



General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 23, 2015  
University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

|                         |                                                                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| David Turpin            | Chair, President and Chair, Statutory                                  |
| Jason Acker             | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Donald Ademaj           | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Ahmad Al-Dabbagh        | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                      |
| Susan Andrew            | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Lorne Babiuk            | Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory                           |
| Suresh Chandra Bairwa   | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                      |
| Sean Barber             | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Howard Bashaw           | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Gerald Beasley          | Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory                    |
| Allen Berger            | Member, Dean, Augustana, Statutory                                     |
| Hasan Birir             | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Stanford Blade          | Member, Dean, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Statutory |
| Cary Brown              | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Heather Bruce           | Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee                       |
| Deborah Burshtyn        | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Katy Campbell           | Member, Dean, Extension, Statutory                                     |
| Alicia Cappello         | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                      |
| Sean Caulfield          | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Shreyak Chaplot         | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                      |
| Sam Cheng               | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Brandon Christensen     | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Phyllis Clark           | Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory           |
| Alix Clarke             | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                      |
| Lisa Collins            | Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory               |
| Pamela Mayne Correia    | Member, Academic Staff (FSO), FSO (Academic Staff Representative)      |
| Chris DeGara            | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Kathleen DeLong         | Member, University Library Academic Staff                              |
| Steven Dew              | Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory               |
| Lloyd Steier (Delegate) | Member, Dean, Business, Statutory                                      |
| Annie Duan              | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Duncan Elliott          | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                       |
| Shannon Erichsen        | Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)                         |
| Robin Everall           | Member, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students                      |
| Umer Farooq             | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Kim Frail               | Member, University Library Academic Staff                              |
| David Goertzen          | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                   |
| Lise Gotell             | Member, Dean, Arts (Acting), Statutory                                 |

---

|                                  |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Robert Haennel                   | Member, Dean, Rehabilitation Medicine (Interim)                                       |
| John Hampson                     | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Don Hickey                       | Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)                                    |
| Brendan Hokowhitu                | Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory                                               |
| Jennifer Jay                     | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Paul Jurasz                      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Sushmitha Karunakaran            | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Christine Hughes (Delegate)      | Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory                           |
| Navneet Khinda                   | Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Students' Union)                |
| Vivian Kwan                      | Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life                  |
| Alex Kwan                        | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Justin Leifso                    | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                     |
| Mark Loewen                      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Kathleen Lowrey                  | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Godfrey Man                      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Heather McCaw                    | Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory                                       |
| Eilish McKinlay                  | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Laurie Mereu                     | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Yvette d'Entremont<br>(Delegate) | Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory  |
| Anita Molzahn                    | Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory                                                      |
| Colin More                       | Member, Board of Governors Representative, President (Graduate Students' Association) |
| Nick Holt (Delegate)             | Member, Dean, Physical Education & Recreation, Statutory                              |
| Mehreen Nadeem                   | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Kabir Nadkarni                   | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Dorsa Nahid                      | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Thomas Patrick                   | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Steve Patten                     | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Carla Peck                       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Neesha Persad                    | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Debra Pozega Osburn              | Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory                              |
| Fahim Rahman                     | Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)                |
| Ramin Rahmat Samii               | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                                     |
| Leonard Ratzlaff                 | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Sandra Rein                      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Augustana                                           |
| Jeremy Richards                  | Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee                              |
| Sean Robertson                   | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Carolyn Sale                     | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Toni Samek                       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Peter Smith                      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Kim Solez                        | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Terry Sperling                   | Member, Academic Staff (APO), APO (Academic Staff Representative)                     |
| Marcia Spetch                    | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Vincent Spurrell                 | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Sarah Stahlke                    | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                                      |
| Brett Stephen                    | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                                                  |
| Harsh Thaker                     | Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)              |

|                     |                                                                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ben Thronson        | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                             |
| Dilini Vethanayagam | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                 |
| Elizabeth Wallace   | Member, University Library Academic Staff                        |
| Akiko Watanabe      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                 |
| Bonnie Watt         | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                 |
| Jonathan White      | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                 |
| Brayden Whitlock    | Member, Graduate Student at-Large                                |
| Sheena Wilson       | Member, Statutory Academic Staff                                 |
| Kue Young           | Member, Dean, School of Public Health, Statutory                 |
| Jane Yu             | Member, Undergraduate Student Member                             |
| Heather Zwicker     | Member, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (Interim) |

Staff:

Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Operations  
Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Beasley/Molzahn

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Minutes of September 28, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Wilson/Patten

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of September 28, 2015.

