

General Faculties Council (GFC)  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, May 29, 2023  
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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**OPENING SESSION**

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged the territory and reminded members that one year ago, GFC unanimously endorsed *Braiding Past, Present and Future, the University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan*. He pointed members to Item 17E in the meeting materials which reports on the work across the university that has been guided by *Braiding*, and the ongoing work to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

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

- The new University Secretary, John Lemieux, will be starting in the role on August 1 and thank you to Brad Hamdon for serving as the University Secretary since the fall of 2020;
- Congratulations to Dale Askey on his reappointment as Vice-Provost (Library and Museums) for a second five-year term. D Askey provided some highlights on Item 17G in the materials, the University of Alberta Museums Annual Report; and
- That Dilini Vethanayagam had been re-elected as the GFC Nominee to the Board of Governors for a second three-year term, pending Ministerial approval.

In addition, the Chair provided updates on the Clean Air Strategy and the progression of Budget Model 2.0 noting that both items come back to GFC for information and discussion in the fall.

**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 April 17, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of April 17, 2023.

**CARRIED**

4. New Members of GFC

**TO RECEIVE:**

The following statutory academic staff members who have been elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026:

Carlos Fernandez-Patron, Medicine & Dentistry  
Nikolai Malykhim, Medicine & Dentistry  
Elena Posse de Chaves, Medicine & Dentistry  
Sujata Parsad, Medicine & Dentistry  
Lise Gotell, Arts  
Odile Cisneros, Arts  
Corinne Langinier, Arts  
Julianne Gibbs, Science

The following statutory academic staff members who have been elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

John Ussher, Pharmacy

**CARRIED**

**TO APPOINT:**

The following graduate student representatives at-large to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2024:

Shivani Mandal, Medicine & Dentistry  
Sandeep Kumar, Medicine & Dentistry  
Seun Akinfolarin, Medicine & Dentistry

**CARRIED**

5. School of Library and Information Studies

THAT the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) becomes an administrative unit within the Faculty of Education and maintains the word "School" within its name.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. University Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair thanked V Yiu and the members of the steering committee for their work over the past months and the members of GFC for offering their ideas, thoughts, and feedback.

V Yiu presented an outline of the plan's development process and an overview of consultations with the internal and external community, especially noting the influence of *Braiding Past, Present and Future*. She spoke about the concepts of Leading with Purpose, including Education, Research, and Engagement with Purpose. She noted that pending approval, next steps would be a formal launch in the fall, and implementation planning to embed the USP into goals and accountabilities across the university.

Members discussed:

- The connection between the development of new credential types and the embedded certificate framework on today's agenda;
- The potential to retain and maintain the University's current strengths while growing and evolving in other areas;
- Looking beyond the needs of "traditional" students to include the needs of life-long learners;
- An observation that employment rates for Faculty of Arts graduates look different than those for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and professional programs; and
- The government data that shows that University of Alberta graduates from all Faculties are very employable.

V Yiu shared the draft design for the USP and invited members to share feedback via email over the next few days.

The motion was moved and seconded.

That General Faculties Council recommend the University Strategic Plan to the Board of Governors for approval.

**CARRIED**

#### 7. Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Kathryn Todd, Deputy Provost (Academic); Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs)

*Discussion:*

K Todd explained the importance of a consistent and coherent framework to provide value to the student experience and to that of the credentials themselves. She noted that there were concerns raised at the March 20 meeting regarding the impact of the Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework on certificates. She emphasized that the program team in the Office of the Provost would support faculties in their work to implement the framework and find an appropriate path forward. She further acknowledged that consultation does not mean endorsement.

J Causgrove Dunn thanked those who engaged with the additional consultations following the withdrawal of the item at the March 20 meeting. She noted that the feedback gathered in the additional consultations was very diverse and that most of those consulted were concerned about the timeline for implementation and alignment. She noted that the extended timeline was in response to those concerns and also spoke about the change to credit weights and the definition of "elective". She acknowledged that not everyone was in agreement with the framework but that her team would work with existing certificates to ensure that they can continue to be offered in some format.

