
General Faculties Council (GFC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023
Council Chamber, University Hall 2-100
2:00 PM - 4:05 PM

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began with a land acknowledgement as an expression of gratitude that recognizes the Indigenous land we are situated on as a University community and to remember our shared commitment to understanding our history with the land:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

The Chair welcomed Peggy Garritty, Chancellor of the University of Alberta; and Kate Chisholm, Chair of the Board of Governors, to make a few comments.

P Garritty reflected on her term as Chancellor and thanked members for their service and support of the University. She expressed hope for the future of the institution. K Chisholm echoed this expression of optimism and recognised that the past three years of decision making had been difficult. She emphasized her belief in the importance of shared governance and her gratitude for GFC's work.

The Chair thanked them for coming and made the following comments:

- *Shape*, the University Strategic Plan would be launched on September 19, 2023; and
- A search and selection committee has been struck for position of Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chetan Dave and Spencer Proctor have accepted to represent General Faculties Council.

Ceremony

Presenter(s): Elder Francis Whiskeyjack, Saddle Lake Cree Nation

The Chair welcomed Elder Whiskeyjack and thanked him for agreeing to come today to start GFC off in a good way.

Elder Whiskeyjack shared some wisdom and Indigenous teachings.

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)

The Chair's comments were delivered before the meeting was called to order.

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 May 29, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of May 29, 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 immediately and ending June 30, 2026:

Esther Kim Rehabilitation Medicine
Adetola Adesida Medicine and Dentistry
Duncan Elliott Engineering
Lindsey Westover Engineering
Kenneth Garipey Education
Jodi Harding-Kuringer Education

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term extending for the duration of the appointment:

Declan Ali Dean, Faculty of Science
Tracy Raivio Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Doug Gleddie Acting Dean, Faculty of Education
Denise LaFitte Acting Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
Chris Andersen Dean, Faculty of Native Studies

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

Tom Stelfox Dean's delegate, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

CARRIED

TO APPOINT:

The following cross-appointed members to serve on GFC for a three-year term concurrent with their appointment to the Board of Governors:

Dilini Vethanayagam GFC Nominee to the Board
Stephanie Dickie NASA Representative

The following appointed ex officio members to serve on GFC for a term extending for the duration of their appointment:

Brenda Hemmelgarn Vice-Provost and College Dean, Health Sciences
Marvin Washington Vice-Provost and College Dean, Social Sciences and Humanities
Ravina Sanghera Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

The following graduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing immediately and ending April 30, 2024:

Zak Kaal Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences
Shubham Goswami Mechanical Engineering

The following post-doctoral fellow representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing immediately and ending January 31, 2024:

Olena Mykhailenko School of Business

The following Libraries representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2026:

Tim Klassen Libraries and Museums

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Forward with Purpose - Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (SPRI)

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

Discussion:

The Chair explained that GFC has overarching authority, subject to the authority of the Board, over the University's academic mission and that research, innovation and creative activities are foundational to the University of Alberta's mission and identity.

A Robinson Fayek spoke about the work that went into the development of the plan and expressed thanks to those who had contributed and offered feedback along the way. She noted the engagement of members of the GFC Academic Planning Committee and their recommendation of the plan at their meeting of September 6.

A member noted the importance of putting the plan into action with regard to undergraduate and graduate student research and contributions to research.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve "Forward with Purpose: A Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation".

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

7. University of Alberta Students' Union Goals
Graduate Students' Association Board Work Plan

Presenter(s): Christian Fotang, President, University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU); Bishoi Aziz, President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Discussion:

C Fotang presented the UASU Executive Goals for 2023-24 including three major priorities: Amplify Student Voices, Enhance and Cultivate the Student Experience, and Promote Comprehensive Student Learning. He spoke about initiatives related to:

- Amplifying Indigenous and International student voices;
- Increasing non-student revenue streams;
- Accessible and gender neutral washrooms;
- Increasing the "moderate standard of living" threshold for the purposes of student loans, and awards and bursaries;
- Encouraging Faculties to increase their offering of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses; and
- The ZTCup, an award that will be given to Faculties to recognize achievement in reducing cost to students by significant adoption of the ZTC initiative.

