



General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 25, 2021
Remote meeting by Zoom
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

Bill Flanagan
Simaan AbouRizk
Chris Andersen
Dale Askey
Barbara Billingsley
Stanford Blade
Greta Cummings
Steven Dew
Todd Gilchrist
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Nick Holt
Tammy Hopper
Christine Hughes
Shanthi Johnson
Diane Kunyk
Elan MacDonald
Brooke Milne
Kyle Murray
Melissa Padfield
Steve Patten
Aminah Robinson Fayek
Wendy Rodgers
Andrew Sharman
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Jennifer Tupper
Frederick West

Elected Faculty:

J Nelson Amaral
Saadet Andrews
Nicholas Beier
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Robert Burrell
Marie Carrière
Heather Coleman
Michael Dyck
Anastasia Elias
Jaymie Heilman
Michael Hendzel
Carol Hodgson Birkman

Peter Hurd
Nat Kav
Vadim Kravchinsky
Hollis Lai
Jacqueline Leighton
Pierre Lemelin
Runjuan Liu
Kathleen Lowrey
Derek MacKenzie
Al Meldrum
Sourayan Mookerjee
Sarah Moore
Weimin Mou
Mario Nascimento
Jerine Pegg
Sujata Persad
Frances Plane
Elena Posse de Chaves
Dan Romanyk
Victoria Ruetalo
Carolyn Sale
John Spence
Laura Stovel
Alan Underhill
Mani Vaidyanathan
Jonathan White
Shauna Wilton
Richard Wozniak
Moin Yahya
Yan Yuan
Nese Yuksel

Students:

Talia Dixon
Kathy Haddadkar
Abner Monterio

Appointed Members:

Nikita Adekar
Ashmeen Aneja
Heba Aref
Susan Babcock
Samar Barazesh
Andrew Batycki

Vaughn Beaulieu-
Mercredi
Marsha Boyd
Chiara Concini
André Costopoulos
Maddie Dempsey
Andy Deprato
Devin Doherty
Joseph Doucet
Anas Fassih
Levi Flaman
Shawn Flynn
Kyle Foster
Lisa Glock
Jill Hall
Emily Holden
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Rokhand Khademi
Georgia Korfeh
Jesse Lafontaine
Devshri Lala
Jenny Lam
Rowan Ley
Maggie Lin
Andrew Locke
Angie Mandeville
Tia Marko
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Emily Motoska
Mary Olukotun
Sanhita Pal
Laura Reifferscheid
Sarah Severson
Khandaker Akib Shahriar
Sophie Shi
Chanpreet Singh
Allison Sivak
Aadhavya Sivakumaran
Shubham Soni
Cindy Sun
Andrei Tabirca

Frederick Tappenden
Phillip Vandevalk
Dilini Vethanayagam
Adrian Wattamaniuk
Kyle Whitlock
Donna Wilson
Adrienne Wright
Ding Xu
Shuce Zhang

REGRETS:

Ghalia Aamer
Jason Acker
Sandeep Agrawal
Chris Beasley
Nicole de Grano
Gary Eitzen
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Harnoor Kalra
Gurleen Kaur
Jessica Kolopenuk
David Konrad
Mohit Kumar
Shashi Kumar
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Reagan Morris
Yusuf Oliya
Keith Rourke
Rama Taha
Siddharth Thakur
Amy Tse

Kristof Van Assche
Julia Viloso
Akanksha Yeola

Staff:

Brad Hamdon, General
Counsel and University
Secretary
Kate Peters, GFC
Secretary
Heather Richholt, Scribe
University Governance:
Edyta McLoughlin
Laura Riley

OPENING SESSION

Before opening the meeting, the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:

We are located on Treaty 6 territory. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

1. Approval of the Agenda

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

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the item on proposed changes to the GFC guiding documents had been changed from an action to a discussion item and that the agenda had been rearranged accordingly.

Motion: Yuan/Kav

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

- United Way Campaign

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

Discussion:

The Chair referenced the link on the agenda to the promotional video for the United Way and invited Jennifer Tupper, Dean of the Faculty of Education and co-chair of the 2021 United Way Campaign to speak. Dr Tupper spoke briefly about the campaign and asked members to consider contributing.