**CARRIED**

3. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

The President Turpin, welcomed all to the 401<sup>st</sup> meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) and provided several points of commentary:

- He acknowledged the recent passing of GFC undergraduate student member, Mr Evan Tran.

- He thanked members for their flexibility regarding the early GFC meeting scheduled to accommodate the joint GFC/Board of Governors/Senate/Alumni Council Executive governance retreat on the next institutional strategic plan following the meeting.

- He provided a brief report to members on recent Government activities including *Bill 5: Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act* (the Sunshine List), and new labour legislation which will impact the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) as well as collective agreements.

- He announced that three University of Alberta students had been awarded Rhodes Scholarships.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. New Members of GFC**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Motion I: Molzahn/Dew

#### **MOTION I: TO APPOINT/RE-APPOINT [This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC – VPs, Deans, statutory students or elected faculty members]:**

The following academic staff member nominated by GFC to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with his term on the Board (October 12, 2015 to October 11, 2018):

Jeremy Richards, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science

The following academic staff member nominated by the Association of Academic Staff - University of Alberta (AASUA) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with his term on the Board (October 12, 2015 to October 11, 2018):

David Cooper, Department of Accounting, Operations, and Information Systems, Alberta School of Business

The following undergraduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2016:

Brett Stephen, Faculty of Education  
Kai Xia Wang, Faculty of Education  
Kabir Nadkarni, Faculty of Engineering  
Dorsa Nahid, Faculty of Engineering  
Varun Bandha, Faculty of Engineering  
Sean Barber, Faculty of Law  
Mehreen Nadeem, Faculty of Science  
Anthony Nguyen, Faculty of Science

**CARRIED**

5. Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference - GFC Academic Planning Committee (Membership)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To revise the Terms of Reference to include the Deputy Provost as a non-voting, resource member.

*Discussion:*

Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr Steven Dew noted that the proposal's intent is to revise the Terms of Reference to include the Deputy Provost as a non-voting, resource member to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC).

Following a question concerning the name of the Deputy Provost, GFC member Professor Carolyn Sale expressed concerns with both this proposal as well as the next item, Item 6: Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference - GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC), as the recommendations within the Report of Task Force on GFC Reforms (2014), pertaining to GFC APC's delegated authority over the academic components of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC), had not yet been considered by GFC. She added that the Students' Union (SU) Discussion Paper on General Faculties Council (GFC) also contained worthy points and should be discussed at GFC prior to amending the Terms of Reference of these GFC Standing Committees.

Motion: Sale/Farooq

THAT General Faculties Council table the proposed changes to the GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference as well as the GFC Academic Standards Committee Terms of Reference, as outlined in Items 5 and 6.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference - GFC Academic Planning Committee and GFC Academic Standards Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To revise the Terms of Reference of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) and the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) to give GFC ASC the delegated authority to approve all certificates which do not require additional funding and/or space.

*Discussion:*

Discussion surrounding this item is detailed in Item 5: Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference - GFC Academic Planning Committee (Membership).

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Students' Union (SU) Executive Goals 2015-2016 and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Strategic Work Plan 2015-2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Fahim Rahman, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic); Colin More, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide members of General Faculties Council goals of the SU and GSA for the 2015-16 Academic Year.

*Discussion:*

Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic) Mr Fahim Rahman presented the objectives of the SU Executive Goals for 2015-16, noting that the plans revolve around five primary themes: affordability; supporting students; student wellness; student experience; and engaging students., He highlighted recent projects undertaken by the SU, including major renovations of the Students' Union Building (SUB) and the implementation of the Fall Term Reading Week. Mr Rahman provided members with an introduction to the 2015-16 SU Executive and their individual areas of focus.

Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President Mr Colin More provided a summary of the goals of the current GSA Executive as part of the Strategic Work Plan, including advocacy at the Provincial Government level for sustainable and predictable funding for the institution; continuity with current endeavors to provide professional development to graduate students; compliance with the Collective Agreement governing Academically Employed Graduate Students; a review of services and spaces important to international graduate students; and ensuring that there is enough quality graduate student housing, as well as transparent residential contracts. He thanked Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Mr Don Hickey, for his assistance in planning the Prayer and Meditation Space.