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

- Standardizing and placing limits on overlapping courses would disproportionately affect Arts students;
- Reducing the number of credits required would make embedded certificates more approachable and possible for more students;
- Some certificate holders in the Faculty of Arts were not happy with the framework, did not want to be listed as consulted, and were concerned that their certificates would be eliminated;
- An observation that many student seats on GFC were vacant and that the new student members had not had time to adequately familiarize themselves with the proposal and that more consultation and discussion was needed;
- Whether there would be a similar framework developed for Graduate certificates;

- An opinion that standardizing all credentials offered by the University is necessary to ensure coherence, quality, and transparency for students and recognition of value by employers;
- An expression of support from the University of Alberta Students' Union Executive noting that student consultation was extensive and that persistent concerns would be met with creative solutions;
- A summary of the discussion at Chairs' Council concerning the importance and reasons for consistency and standardization;
- A concern about the requirement of experiential components and a question as to where the resources to support them would come from; and
- A question about what other kinds of credentials would be available for the non-compliant certificates and what the options would be for them.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework, as set forth in Attachment 1 to take effect immediately with compliance of existing embedded certificates expected by Fall 2025.

**CARRIED**

#### 8. FGSR Graduate Exam Committee Membership

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR); Micah True, Associate Dean, FGSR

*Discussion*:

M True spoke about FGSR's work to identify what was and what was not working with the current processes and provided an overview of the proposed changes meant to provide clarity and transparency around the membership and composition of examining committees.

Members discussed:

- External examiners from other universities for Masters exams;
- Acknowledgement that exceptions can be made to these guidelines when appropriate;
- That those from affiliate colleges were considered academic colleagues and could serve as university examiners;
- Clarity on what constitutes a social relationship;
- The role of and expectations for a specialized knowledge examiner;
- The authority of the Faculty and Department to approve the exam committee;
- The reasons for a preference for external evaluators over external readers; and
- Elimination of video conference barriers to accommodate external evaluators.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Committee Membership Changes for Graduate Examinations, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.

**CARRIED**

#### 9. Proposed Changes to General Faculties Council Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Jerine Pegg, Professor and Chair of Executive's Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO)

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that Executive Committee and GPO have been working to review the GFC terms of reference over the past year. He explained that because the proposal did not include any changes to the composition, all members of GFC could vote on the motion.

J Pegg provided an overview of the proposed changes including the definition of full-time academic staff to comply with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, and those made in response to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Report on Academic Restructuring that was drafted by GFC members following a recommendation from a Committee of the Whole discussion in 2021. She also noted that the reapportionment procedure had been rewritten for clarity and that discussions on GFC's composition would continue.

Members discussed: GFC's responsibility over academic affairs and student affairs, and why the Associate Vice President, Online and Continuing Education was a member of GFC and the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research) was not.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Terms of Reference as set forth in attachment 1, and receive for information the Reapportionment Procedure which has been reformatted for clarity, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. Question Period

There were no questions.

11. Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (SPRI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Aminah Robinson Fayek, Vice-President (Research and Innovation)

*Discussion:*

A Robinson Fayek spoke about the work and consultations to date and how the SPRI ties in to the USP. She asked members to provide feedback on the plan.

Members discussed:

- Revisions that have been made to incorporate the feedback received so far;
- Balancing areas of focus as this is a high-level plan and it will be up to the Colleges and Faculties to drill down to the specifics;
- That the draft will come back to GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and GFC before the final launch in fall 2023;
- Research funding through public and private sector funding;
- Support for researchers and improvements to processes through implementation in the Colleges and Faculties;
- Consultation with the research community, senior leaders, Indigenous scholars, post-docs, and students;
- Specific research plans for the Faculty of Arts to encompass the concept of creation;
- Student engagement and the disadvantages to consulting during the spring term when most students were not available;
- The inclusion of Indigenous research and funding programs; and
- Increasing opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
13. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
14. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
15. Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
16. GFC Nominations and Elections
  - NC Reports to GFC
17. Information Items:
  - A. Briefing Note WIL Admin Terminations
  - B. Centres and Institutes Annual Report
  - C. Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGSR) Year in Review
  - D. Teaching in the Context of AI Resources
  - E. TRC Report to Community Dashboard (Update)
  - F. Budget Model 2.0 Expert Group Recommendations
  - G. University of Alberta Museums Annual Report: July 2022 – June 2023
  - H. Stories from the Field: Reporting on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Action
18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
  - Letter from President and Vice-Chancellor, Bill Flanagan
  - COMING SOON: GFC Nominee to the Board Election Survey
  - GFC Nominee to the Board of Governors
  - Message from President and Vice-Chancellor, Bill Flanagan

