# General Faculties Council (GFC)
## Approved Open Session Minutes

**Monday, June 06, 2022**  
Council Chamber-University Hall (In-person meeting with remote option by Zoom)  
2:00 PM - 4:35 PM

### ATTENDEES:

#### Statutory Members:
- Bill Flanagan, Chair
- Simaan AbouRizk
- Chris Andersen
- Dale Askey
- Barbara Billingsley
- Stanford Blade
- Steven Dew
- Todd Gilchrist
- Brenda Hemmelgarn
- Nick Holt
- Christine Hughes
- Shanthi Johnson
- Diane Kuny
- Brooke Milne
- Melissa Padfield
- Steve Patten
- Wendy Rodgers
- Andrew Sharman
- Demetres Tryphonopoulos
- Jennifer Tupper
- Frederick West

#### Elected Faculty:
- Jason Acker
- J Nelson Amaral
- Nicholas Beier
- Ahmed Bouferguene
- Jennifer Branch-Mueller
- Marie Carrière
- Heather Coleman
- Gary Etz
- Anastasia Elias
- Michael Hendzel
- Carol Hodgson Birkman
- Peter Hurd
- Nat Kav
- Vadim Kravchinsky
- Hollis Lai
- Jacqueline Leighton
- Derek MacKenzie
- Al Meldrum
- Sourayan Mookerjea
- Weimin Mou
- Mario Nascimento
- Pauline Paul
- Jerine Pegg
- Elena Posse de Chaves
- Keith Rourke
- Victoria Ruetalo
- Carolyn Sale
- John Spence
- Alan Underhill
- Shauna Wilton
- Richard Wozniak
- Moin Yahya
- Nese Yuksel
- Emily Holden
- Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell
- Valentina Kozlova
- Devshri Lala
- Ariane Lamoureux
- Warren Leung
- Angie Mandeville
- Tim Mills
- Priyanka Mittapelly
- Adekunle Mofolasayo
- Tessa Monaghan
- Abner Monteiro
- Hubert Piatkowski
- Jad-Julian Rachid
- Milan Regmi
- Marian Sanchez
- Meruja Selvamanikkam
- Sarah Severson
- Srivathsan
- Shanmuganathan
- Subrat Sharma
- Sophie Shi
- Chanpreet Singh
- Allison Sivak
- Pien Steinbusch
- Andrei Tabirca
- Dilini Vethanayagam
- Adrienne Wright
- Rachel Yang

#### Appointed Members:
- Abdul Abbasi
- Hussain Alhussainy
- Haruun Ali
- Fateh Arslan
- Rebecca Avila
- Susan Babcock
- Cirila Bartley
- Josephine Bolaji
- Marsha Boyd
- Jayden Brooks
- Heather Bruce
- Daniela Carbajal
- Ryan Dunch
- Anas Fassih
- Levi Flaman
- Kyle Foster
- Tahmid Al Hafiz
- Jill Hall
- Rachel Hislop-Hook
- Tammy Hopper
- Leo Huang
- Simran Kaur Dhillon
- Mobashhir Khan
- Jessica Kolopenuk
- Mohit Kumar
- Pierre Lemelin
- Lionel Liu
- Runjuan Liu
- Elan MacDonald
- Precious Majekodunmi
- Pierre-Yves Mocquais
- Sarah Moore
- Kyle Murray
- Sarah Opena-Sakar
- Sujata Persad
- Frances Plane
- Polina Reisbig
- Aminah Robinson Fayek
- Dan Romanyak
- Dweej Shah
- Sargun Sokhi
- Laura Stovel
- Rana Sunjog Singh
- Third
- Frederick Tappenden
- Amy Tse
- Mani Vaidyanathan
- Helen Vallianatos
- Kristof Van Assche
- Vedant Vyas
- Adrian Wattamaniuk
- Yan Yuan

#### REGRETS:
- Sandeep Agrawal
- Saadet Andrews
- Robert Burrell
- Greta Cummings
- Charvi Dhamija
- Alexander Dorscheld
- Michael Dyck
- Shawn Flynn
- Jaida Han
- Jaymie Heilman
- Sandeep Agrawal
- Saadet Andrews
- Robert Burrell
- Greta Cummings
- Charvi Dhamija
- Alexander Dorscheld
- Michael Dyck
- Shawn Flynn
- Jaida Han
- Jaymie Heilman

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**Staff:**
- Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary
- Kate Peters, GFC Secretary
- Heather Richholt, Scribe
- Erin Plume
- Laura Riley
Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

that we are located on Treaty 6 territory. Today, we will be endorsing and making a collective commitment to the Indigenous Strategic Plan, giving today’s land acknowledgement a particular resonance. We are privileged to reside on lands in Treaties 6, 7, 8 at the University of Alberta. To respect these agreements and to honour our relations with these Nations, we recognize this territory as we convene today. This is a sign of our commitment to working and living in good relations with Indigenous Peoples and nations who, through the treaty process, generously offered their lands.

