



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2019
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

David Turpin, Chair
Chris Andersen
Dale Askey
Stanford Blade
Lesley Cormack
Greta Cummings
Steven Dew
Walter Dixon (delegate)
Joseph Doucet
Shanthi Johnson
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Gitta Kulczycki
Dennis Kunimoto
Brooke Milne
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kerry Mummery
Melissa Padfield
Andrew Sharman
Kelly Spencer
Jennifer Tupper

Elected Faculty:

Jason Acker
Cathy Adams
J Nelson Amaral
Nicholas Beier
Gary Eitzen
Tarek El-Bialy
Anastasia Elias
Duncan Elliott
Nadir Erbilgin
Mary Forhan
Bill Foster
Michael Frishkopf
Pierre Lemelin
Kathleen Lowrey
Susanne Luhmann
Pirkko Markula

Lynn McMullen
Sean McMurtry
Al Meldrum
Sue-Ann Mok
Roger Moore
Sarah Moore
Shannon O'Byrne
Christina Rinaldi
Victoria Ruetalo
Carolyn Sale
Richard Schulz
John Seubert
Susan Sommerfeldt
Kisha Supernant
Amy Tse
Alan Underhill
Dilini Vethanayagam
Akiko Watanabe
Jonathan White
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Yan Yuan

Students:

Joel Agarwal
Dylan Ashley
Jared Larsen

Appointed Members:

Katherine Binhammer
Amlan Bose
Meijun Chen
Melinda Chisholm
André Costopoulos
Natalie Diether
David Draper
Fahed Elian
Shannon Erichsen
Jill Hall
Wade King
Alana Krahn
Janice Kung

Christopher Lupke
Habba Mahal
Stephanie McKenzie
Milad Nazarahari
Yejide Omotoso
Lindy Schaffrick
Sarah Severson
Shahed Taghian
Dehaghani
Samantha Tse
Janet Williamson
Adrienne Wright

REGRETS:

Ayman Adwan
W. Ted Allison
Adarsh Badesha
Matthew Barnett
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Yiming Chen
Heather Coleman
Neal Davies
Piet Defraeye
Fay Fletcher
Shawn Flynn
Fraser Forbes
Paul Gareau
Ian Gatera
Tahra Haddouche
Robert Haennel
Olivia Harris
Kelly Hobson
Osman Hojanepesov
Basil Hubbard
Abigail Isaac
Mohamad Jamaledine
Peter Johnson
Kevin Kane
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Nat Kav

Rajesh Kumar
Eva Lemaire
Rowan Ley
Maria Mayan
Rojin McVea
Vivian Mushahwar
Anthony Nguyen
David Percy Alesha Reed
Milad Rezvani Rad
Dan Romanyk
Matthias Ruth
Amber Sayed
Georg Schmolzer
Dhanvanth Soora
Eleni Stroulia
Catherine Swindlehurst
Andrei Tabirca
Frederick Tappenden
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Kristof Van Assche
Donna Wilson
Lynne Wiltse
Ian Winship
Ding Xu
Larry Zhong

Staff:

Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Brad Hamdon, General
Counsel
Heather Richholt, Scribe

Observers:

Melanie Keizer
Matthew Kostecky
Andrew Leitch
Marianne Meijer
Janice Miller-Young
Kate Peters

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor

Motion: Dew/Ashley

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Report from the President- Provincial Budget- Clean Air Strategy- Board/GFC/ Senate Summit

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor

Discussion:

The Chair spoke about the Provincial budget that was tabled in the legislature on October 24th, and the in-year reduction of \$44 million to the university's funding. He discussed the many unknowns regarding budget and funding for the future. He also noted the significance of the University of Alberta as a top 100 university in the world and that this standing was a testament to the support of the people of Alberta.

The Provost gave a brief update on the plans for the necessary in-year budget adjustment and noted that they would affect funding across support units and Faculties.

The Chair gave an update on the Clean Air Strategy, which was expected to come forward in the spring. He noted that there were three options under consideration: keep the smoking and vaping rules as they were; ban all smoking and vaping; or significantly limit where people could smoke or vape.

The Chair mentioned the university's new Workforce Diversity Census, and encouraged all to participate. He explained that the census was meant to provide a clear picture of the demographic makeup of the university community, and would help to promote a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive university over the long term.

The Chair gave an update regarding Advancement activities and noted that donors continued to demonstrate strong support for our students, faculty, and research. He made note of the recent \$1.25 Million donation from Scotiabank to fund artificial intelligence research in the Faculty of Science.

The Chair announced that the Board/GFC/Senate Summit was scheduled for Friday, January 24th and would be held in the Federal Building on the Legislature Grounds with a topic of Performance Based Funding and presenters Alex Usher and Cheryl Poth.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Sharman/Mocquais

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 21, 2019

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of October 21, 2019.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

TO RECEIVE:

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term beginning November 14, 2019 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Catherine Swindlehurst, Interim Vice-President (University Relations)

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to Undergraduate English Language Proficiency Requirements, Office of the Registrar

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to Undergraduate English Language Proficiency requirements, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in attachment 3, to take effect for Fall 2021 admissions.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Statement on Free Expression

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost; Brad Hamdon, General Counsel

Purpose of the Proposal: The university is developing a statement on free expression. The Free Expression Advisory Group, established in May 2019, has developed a draft statement, based on extensive consultation with the university community. The purpose of this item is to recommend the draft statement to the Board of Governors.

Discussion:

Dr Rodgers gave a brief summary of the working group and consultation undertaken for this statement and noted that the main issue was striking a balance with Canadian Law and the university's own policies regarding harassment and discrimination. Mr Hamdon explained that the draft had been sent to the Ministry on November 15th but that no response had been received to date.

