

General Faculties Council (GFC)  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023  
2-100 University Hall, Council Chamber  
2:00 PM - 4:15 PM

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**OPENING SESSION**

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged the territory:

We are located on Treaty 6 territory. We are privileged to reside on lands in Treaties 6, 7, 8 and the homeland of the Métis. When I read this territorial acknowledgement, I do so to respect these agreements and to honour our relations with these Nations.

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

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

*Discussion*:

In his comments, the Chair congratulated the new Dean of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Christine Hughes, and the New Dean of Business, Vikas Mehrotras. He also spoke about the establishment of a search and selection committee for the next Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the work underway on the Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation, and provided an update on the search for the University Secretary.

**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 March 20, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of March 20, 2023.

**CARRIED**

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing April 17, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024:

Tuesday Young, Native Studies

The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024:

Nathan Thiessen, Arts  
Hussein Alhussainy, Arts  
Nathan Perez, Arts  
Haruun Ali, Arts  
Bassem Raad, Arts  
Adriam Lam, Augustana  
Muneeba QaDir, Education  
Mikael Schmidtke, Engineering  
Aamir Mohamed, Engineering  
Aiman Saif, Engineering  
Taylor Good, Saint-Jean  
Damon Atwood, Law  
Elm Elahi, Medicine & Dentistry  
Precious Majekodunmi, Nursing  
Megan Garbutt, Science  
Noor Abdelwahab, Science  
Angelina Botros, Science  
Jency Chhaiya, Science

The following undergraduate student members elected by the Students' Union to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with terms on the Board (May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024):

Christian Fotang, President, Students' Union  
Stephen Raitz Student Appointee (Board of Governors Representative)

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms commencing May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024:

Sophie Shi, Chemical and Materials Engineering  
Ola Mabrouk, Chemistry  
Jun Ming Hu, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
John C.H. Hu, Rehabilitation Medicine  
Wajid Ali, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Danielle Gardiner Milln, Education  
Divya Maisuriya, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Chathuranga De Silva, Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Sciences

The following graduate student member elected by the Graduate Students' Association to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with a term on the Board (April 17, 2023 to April 30, 2024):

Bishoi Aziz, President, Graduate Students' Association

**CARRIED**

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students' Union to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024:

Pedro Almeida Students' Union Nominee  
Michael Griffiths Students' Union Nominee

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students' Association to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024:

Rija Kamran Graduate Students' Association Nominee

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026:

Derek MacKenzie Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2023 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Christine Hughes, Dean, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning April 11, 2023 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Vikas Mehrotra, Dean, Business

**CARRIED**

5. Office of the Registrar: Degree Program Regulations, Calendar Effective Date

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Calendar revisions for the 2023-2024 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

6. FSJ Proposal: Maîtrise en sciences

THAT the General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Maîtrise en sciences in the Faculté Saint-Jean, for implementation upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

7. FSJ Proposal: Doctorat Etudes Transdisciplinaires

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Doctorat Etudes Transdisciplinaires in the Faculté Saint-Jean, for implementation upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

8. FGSR Graduate Exams Teleconferencing

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Teleconferencing Guidelines for Graduate Examinations, as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

9. Proposed Revisions to the GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference and Proposed Deletion of the GFC Policy Manual Section 25

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Jennifer Branch-Mueller, Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of GFC Executive's Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO); Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

*Discussion:*

J Branch-Mueller provided an overview of the proposed changes.

A member asked about the "appointed elected member (from any staff category)" in the composition. K Peters acknowledged that this was confusing and explained that this included all of the staff members in the appointed category who were chosen for their seat on GFC through an election. She also noted that proposed changes to the terms of reference for General Faculties Council would make that description more clear.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference as set forth in attachment 1, and the rescission of GFC Policy 25, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

10. Proposed Revisions to the UAPPOL Teaching Awards Policy Suite and Proposed Revisions to the University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Tracy Raivio, Professor and Chair of UTAC; Karsten Mundel, Acting Vice Provost (Learning Initiatives); Jennifer Branch-Mueller, Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of GPO; Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

*Discussion:*

T Raivio and K Mundel presented a timeline of the work on this policy suite since awards were paused in 2020, the recommendations in the *Report of the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusivity Review of Teaching Awards Working Group*, and the work of UTAC. They went over the proposed changes to the policy, the creation of a new procedure, and rescission of the existing procedures and explained how this proposal was designed to ensure equitable recognition of teaching excellence. They also spoke about the use of the word "excellence" and efforts to ensure that it is considered in a way that is more inclusive.