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

*Discussion:*

A member raised a point of order noting that Question Period was supposed to be a mandatory thirty minutes but the agenda allowed only twenty minutes for the item. GFC Secretary Kate Peters noted that the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules had been amended and approved and there was no longer a mandatory thirty minutes for Question Period.

The motion was moved and seconded.

| THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda. | CARRIED |

2. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

In his comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- Appointments of Deans:
  - Tammy Hopper appointed Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine for a five-year term effective July 1, 2022;
  - Kyra Pyke appointed Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation for a five-year term effective August 1, 2022; and
  - Appointment of Nathalie Kermoal as the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies for a one-year term while Dean Andersen takes an administrative leave;
- Two weeks of convocation celebrations in-person for the first time since 2019 and congratulations to all graduands; and
- Thanks to the members of GFC who were finishing their terms as of June 30, 2022 for their service during a challenging time for the university.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The consent Agenda motion was moved and seconded.
3. **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 2, 2022**  
Item was deferred.

4. **New Members of GFC**

**TO APPOINT:**  
The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing June 6, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023:  
- Rachel Hislop-Hook, Educational Psychology  
- Meruja Selvamanikkam, Medical Sciences  

**CARRIED**

**TO RECEIVE:**  
The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:  
- Christopher Lupke, Faculty of Arts  
- Chris Reyns-Chikuma, Faculty of Arts  
- Susan Chatwood, School of Public Health  

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2022 and extending for the duration of the appointment:  
- Nathalie Kermoal, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies  

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning August 1, 2022 and extending for the duration of the appointment:  
- Kyra Pyke, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation  

**CARRIED**

5. **Proposed Termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences**

**THAT** the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences, as submitted by the Faculté Saint-Jean and Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, to take effect upon final approval.  

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. **Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan**  
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**Presenter(s):** Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research); Nella Sajlovic, Indigenous Strategies Manager  

**Discussion:**  
F Glanfield acknowledged the work of the advisory council and highlighted that this was an Indigenous-led plan to enact existing institutional commitments on Indigenous initiatives across the institution.

Members expressed support and offered congratulations, and discussed Canada's colonial and racist history, the ways in which Indigenous knowledge and western knowledge intersect in a post-secondary context, and
accountability regarding the University's commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action.

The motion was moved and seconded.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THAT the General Faculties Council endorse Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan, as set forth in Attachment 1.</th>
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<td><strong>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</strong></td>
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7. **Change of Status of Faculty of Extension**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Wendy Rodgers, Interim Dean, Faculty of Extension

*Discussion:*
S Dew and W Rodgers explained that this proposal was to rescind the "Faculty" status of the Faculty of Extension in order to facilitate creation of the administrative structure to support growth in continuing education across the University.

Members discussed operational and financial concerns, the evolution of Extension over the last 100 years, and how the change would affect Faculties, instructors, and learners.

The motion was moved and seconded.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THAT the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors rescind the Faculty status from the Faculty of Extension, effective upon final approval.</th>
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<td><strong>CARRIED</strong></td>
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8. **Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE), and the Proposed Disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC)**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Jason Acker, Elected faculty member and Chair of GFC Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

*Discussion:*
J Acker and K Peters provided an overview of the proposed disbanding of FDC and related changes to the terms of reference for APC and CLE. They explained that the powers currently held by FDC would be transferred to APC and CLE according to their mandates. They further noted that a review of APC and CLE's terms of reference and authority was scheduled for the fall and that the authorities transferred through this proposal would be further reviewed at that time.

Members discussed the cancellation of FDC meetings, the difficulties in constituting and situating committees that had very little work to do, the importance of GFC weighing in on facilities related matters, and the authority of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) related to space management.