Members participated in a robust discussion that included: the autonomy of the university and government influence; problematic language including the definitive words "never" and "completely"; disruption of the business of the university; comparisons with Wilfrid Laurier University's Statement on Freedom of Expression; controversial topics such as gender critical feminism; the mandate for GFC to debate and recommend changes; student consultation and the voice of student members of GFC; and concerns about harassment and discrimination.

A member suggested the addition of language regarding the university's administrative discretion to restrict expression that disrupts the ordinary activities of the university. The additional language was proposed as a means to provide assurance that administrative discretion would not be used inappropriately. Following discussion and debate of more than one proposed amendment, the Statement was amended to include the following sentence:

However, this administrative discretion should not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with the University of Alberta's overarching commitment to free expression.

Motion: Doucet/Johnson

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Statement on Free Expression at the University of Alberta, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference – GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), Chair GFC Committee on the Learning Environment

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to approve the revised terms of reference for the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment.

Discussion:

Dr Nychka pointed to the changes to delegated authority and to the member composition.

Ms Haggarty-France noted that this item marked the final GFC Committee terms of reference revised as a result of the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority.

Motion: Dew/Padfield

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Terms of Reference, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect January 1, 2020.

CARRIED

8. Thesis-based Master's and PhD Learning Outcomes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; John Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to seek approval of the learning outcomes for thesis-based graduate programs.

Discussion:

Dr Milne referenced the Alberta Credentials Framework and noted that approved learning outcomes for graduate programs would provide clarity to students, professors, and administrators, as well as to members of the general public.

Motion: Milne/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the learning outcomes for thesis-based Master's and PhD programs, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

9. Student Financial Support Policy Suite and Rescission of the Awards and Bursaries for Students Policy Suite

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Interim Vice-Provost and Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to recommend approval of the new Student Financial Support Policy Suite, and the rescission of the existing Awards and Bursaries for Students Policy Suite in UAPPOL.

Discussion:

Ms Padfield made note of the Institutional Strategic Plan, *For the Public Good*, and the strategy to "ensure that qualified undergraduate and graduate students can attend the university through the provision of robust student financial support". She explained that the proposed policy suite would create alignment between institutional commitment and administrative practice as well as better reflect current practice and authority, and allow the university to be agile and adaptive to changes in the post-secondary, provincial, and global environments.

Motion: Padfield/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the new Student Financial Support Policy Suite, as set forth in Attachments 2, 3, 4 and 5, and the concurrent rescission of the existing Awards and Bursaries for Students Policy Suite in UAPPOL, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

EARLY CONSULTATION

10. FGSR Supervisory Tool: Supervisor-Student Guidelines, Standardized Annual Progress Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because it introduces two new tools to assist in the administration of the supervisor-student relationship and to more consistently monitor student progress in program. The first tool is the Student Supervisor Guidelines. The second tool is a standardized Annual Progress Report form.

Discussion:

Dr Milne gave an overview of the draft documents and observed that this was an opportunity for the university to standardize and clarify expectations, and improve the foundational relationship between graduate students and their supervisors.

Members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: the additional work that this would create for support staff and supervisors; administrative burden of this type of reporting; issues that would affect student enrollment; how some of the information could be pre-populated; the potential for students to take the lead in addressing issues; problems with requiring regular submissions by staff who may be travelling; similar reporting structures at other U15 institutions; other reporting systems used in various departments and the potential to coordinate and share data; Supervisory membership and training in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; support for this initiative from the Graduate Students' Association; and the need for students to receive clear direction and to understand expectations.

11. An Ethics Framework for Student Learning Analytics

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mike MacGregor, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Services & Technology)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC to discuss and provide input into the proposed ethics framework.

Discussion:

Dr MacGregor acknowledged that various members of the university community were already using student data and noted that it was important for the university to establish a clear ethics framework around the use of student analytics. Dr MacGregor gave a presentation which included some examples of how other institutions were using student analytics to help and support students.

Members discussed the need to clearly outline who has access and to what information; ethical concerns that go along with the "data revolution"; the ability to use this data to respond more quickly to students in distress; how to connect students with systems of support on campus; how the ability to identify students in distress would be especially useful in large, introductory classes; and the need for training to stay on top of ethical issues related to the collection and use of student data.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

12. Safety and Security Committee Status Update-Weapons on Campus (Early Consultation)

Materials and presentations before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Philip Stack, Associate Vice-President (Risk Management Services); James Allen, Associate Vice-President (Operations and Management); Marcel Roth, Director, University of Alberta Protective Services

Purpose of the Proposal: This item is before GFC to provide the action plan's status update, communication and education action plan, the committee's terms of reference, and next steps.

Discussion:

Mr Stack and Mr Allen gave an update of the action plan of the UASSC and noted that another survey on safety and security on our campuses would be released in February. They asked members to encourage others to fill it out as well.

Mr Roth gave an overview of the concerns regarding weapons on campus and the plan to add a clause to the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) that would deal specifically with weapons.

A members asked about an education plan related to this and noted that students do not necessarily know all of the details of the COSB.

13. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

15. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

16. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

17. Annual Report of the GFC Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee (2018-2019)
18. Annual Report of the Graduate Scholarship Committee (2018-2019)
19. GFC Nominations and Elections
 - A. GFC Recent Elections
 - B. [Current Vacancies on GFC](#)
20. Report of the Board of Governors
21. Information Items
 - A. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)
 - B. Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2018-2019)
 - C. 2018-2019 Annual Report on Undergraduate Student Financial Support and Accompanying Overview
 - D. Waiver of Advertising Requirements: Report to General Faculties Council
22. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - Invitation, Draft Statement on Freedom of Expression, GFC Executive Committee
 - FYI Announcement Interim Vice-President (University Relations)

CLOSING SESSION

23. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.