A member asked about the status of the dissertation scholarships, and it was noted that more information could be provided by Dr Heather Zwicker, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR).

A member sought clarification in regards to the members of the provincial graduate student advocacy group, and Mr More clarified that all Comprehensive Academic and Research Intensive (CARI) institutions are represented within the membership.

8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

8.1 Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey, Regarding Information to be provided by nominees for election by GFC to Dean Selection Committees

*and*

8.1 R Response from the Chair, GFC Nominating Committee

8.2 Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey, Regarding revenue generation from MOOCs.

*and*

8.2 R Response from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

8.3 Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey, Regarding updates on collective bargaining.

*and*

8.3 R Response from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

8.4 Q Question from GFC Member Professor Kathleen Lowrey, Regarding Programming at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC)

and

8.4 R Response from the Vice-Principal of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College

*Discussion:*

In response to Items 8.2 Q and 8.2 R, Professor Lowrey asked for clarification, and Provost Dew confirmed, that MOOCs have not been revenue generating thus far.

In regards to items 8.4 Q and 8.4 R, Professor Lowrey enquired about the PLLC Academic Reference Committee in relation to academic programming offered at the PLLC. The Chair provided members with an update about the PLLC, noting that two courses have been approved and that two others would be coming forward shortly. He added that if GFC would like a regular update, it could be arranged.

The Chair opened the floor to further questions. Mr Hampson pointed out that many students are unaware of the safety protocols involving evacuation and lock down. He asked whether the University could mandate the inclusion of the emergency response information in all course syllabi, as well as a verbal reminder on the first day of instruction. Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Ms Phyllis Clark replied that the University strives to disseminate this information through various platforms, including the ualberta website, email messages, social media, signs, computer screens in labs, and also on the University of Alberta app. She noted that she is always open to receiving suggestions to improve this communication.

Mr Goertzen requested clarification in regards to the data presented by the Chair at the September 28, 2015 meeting of GFC in relation to student satisfaction rates for students in residence. The Chair replied that the data is part of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and that he could provide references, if requested. He clarified that this research does indicate a higher level of engagement for students living in on-campus residence.

Ms Duan requested information in relation to why post-doctoral fellows (PDFs) are not included in the membership of GFC, and enquired further if there was a solution to this problem. The Chair acknowledged that PDFs are instrumental to the research environment at the institution, and that they are highly valued. He invited Vice-President (Research) Dr Lorne Babiuk to elaborate on this issue. Dr Babiuk confirmed that PDFs are not part of GFC because they are not recognized in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)*. University Secretary Ms Marion Haggarty-France added that any issues impacting or relating to PDFs are handled through the Vice-President (Research).

A member requested clarification surrounding whether students were consulted about the accelerated program within Mechanical Engineering, and Provost Dew replied that this option, which is one of five within Mechanical Engineering, gives students the ability to graduate faster, and that it is not a mandatory stream. He invited the member to discuss it with him following the meeting, if necessary.

Mr Cheng asked if there was a plan to address the unrestricted net assets at the University of Alberta. Ms Clark replied that the amount previously presented to members is not an unhealthy amount, and that it might be useful to have a specific presentation on unrestricted net asset deficiencies. She added that she would discuss this further with the University Secretary.

A member pointed out that the GFC schedule poses scheduling problems for some students, which may hinder their ability to participate. The Chair replied that this is a longstanding issue, and that schedules are published well in advance of meetings.

A member reported that students have been experiencing difficulty in contacting Administration in regards to errors on co-curricular records. In response, Vice-Provost and University Registrar Ms Lisa Collins noted that this is a joint endeavor between the Administration and the Students' Union (SU). Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Dr Robin Overall added that her office continues to work on this issue, including consultation with students.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (October 5, November 2, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (September 23, October 21, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the Academic Standards Committee (October 15, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Reports of the GFC Nominating Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the Board of Governors (October 16, 2015)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

- Report of Task Force on GFC Reforms (2014)
- Invitation to Institutional Strategic Planning Retreat (emailed to members on October 16, 2015)

15. Reports

- Annual Conduct Statistics Report from Residence Services (2014-2015)
- Waiver of Advertising Requirements: Report to General Faculties Council (2014-2015)

## **CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.