Members discussed the development of a certificate framework, the rate of completion for students, the increase to the moderate standard of living, the 7.55% tuition offset for International student financial supports, and whether more need-based financial supports could be created.

B Aziz presented the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan including commitments to:

- create more opportunities for graduate student awareness and improve GSA engagement;
- address the financial situation of graduate students;
- make graduate student supervision an institutional priority;
- advocate for minimum funding packages for PhD students;
- support research on Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and development of clear AI policies;
- reflect principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;
- Enhance support for organizations that support graduate students such as the Campus Food Bank; and
- Address sexual violence in experiential learning placements.

Members discussed strategies for helping international students to integrate into the university community, especially for those who do not arrive in the fall when most orientation activities take place.

8. Final Draft of the Budget Model

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

The Chair noted that GFC has played an important role in shaping the new budget model and that GFC and the Board approved changes to the principles underpinning the budget model in the previous academic year. He explained that the purpose of today's item is to provide an overview of the model itself and to give members an opportunity to ask questions as we finalize the model and prepare to implement it.

T Gilchrist introduced the members of his team who were in attendance to support the discussion and noted that he and V Yiu were leading this work together. He spoke about consultative meetings with expert groups and the Faculty Deans and pointed to the expert group engagements summary included in the meeting materials. He also noted that:

- budget planning for fiscal year 2025 would begin next month for approval in March;
- the budget model will iterate as required as they learned more in the process and that a formal review would happen in three years; and
- That a working group for space optimization, led by the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), and a working group for a Faculty Cost Clusters approach to determining differential costs across programs would be starting up soon to support budget planning for fiscal year 2026.

V Yiu thanked the members of the experts groups and working groups and encouraged members to keep submitting their questions for the Frequently Asked Questions document that was being developed and would be shared back with GFC.

A member acknowledged that there were some concerns with incremental budgets but noted the benefit of that type of model for tracking the allocation of funds over time. He asked about the costs of the Colleges, Central Services, and Faculty services and whether the budget model would align with the strategic objectives of the University and deliver on the things that are most important: teaching and research. He observed that:

- Central Services appears to be paid first when the priority should be the Faculties;
- enrolment is the only lever available which does not seem to align with principles of Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and
- There was a lack of controls to keep the expansion of costs in Central Units in check.

He expressed that the model did not appear to smooth the impact of government grant fluctuations and that it was built upon an inequitable premise, providing more funds to those who already have more funds, which will compound and increase inequality over time. The member then made a notice of motion under GFC Meeting Procedural Rules 8.7: That GFC recommend to the Board of Governors against the approval of Budget Model 2.0.

T Gilchrist provided a response to the concerns raised by the member including answers and additional context including:

- Throughout the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) restructuring, there had been a shift from separate “Central” and “Faculty” Services, to “University Services” under One University, and that while it was impossible to compare the two directly, the Uniform data did indicate a reduction in costs;
- That the SET final report shows an overall \$102 Million reduction in incremental administrative costs;
- That Budget Model 2.0 was an activity based model that would direct funds toward the core activities of the University: teaching, research, and community engagement, with a percentage set aside for a strategic initiatives fund and that the tuition percentage breakdown stabilises funding to the Faculties;
- That University Services would not be paid first and that as revenue changes, everyone would share reductions, but that as administrative services became more efficient they should cost less so that more funds could be directed to the core activities; and
- The new model would help to identify specifics through budget planning and the strategic subvention fund would be used to help ease the University into the change.

V Yiu noted that the budget model would provide clarity to the Faculty Deans so that they could plan accordingly. She acknowledged that not all Faculties would be able to use the levers and that the subvention funding can help offset equity issues. She expressed that this budget model provides transparency about what Faculties can do to bring in additional revenue.

