheme;
- that discussions about how to minimize the negative impacts of the mid-semester switch to online course delivery, were occurring across many Canadian universities;
- the negative impacts that changing the University’s current course could have on the student body given the diversity of their:
  - access to internet connectivity;
  - financial means;
  - living situation;
  - family demands; and
  - mental and physical health, during these extraordinary times.
- efforts to avoid inflated grades in relation to privilege;
- efforts to reduce stress and anxiety for students and instructors; and
- social justice and equity, and the principles expressed in the Institutional Strategic Plan For the Public Good.

The Chair then invited views on this matter from other members of GFC. Points discussed included but were not limited to:

- the stress and anxiety that many members of the university community were facing;
- that top University of Alberta students should have the choice to be given a letter grade, in order to better compete with top students from other universities;
- that some students were counting on this semester to boost their GPA for admission to another programs and could not necessarily afford to enroll in another semester for the same reason;
- concerns with eligibility for scholarships and admissions consideration by other universities;
• complaints about the lack of student consultation in making this decision;
• the student-led petition to allow students to choose letter grades or credit/no-credit; and
• concern that GFC Executive made the decision when it should have been debated by full GFC.

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

In response to a request from a member to add a motion to the agenda, in accordance with section 6.3 of the General Faculties Council (GFC) Meeting Procedural Rules, the Chair asked for a motion to amend the agenda, as posted on March 23, 2020 and declared that there could be no debate on the proposed amendment to the agenda.

**Presenter(s):** David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC)

**Motion:** Sale/El-Bialy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>THAT the General Faculties Council</th>
<th>DEFEATED</th>
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<tr>
<td>approve the addition of the following motion to the Agenda:</td>
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<td>THAT the General Faculties Council revoke the decision taken by GFC Executive at a “special” meeting of 19 March 2020 that “All students will receive a credit (CR) or no credit (NC) grade for all Winter 2020 courses. No letter grades will be assigned.”</td>
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**Motion:** Dew/Kulczycki

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>THAT the General Faculties Council</th>
<th>CARRIED</th>
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<tr>
<td>approve the Agenda as posted.</td>
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2. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**Presenter(s):** David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC; Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

**Discussion:**
The Chair asked Mr. Sharman, in his role as administrative lead of the Covid-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT), to give an update.

Mr. Sharman spoke about the university's collaboration with Alberta Health Services to prepare the Butterdome as a backup treatment center, and efforts regarding the use of facilities and concentration of janitorial work to keep those areas still in use as safe as possible.

The Chair noted that the university's request to deficit finance severance payments was refused by the provincial government which meant, sadly, that an additional 600 staff positions would have to be cut.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.
Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Dew/Padfield

3. Approval of the Minutes of February 24, 2020

| THAT the General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of February 24, 2020 | CARRIED |

4. Academic Governance Schedule 2020-2021

ACTION ITEMS

5. Off-cycle Appointment of Elected Undergraduate Students to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jonathan White, Chair of GFC Nominating Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: Upon approval, the recommendation will allow for the off-cycle appointment of elected undergraduate students to General Faculties Council (GFC) for the replenishment of in-year vacancies; and align current student election practice with the new GFC Principles for Committee Composition.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Motion: Padfield/Dew

| THAT General Faculties Council approve the off-cycle appointment of elected undergraduate students to GFC for the replenishment of in-year vacancies, as recommended by the GFC Nominating Committee, to take effect upon approval. | CARRIED |

6. Proposed Suspensions of Majors in the Bachelor of Music Program, Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Demetres Tryphonopoulos, Dean, Augustana Faculty; Karsten Mündel, Associate Dean, Academic, Augustana Campus

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to seek a recommendation to the Board of Governors to suspend the Bachelor of Music ‘Piano’ and ‘Voice’ majors.

Discussion: Dr. Tryphonopoulos gave a brief overview of the proposal. Dr. Mündel explained some of the changes that had been made at Augustana Campus, and how this proposal fit into curriculum renewal and streamlining efforts. A member expressed that the Faculty of Arts was supportive of the proposal.

Motion: Dew/Padfield

| THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of Music in ‘Piano’ and ‘Voice’ majors, as recommended by the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as submitted by Augustana Faculty, and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect for Fall |
DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. University of Alberta Non-Credit Credential Framework
   - Micro Credentials

   Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

   Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs); Christie Schultz, Assistant Dean, Academic, Faculty of Extension

   Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and receive feedback on the proposed development of a Non-Credit Credential Framework for approval by GFC.

   Discussion:
   The presenters gave an outline of the work that was underway to create a framework and explained how it would support the creation and continuity of non-credit credential offerings across campus. They noted that the framework was scheduled to come back to GFC for approval in May.

8. Budget (no documents)
   - Update
   - Investment Management Agreements

   Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC; Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

   Discussion:
   Dr. Dew spoke about the provincial budget which had been released after the last meeting of GFC. His points revolved around the following topics:
   • performance based funding;
   • the disproportionate cut to the Campus Alberta Grant, which he confirmed was both larger than expected and larger than other institutions in the sector received;
   • that the University was required to balance the budget, in-year, and could not draw on reserves or use carry forwards;
   • that the inability to use deficit funding for severance costs would result in higher numbers of staff layoffs;
   • that cuts across Faculties and Administrative Units would be differentially applied; and
   • that Tuition and Fees would not be revisited as part of the internal revised-Budget approval process.

   Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:
   • lowering expenditures as a performance metric and the implications to grant and endowment funding;
   • the rationale for the disproportionate cuts;
   • comparisons with provincial funding per student at the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia who have much higher tuition rates;
   • the potential implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on international enrollment targets; and
   • whether or not the hiring freeze on operating funded positions would affect research grants.

9. Question Period

   Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

   Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair of GFC
Discussion:
Submitted questions were addressed in the discussion regarding decisions made by GFC Executive Committee with delegated authority.

There were no questions from the floor.

INFORMATION REPORTS
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

11. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

12. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

13. GFC Nominations and Elections
   - Get Involved (link to governance website)


15. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meeting
    - Email from GFC Secretary
    - Questions for GFC

CLOSING SESSION

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