The Chair noted that Jonathan White would be taking a break from GFC while on sabbatical and recognized his years of service as a GFC member, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, and his work to put in place a new committee structure and new procedures for recruitment and selection following the 2017 recommendations of the GFC *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority. Dr White provided an update on GFC Committee and other vacancies and encouraged members to put their names forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Yuan/Kav

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 20, 2021

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of September 20, 2021.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following undergraduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing October 25, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022:

Gurleen Kaur, Arts

Rokhand Khademi, Pharmacy

The following College Deans to serve on GFC for terms commencing September 20, 2021 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, College of Natural and Applied Sciences,
Joseph Doucet, College of Social Sciences & Humanities
Greta Cummings, College of Health Sciences

The following delegate for the Acting President of the AASUA, to serve on GFC for term of office beginning October 25, 2021 and for the duration of the appointment:

Brian Fleck, Director, AASUA Executive

CARRIED

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for term of office beginning October 25, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024:

Marie Carrière, Arts

CARRIED

5. Proposed Suspension of Majors for the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education Combined Degrees Program, Augustana Faculty, and Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to make significant program changes to the Bachelor of Science (BSc)/Bachelor of Education (BEd) (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program (Augustana), offered by Augustana Faculty and the Faculty of Education.

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend the Board of Governors approved proposed suspension of admissions to the majors in Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences, in the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education Combined Degree Program (Augustana), to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Decommission of Section 65.3 (University of Alberta Student Housing Policy) from the GFC Policy Manual

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Katherine Huising, Associate Vice President, Campus Services

Purpose of the Proposal: In an ongoing effort to ensure university policy is consistently prepared, managed, and housed, efforts are being made to, where appropriate, shift university policy into the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) environment. Section 65.3 of the GFC Policy Manual (University of Alberta Student Housing Policy) is dated and the on-campus residence system has undergone significant growth necessitating a policy update. In support of UAPPOL being the one repository for university policy, it is appropriate to rescind what is an out-of-date GFC policy.

Discussion:

Ms Huising provided an overview of the proposal and explained that the motion to rescind the policy was tabled by the Executive Committee in 2015. She explained that Executive Committee had removed it from the table and recommended approval. She provided rationale including because the policy was obsolete and there were other up-to-date policies and procedures that addressed matters of concern.

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

- Whether removing this GFC policy meant that GFC would not have overview of these matters;
- whether affordability and sustainability of residences should be addressed by new policy;
- the role of the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association, and the Residence Association to address matters of affordability and sustainability;
- that residences had to be self-sustaining since the university was not able to use government money to invest in, or subsidize, residences;
- relevant policies and procedures that existed in UAPPOL; and
- the ongoing work of the university to move the remaining pieces of the GFC Policy Manual into UAPPOL.

Motion: Yuan/Kav

THAT the General Faculties Council approve, the deletion of Section 65.3 (University of Alberta Student Housing Policy) of the GFC Policy Manual, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7. Question Period
 - 7.1 Parking
 - 7.2 Extensions of GFC Meetings
 - 7.3 Ring Houses

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

The Chair asked if there were any follow up questions to the posted items.

Regarding question 7.3 about the Ring Houses, Dr Sale noted her concern that the University of Alberta Ring Houses Coalition's expertise was not taken into account and their proposal was not taken seriously. She expressed that Historic Resource Impact Assessments should be standard and that the Alberta Ministry of Culture had offered money toward the costs. She offered her opinion that a better and more democratic consultation process regarding the heritage of our campuses was needed. Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Andrew Sharman noted that the coalition's proposal was not sustainable or affordable and would not support the university's core missions of teaching, learning, and research. He explained that no decisions regarding the future use of the site had been made and that the university would not move forward on that without consultation.

A member asked about the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) restructuring and how administrative support for accreditation processes within the Faculties would be factored in to any changes. Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew responded that accreditation bodies normally required a licensed professional to have oversight over the processes and that meeting all accreditation requirements would continue to be a priority in any restructuring planning.