Members discussed:

- The changes to shared services and a network of partners across the university instead of separate units;
- A preference for the activity based budget model because it directs funds to where the students are enrolled;
- The potential for awkwardness when a Faculty has to request subvention funding and that it would be better to have that written in to the budget;
- Faculties that already have more funds also have access to the levers and will be able to generate even more and this does not speak to equity;
- Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are not just up to Faculties but the whole University should collaborate on these common causes;

- How tuition revenue would be shared between programs and courses, Faculties and Departments, and that the Faculty Dean would allocate funds to Departments;
- Whether the amount of dollars directed to each Faculty would be public information; and
- Questions about the source of investment income and how it can be used to fund University-wide strategies.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
10. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
11. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
12. GFC Nominations and Elections
13. Report of the Board of Governors
14. Information Items:
 - A. Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite
15. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - University of Alberta Mail - Message from President and Vice-Chancellor, Bill Flanagan

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: October 16, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Verna Yiu, Vice-Chair
Noor Abdelwahab
Seun Akinfolarin
Hussain Alhussainy
Wajid Ali
Declan Ali
Pedro Almeida
Chris Andersen
Saadet Andrews
Damon Atwood
Bishoi Aziz
Jill Bagwe
Quinn Benders
Barbara Billingsley
Stanford Blade
Angelina Botros
Ahmed Bouferguene
Marsha Boyd
Jennifer Branch-
Mueller
Heather Bruce
Jessica Butts Scott
Jason Carey
Susan Chatwood
Pierre Chue
Odile Cisneros
Sharon Compton
Greta Cummings
Chathuranga De Silva
Bipro Dhar
Stephanie Dickie
Ryan Dunch
Duncan Elliott
Roger Epp
Carlos Fernandez-
Patron
Richard Field
Shawn Flynn

Kyle Foster
Christian Fotang
Megan Garbutt
Kenneth Gariepy
Julianne Gibbs
Todd Gilchrist
Douglas Gingrich
Eva Glancy
Douglas Gleddie
Taylor Good
Shubham Goswami
Goswami
Lise Gotell
Michael Griffiths
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Carol Hodgson
Birkman
Jelena Holovati
Tammy Hopper
Zak Kaal
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Rija Kamran
Esther Kim
Tim Klassen
Valentina Kozlova
Denise LaFitte
Adrian Lam
Corrine Langinier
Pierre Lemelin
Liran Levin
Jinfeng Liu
Christopher Lupke
Elan MacDonald
Precious Majekodunmi
Nikolai Malykhin
Shivani Mandal
Andrew McGee
Danielle Milln

Aamir Mohamed
Weimin Mou
Olena Mykhailenko
Jennifer Passey
Nathan Perez
Sujata Persad
Elena Posse de Chaves
Spencer Proctor
Kyra Pyke
Muneeba Qadir
Stephen Raitz
Tracy Raivio
Aminah Robinson
Fayek
Norma Rodenburg
Dan Romanyk
Kent Rondeau
Ravina Sanghera
Mikael Schmidtke
Andrew Sharman
Patricia Sherbaniuk
Allison Sivak
John Spence
Chris Sprysak
Tom Stelfox
Gordon Swaters
Frederick Tappenden
Nathan Thiessen
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Dilini Vethanayagam
Marvin Washington
Yifeng Wei
Lindsey Westover
Shauna Wilton
Robert Wood
Richard Wozniak
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Tuesday Young

REGRETS:

Simaan AbouRizk
Adetola Adesida
Sandeep Agrawal
Marie Carrière
Jency Chhaiya
Chetan Dave
Maesha Elm Elahi
Zachary Friggstad
Magda Grzeszczuk
Jodi Harding-Kuriger
Michael Hendzel
Tracy Howlett
John Hu
Jun Hu
Christine Hughes
Jeff Johnson
Vadim Kravchinsky
Sandeep Kumar
Ola Mabrouk
Divya Maisuriya
Vikas Mehrotra
Pauline Paul
Graham Pearson
Bassem Raad
Christian Reyns-Chikuma
Aiman Saif
Sophie Shi
John Ussher

Governance Staff:

John Lemieux, University
Secretary
Kate Peters, GFC
Secretary
Heather Richholt, Scribe
Faiza Billo
Erin Plume
Juli Zinkin