J Branch-Mueller and K Peters spoke about the proposed changes to the UTAC terms of reference in order to align with the policy suite and in response to the recommendations of the Report, and the amendments made by the Executive Committee.

A member expressed support of removing gaps and barriers but asked why the language "inclusive excellence" was not used and how UTAC could do their work if the current procedures were rescinded and they did not have specific criteria to go by. T Raivio explained that UTAC spent a lot of time on the concept of "inclusive excellence" and the proposed policy and procedure were written to define that concept. She also noted that the specific criteria and guidelines would be kept on a website instead of enshrined in the procedures but that UTAC would that they were aligned with the policy and procedure and fully transparent.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the revisions to the Awards for Teaching Excellence Policy including a name change to the Recognition of Teaching Policy as set forth in attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the new Teaching Awards Procedure, and the rescission of:

- Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching Procedure;
- Graduate Student Teaching Award Procedure;
- Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Procedure;
- Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Procedure;
- Teaching Unit Award Procedure; and
- William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Procedure, as set forth in attachment 2

**CARRIED**

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee as set forth in attachment 3, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

11. Proposed Change to GFC Meeting Procedural Rules

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Carolyn Sale, Associate Professor and Elected Academic Staff Member of GFC

*Discussion:*

C Sale explained that her proposal was to simply reinstate the rule that had been in place since 2003. She noted that 30 minutes should be set aside for this important democratic function since it was the only opportunity that GFC had to ask questions of senior administration. She spoke about the 2021 Committee of the Whole recommendations about how to improve collegial governance and expressed that this 30 minute rule should be safeguarded.

The Chair noted that GFC Executive Committee (EXEC) voted not to recommend this proposal and asked members of EXEC if they wished to speak.

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

- that collegial governance and how we engage is so important;
- that sometimes important matters must be given adequate time on the agenda and extending the length of GFC meetings was not equitable;
- that EXEC should have the authority and flexibility to set question period at less than 30 minutes when necessary;
- that question period was fundamental and should be maintained;
- a note that EXEC was not unanimous in their decision to vote down the recommendation of this proposal; and
- that there should be adequate time for questions during each item on the agenda as well.

The motion was moved and seconded

It is moved that rule 6.5 of GFC's "Meeting Procedural Rules" be revised as follows:

6.5 Each agenda of GFC will include a Question Period scheduled for one half-hour in length.

a. Question period is comprised of both written questions and, time permitting, questions from the floor.

b. The Chair will rule on whether a question from the floor can be answered expeditiously; if not, it will be referred to the appropriate officer for response at the next meeting.

c. No debate is to be permitted of either the question or the response. Members who have submitted questions will be permitted to ask one or more supplementary questions, after which other members of GFC will have the same opportunity.

**DEFEATED**

12. Proposal for the Addition of Academic Staff Members to the General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Carolyn Sale, Associate Professor and Elected Academic Staff Member of GFC

*Discussion:*

C Sale explained that this was GFC's opportunity to change its composition to align with the principles of collegial governance. She spoke about governance systems at prestigious universities across Canada, USA, and the world. She expressed that the trend at this institution was for token consultation at GFC and that this proposal would ensure that academic staff were a majority on GFC and that collegial governance would be protected. She noted that other academic senates were more collegial than the UofA's and that they dealt with more important matters. She expressed that it would not be a problem for GFC to grow since bodies such as the House of Commons operated with much greater numbers. She also noted that membership in Universities Canada required a majority of academic staff and that the UofA was not in compliance.

The Chair noted that EXEC voted unanimously not to recommend this proposal and asked members of EXEC if they wished to speak.