A member referenced the Student Demographic Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Census which was shared as an information item in the meeting package and asked if the university would assess racial impacts on retention and graduation rates of students. Deputy Provost Wendy Rodgers, and Vice-Provost and Registrar Melissa Padfield explained that they needed to have sufficient responses in order to provide a robust analysis but that they would continue to look at the data they had to review key access to services across the university to ensure they were supporting student success.

A member asked if the EDI survey results would be made public. Dr Rodgers replied that any data that did not reveal personal or private information would be shared.

8. Institutional Indigenous Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research); Nella Sajlovic (Indigenous Strategies Manager)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before GFC for early consultation.

Discussion:

Dr Glanfield observed that the University of Alberta had made broad commitments to be a leader in its responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. She acknowledged that progress had been made but that conversations continued to be shaped by new opportunities, including financial opportunities. Dr Glanfield noted that important factors that would contribute to success were: a long term vision; committed and engaged leadership; and the creation and sustaining of a culture of learning. She invited members to think about their role in the process and to acknowledge the truth of Canada and the systemic racism that existed and continued to exist against Indigenous people. She encouraged members to educate themselves through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), the Centre for Teaching and Learning's courses, books, podcasts, and other sources of information. She affirmed that context and history continued to shape all that we do in research and teaching and that we each had a role to play in the long-term vision.

The Chair thanked Dr Glanfield for her leadership and her bold call to action.

Members asked about the results of the student success survey and student group participation in the consultations to date.

In response to a request for a description of the endpoint of the goals and strategies of decolonization, Dr Glanfield noted that strategies to date had focused on representation and increasing the number of Indigenous voices in the community, rather than including Indigenous worldviews. She noted that public institutions in Canada had been established according to European worldviews and values and that all policy and practice should be questioned and reviewed with an Indigenous lens. She explained that her vision of the endpoint was programming that was open and inclusive of all diversity.

A member asked how the delay of the proposed Maskwa House of Learning impacted students who need access to services. Deputy Provost Wendy Rodgers replied that services were provided through the Dean of Students and First Peoples' House but that more space would allow them to expand their services.

Dr Glanfield noted that she would return to GFC in the spring and invited members to send feedback and questions by email.

9. Proposed Changes to the General Faculties Council Guiding Documents

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brad Hamdon, General Counsel and University Secretary

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to review proposed changes to the:

- Principles for GFC Standing Committee Composition
- Roles and Responsibilities of Members
- Meeting Procedural Rules

The changes were developed in consultation with members of GFC through the work of the GFC Executive *ad hoc* Governance and Procedural Review Committee convened in March, 2021 and disbanded in June, 2021.

Discussion:

The Chair thanked the GFC Executive Committee and in particular the members of the Executive *ad hoc* Review Committee for their work and the significant amount of time spent preparing the proposal and reviewing all the comments received from members of GFC. He explained that Mr Hamdon decided to revise from an action to a discussion item after receiving several proposed amendments that were included in the meeting materials. The Chair noted that it was important for GFC to have sufficient time to review the proposed amendments and for GFC Executive, who hold delegated authority over these matters, to have the opportunity to work through them before GFC was asked to make a final decision. The Chair also spoke about the memo regarding procedural points that he had sent to GFC members in September and reminded members that the procedural rules were guided by the principles of collegial governance, transparency, and informed debate. He further explained that for many years, GFC determined not to use Robert's Rules in alignment with these principles. He also observed that GFC's commitment to collegial governance included intentional decisions on procedures to support respectful, inclusive and effective decision-making and that he hoped the memo, combined with governance education, and the discussions on the proposed revisions to the GFC Guiding Documents, would allow for informed participation in GFC.