A member proposed amendments to the authority that would be transferred to APC and CLE so that approvals related to the loss of space for classrooms or academic staff offices would require GFC approval.

The motion was moved and seconded.
THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the GFC Academic Planning Committee, as set forth in attachment 1, and the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment, as set forth in attachment 2, and the concurrent disbanding of the GFC Facilities Development Committee, all to take effect on July 1, 2022.

A motion from the floor was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**
Proposed amendment to the motion as set forth in the attachment: University of Alberta Mail - Proposed amendments for Item 6.

General Counsel and University Secretary Brad Hamdon noted that the authority in question was delegated by the Board of Governors and that any changes to the language could be problematic.

There was a significant amount of uncertainty expressed by members, and the decision was made to table the item.

A motion from the floor was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**
THAT the General Faculties Council table the pending motion.

CARRIED

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

9. **Question Period**

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

*Discussion:*
Several questions were submitted in advance regarding:
- annual maintenance costs and deferred maintenance costs of university buildings;
- the university’s current space related to that of other U15 institutions;
- the university’s space related to current student numbers and to projected student numbers after the planned enrollment increases by 2025;
- the university’s plans to remove buildings from inventory;
- whether there would be a building to trumpet the university’s commitment to Humanities if the Humanities Centre was removed;
- how the university would replace classrooms and offices that would be lost from the Humanities Centre;
- the future of buildings at Augustana;
- student protests, the university’s commitment to freedom of expression, and procedural issues at the May 19, 2022 meeting of the GFC Academic Planning Meeting (APC); and
- procedural matters regarding calling the GFC APC Special meeting of May 26, 2022.

During question period, members asked follow up questions to those submitted in advance. Members also asked questions regarding:
- Implementation of the GFC approved Exploration Credits policy;
- The Capital Plan and when it would be made available on the website;
- Impact of space optimization on graduate student space;
• Division of authority between governance and administration;
• Authority of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) over demolition procedures and considerations taken into account in decision-making;
• Delegated authority held by the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC); and
• Student consultation for tuition fee proposals.

A student member noted that the Chair had interrupted a member earlier in the meeting. The Chair responded that they were asking the member to state their motion.

Undergraduate student member C Singh made a notice of motion for debate at the next meeting of GFC as set out in the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules (8.7).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Notice of Motion:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. TO make University Admin take any tuition increase proposal to the COSA before taking it to APC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. TO make the APC recommend tuition proposals to GFC and not the Board of Governors. Then the GFC should recommend such proposals to the BoG if it decides to do so.</td>
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10. **Proposed changes to the Sexual Violence Policy and Proposed Student Conduct Policy**

*Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Deborah Eerkes, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator; Jax Oltean, General Counsel*

*Discussion:*
D Eerkes spoke about the proposed changes to university policy and procedure related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and other non-academic offences. She noted the directive from the Minister of Advanced Education which required specific changes aimed at ensuring procedural fairness and implementing trauma informed practices for both complainants and respondents to a complaint. D Eerkes explained how the proposed changes would meet the requirements of the Minister and noted that the changes had to be implemented by November 2022. She invited members to share comments and questions by email.

11. **Early consultation on renewal of the Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI)**

*Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Evelyn Hamdon, Senior Advisor, Equity & Human Rights*

*Discussion:*
W Rodgers and E Hamdon spoke about the work of the EDI Scoping Group to seek input to inform the plan's renewal in 2022.

Members discussed training sessions, gender-neutral facilities, accessibility, and consultation with student groups including in French for Faculté Saint-Jean's francophone students.

12. **Budget Model 2.0**

*Presenter(s): Steve Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services & Finance)*

*Discussion:*
S Dew explained the rationale for why the budget model needed to evolve and presented the conceptual framework for the new budget model including three proposed new principles.

Members discussed student input in the consultation and concepts of strategic priorities and equity in a budgetary context.
INFORMATION REPORTS
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

16. Report of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI)

17. GFC Nominations and Elections
   - 30 May 2022 NC Report to GFC
   - Remaining Vacancies for 2022-2023 Academic Year

18. Report of the Board of Governors

19. Information Items:
   A. Report on Metrics
   B. COVID Decision Tracker
   C. For the Public Good Final Report
   D. Centers and Institutes Annual Report
   E. University of Alberta Technology Strategy
   F. Report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Review of Teaching Awards Working Group

CLOSING SESSION

20. Adjournment
   - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: September 19, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.