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

- concern that a change like this would decrease student interest because they would feel tokenized and that they had no authority;
- acknowledgement that only 3 students could vote on this motion since only statutory members could change the composition of GFC;
- a request that GFC vote "no" for this motion and reaffirm the 1971 decision to have parity between academic staff and students so that no one constituency group could carry a vote without substantial support from another group;
- that collegiality works best when all groups have a meaningful voice at the table and need to work together;
- that the problem with GFC's composition was that there were too many senior administrators and that the numbers of both academic staff and students should be increased;
- the argument that this would make GFC more collegial and effective was flawed since GFC has already made several recommendations to the Board but the Board has chosen to go a different way;
- that GFC is the voice of the University, not just of the academic staff, but the Board holds the higher authority; and
- that it is better if no one group can overwhelm the perspectives of other groups.

A motion from the floor was made to call the question.

The motion was moved and seconded.

**Motion from the floor:**

THAT the General Faculties Council call the question.

**CARRIED**

The motion was moved and seconded

That full-time academic staff shall constitute at least 51% of the membership of the General Faculties Council.

That to accomplish this for the immediate future, GFC shall appoint an additional thirty-eight (38) members of academic staff in full-time positions to the General Faculties Council for three year terms starting 1 July 2023.

That the procedure for these appointments shall be as follows:

- There shall be an open call to full-time members of the academic staff to stand for appointment to GFC under section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act.
- If more than thirty-eight members of the full-time academic staff agree to stand for appointment to GFC, those standing for appointment shall be elected by the members of the academic staff, with the names of the thirty-eight members receiving the highest number of votes being put forward to GFC for appointment to GFC.

That future appointments of academic staff under section 25 of the Post-secondary Learning Act to maintain a composition of GFC in which academic staff constitute at least 51% of GFC shall be made by the same procedure.

**DEFEATED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Chair noted that since there was less than 30 minutes left in the meeting, they would move to item 14 in the agenda to ensure enough time to discuss the University Strategic Plan.

### 14. University Strategic Plan

***Item was considered outside of agenda sequence.***

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

V Yiu presented on the consultation overview, draft plan, and next steps. She thanked the members of the steering committee for their work.

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

- whether there would be increased resources to support applications to granting agencies;
- that the focus would be on large scale interdisciplinarity and partnerships in the research space including industry, government, and community;
- that diverse voices were needed and welcome to join the consultation on the Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (SPRI);
- growth in regard to student numbers and whether we have the infrastructure in place or whether a large part of this growth would be online;
- the growth strategy and the need to accommodate more students due to the demographic bulge and higher demand for post-secondary in Alberta;
- that it was important to look across domestic, international, and continuing education, including online;
- the university needed to preserve and maintain the student, faculty, and staff experience;
- The Humanities and Arts were essential and that all Faculties will have input into the USP;
- Indigenous languages and Indigenization as a part of the USP;
- differences in the ways that research is conducted and the importance of ensuring that all groups are considered; and
- Faculty renewal and research support that would come out of the implementation action plan.

During the discussion the Chair suggested that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes. There were no objections.

13. Question Period

***This item was considered outside of agenda sequence.***

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

Members asked about the Clean Air Strategy, whether it could be moved forward, and why it was taking so long. Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Andrew Sharman explained that it was too late for it to be implemented for September but that the Board would like to hear a recommendation from GFC.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

16. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

- *The committee will report on their April 12, meeting next month*

17. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

18. GFC Nominations and Elections

- 2023-2024 Vacancies

19. Report of the Board of Governors

20. Information Items:

A. University of Alberta Honorary Degree Nominations

21. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

- Board of Governors' Agenda - Now available

- Invitation to provide feedback – Recognition of Teaching Policy

- Request for Feedback – GFC Terms of Reference

- TIME SENSITIVE: Action Required - Nomination to present GFC motion to the Board