## **CLOSING SESSION**

19. Adjournment
  - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: September 18, 2023

**ATTENDEES:**

**Statutory Members:**

***Ex-Officio:***

Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Dale Askey  
Stanford Blade  
Jessica Butts Scott  
Roger Epp  
Todd Gilchrist  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Tammy Hopper  
Christine Hughes  
Shanthi Johnson  
Nathalie Kermaal  
Diane Kunyk  
Elan MacDonald  
Vikas Mehrotra  
Kyra Pyke  
Aminah Robinson  
Fayek  
Norma Rodenburg  
Andrew Sharman  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Frederick West  
Robert Wood  
Verna Yiu

***Academic Staff:***

Saadet Andrews  
Jennifer Branch-  
Mueller  
Cary Brown  
Susan Chatwood  
Pierre Chue  
Chetan Dave  
Melanie Dreyer-Lude  
Douglas Gingrich  
Michael Hendzel  
Carol Hodgson  
Birkman  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Jacqueline Leighton  
Pierre Lemelin  
Liran Levin

Jinfeng Liu  
Christopher Lupke  
Derek MacKenzie  
Pauline Paul  
Graham Pearson  
Jerine Pegg  
Sujata Persad  
Frances Plane  
Spencer Proctor  
Tracy Raivio  
Dan Romanyk  
John Spence  
Mani Vaidyanathan  
Mirko van der Baan  
Yifeng Wei  
Shauna Wilton  
Richard Wozniak  
Nese Yuksel

***Students:***

Pedro Almeida  
Michael Griffiths  
Rija Kamran

**Appointed Members:**

***Ex-Officio and***

***Affiliate:***

Quinn Benders  
Greta Cummings  
Joseph Doucet  
Shawn Flynn  
Matina Kalcounis-  
Rueppell  
Gordon Swaters  
Frederick Tappenden

***Board of Governors***

***Representatives:***

Bishoi Aziz  
Stephanie Dickie  
Christian Fotang  
Stephen Raitz  
Dilini Vethanayagam

***Elected Students:***

Noor Abdelwahab  
Seun Akinfolarin  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Wajid Ali  
Haruun Ali  
Jency Chhaiya  
Chathuranga De Silva  
Maesha Elm Elahi  
Megan Garbutt  
Taylor Good  
John Hu  
Sandeep Kumar  
Adrian Lam  
Ola Mabrouk  
Shivani Mandal  
Danielle Milln  
Nathan Perez  
Muneeba QaDir  
Bassem Raad  
Mikael Schmidtke  
Sophie Shi  
Tuesday Young

***Elected Staff:***

Jill Bagwe  
Marsha Boyd  
Ryan Dunch  
Kyle Foster  
Eva Glancy  
Valentina Kozlova  
Angie Mandeville  
Jennifer Passey  
Patricia Sherbaniuk

**REGRETS:**

Simaan AbouRizk  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Damon Atwood  
Barbara Billingsley  
Angelina Botros  
Ahmed Bouferguene  
Heather Bruce  
Robert Burrell

Jason Carey  
Marie Carrière  
Bipro Dhar  
Michael Dyck  
Richard Field  
Zachary Friggstad  
Magda Grzeszczuk  
Jelena Holovati  
Tracy Howlett  
Jun Hu  
Hollis Lai  
Divya Maisuriya  
Precious  
Majekodunmi  
Andrew McGee  
Priyanka Mittapelly  
Aamir Mohamed  
Weimin Mou  
Elena Posse de  
Chaves  
Christian Reyns-  
Chikuma  
Kent Rondeau  
Keith Rourke  
Aiman Saif  
Carolyn Sale  
Allison Sivak  
Chris Sprysak  
Nathan Thiessen  
Jennifer Tupper  
Helen Vallianatos  
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