- Nominee to present GFC motion to the Board

**CLOSING SESSION**

22. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: May 29, 2023



**ATTENDEES:**

**Statutory Members:**

***Ex-Officio:***

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Simaan AbouRizk  
Dale Askey  
Barbara Billingsley  
Stanford Blade  
Jessica Butts Scott  
Jason Carey  
Roger Epp  
Todd Gilchrist  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Tammy Hopper  
Christine Hughes  
Diane Kunyk  
Elan MacDonald  
Vikas Mehrotra  
Aminah Robinson  
Fayek  
Norma Rodenburg  
Andrew Sharman  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Jennifer Tupper  
Frederick West  
Robert Wood  
Verna Yiu

***Academic Staff:***

Ahmed Bouferguene  
Jennifer Branch-  
Mueller  
Cary Brown  
Robert Burrell  
Marie Carrière  
Susan Chatwood  
Pierre Chue  
Chetan Dave  
Bipro Dhar  
Michael Dyck  
Richard Field  
Zachary Friggstad  
Douglas Gingrich  
Tracy Howlett

Vadim Kravchinsky  
Hollis Lai  
Pierre Lemelin  
Liran Levin  
Jinfeng Liu  
Christopher Lupke  
Derek MacKenzie  
Andrew McGee  
Weimin Mou  
Pauline Paul  
Frances Plane  
Spencer Proctor  
Tracy Raivio  
Christian Reynolds-  
Chikuma  
Carolyn Sale  
Chris Sprysak  
Mirko van der Baan  
Yifeng Wei  
Shauna Wilton  
Nese Yuksel

***Students:***

Bishoi Aziz  
Joannie Fogue  
Gurleen Kaur

**Appointed Members:**

Haruun Ali  
Jill Bagwe  
Cirila Bartley  
Quinn Benders  
Marsha Boyd  
Heather Bruce  
Telisa Courtney  
Joseph Doucet  
Ryan Dunch  
Levi Flaman  
Shawn Flynn  
Kyle Foster  
Eva Glancy  
Rachel Hislop-Hook  
Emily Holden  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell

Nathalie Kermoal  
Valentina Kozlova  
Lionel Liu  
Angie Mandeville  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Abner Monteiro  
Jennifer Passey  
Jad-Julian Rachid  
Marian Sanchez  
Patricia Sherbaniuk  
Sophie Shi  
Chanpreet Singh  
Gordon Swaters  
Frederick Tappenden  
Helen Vallianatos  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Adrian Wattamaniuk  
Rachel Yang  
Tuesday Young

***REGRETS:***

Abdul Abbasi  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Tahmid Al Hafiz  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Saadet Andrews  
Fateh Arslan  
Rebecca Avila  
Josephine Bolaji  
Jayden Brooks  
Daniela Carbajal  
Greta Cummings  
Charvi Dhamija  
Alexander Dorscheid  
Melanie Dreyer-Lude  
Jaida Han  
Michael Hendzel  
Carol Hodgson  
Birkman  
Jelena Holovati  
Shanthi Johnson  
Simran Kaur Dhillon  
Mobashhir Khan  
Mohit Kumar

Devshri Lala  
Ariane Lamoureux  
Jacqueline Leighton  
Warren Leung  
Precious Majekodunmi  
Priyanka Mittapelly  
Tessa Monaghan  
Graham Pearson  
Sujata Persad  
Jerine Pegg  
Hubert Piatkowski  
Elena Posse de Chaves  
Kyra Pyke  
Milan Regmi  
Polina Reisbig  
Dan Romanyk  
Kent Rondeau  
Keith Rourke  
Meruja Selvamanikkam  
Dweej Shah  
Srivathsan  
Shanmuganathan  
Subrat Sharma  
Allison Sivak  
John Spence  
Pien Steinbusch  
Rana Sunjog Singh  
Thind  
Mani Vaidyanathan  
Vedant Vyas  
Richard Wozniak  
Minn-Nyoung Yoon

**Governance Staff:**

Brad Hamdon, General  
Counsel and University  
Secretary  
Kate Peters, GFC  
Secretary  
Heather Richholt,  
Scribe  
Faiza Billo  
Erin Plume  
Juli Zinkin