Mr Hamdon echoed the Chair's thanks to the members of the Executive *ad hoc* Review Committee and the 40 members of GFC who had submitted suggestions and feedback. He noted that all of the feedback was considered by the *ad hoc* Review Committee in the development of the proposed revisions to the guiding documents and noted that the GFC Executive Committee had recommended the proposed revisions at their meeting of October 4. Mr Hamdon provided an overview of the history and purpose of the guiding documents and spoke specifically about the proposed changes to:

- voting rules;
- question period procedures;
- when a simple majority or two-thirds majority was appropriate;
- motion to close debate;
- calling of a special meeting; and
- speaking times.

Mr Hamdon noted that he agreed to bring this item forward as a discussion item because of several proposed amendments that had been submitted by a GFC member the previous week. He noted that it was important that GFC members felt comfortable with the changes being discussed and that, given GFC Executive's authority on these matters, that they be given an opportunity to review the amendments and discuss next steps.

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

- the hope that nothing said so far was meant to suggest that GFC did not have the authority to determine its own rules;
- authority to conduct the triennial review of the guiding documents;
- that standing committee authority and composition was at the heart of GFC responsibility;
- a suggestion that standing committee composition should follow the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* rules for determining GFC membership;
- the references to equitable and diverse decision making in the Roles and Responsibilities of Members document;
- concern that GFC Executive Committee creating a subcommittee was unprecedented;
- an opinion that a two-thirds majority should be required to extend meetings of GFC;
- questions about the structure and order of discussion of the matters in the item;
- whether an elected representative who was critical of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policies at the University of Alberta would be excluded from GFC if the EDI principles in the Roles and Responsibilities of Members document were approved;

- that GFC would be approving any changes to language and that only GFC could set the general guidelines to govern itself and set expectations for its members;
- whether there was a way for online viewers to submit questions for question period;
- the responsibility of representatives to bring forward questions from their constituents;
- strategies to increase participation of members so that GFC heard from more than just a few of the more vocal members;
- how to create a more welcome environment for all;
- an opinion that there was a sense that administration was "othered" and had a secret agenda but that members of administration are there to act in the best interests of the institution;

A member raised a point of order concerning another member calling into question their motivation for suggesting changes to the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules. The Chair overruled the order and resumed the discussion.

- that deeper engagement and hearing different perspectives would strengthen GFC;
- support for a suggestion to structure debate to alternate speakers on different sides of the question;
- a question about the use and definition of the word "commitment" in the Roles and Responsibilities of Members document;
- that an emphasis should be placed on ensuring smooth and democratic processes;
- potential provisions for calling a special meeting and processes at comparator institutions; and
- whether the new language around question period in the proposed amendment suggested that administration was not transparent and accountable.

The mover of the proposed amendments asked to speak to the proposed amendments near the end of the discussion but the Chair ruled that the item was out of time as there were other matters on the agenda that needed to be discussed. He assured members that the proposed revisions to the guiding documents would come back to GFC for discussion at a later meeting before they were brought forward for decision to ensure that sufficient time and consideration were given to these important matters.

Elected faculty member Carolyn Sale made a notice of motion for debate at the next meeting of GFC as set out in the GFC Meeting Procedural Rules (8.7).

Notice of Motion: Discussion of Terms of Reference for a GFC Standing Committee on Governance and Procedural Oversight.

10. GSA and UASU Goals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Anas Fassih, President, Graduate Students' Association (GSA); Rowan Ley, President, University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU)

Purpose of the Proposal:

The UASU is presenting this information item by invitation, to brief GFC Executive Committee and General Faculties Council on its priorities for 2021-2022.

The information item is before the committee because the GSA has been invited to brief GFC Executive Committee and General Faculties Council on its key priorities for 2021-2022 as identified by the GSA in its Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP).

Discussion:

The President of the USAU spoke about the themes for the executive goals and priorities for 2021-2022 including:

- boost academic advocacy and bolster student leadership;
- foster an equitable, inclusive, and diverse campus;
- ensure student voices shape the future; and
- lead the charge on sustainability.

The President of the GSA provided an overview of the Board Strategic Work Plan 2021-2022 and the GSA's work to advocate for and to support graduate students.

Members discussed:

- equity in graduate student funding;
- the comparative availability of merit and needs based funding;
- that some students without a minimum funding package had to find employment outside of the university;
- graduate teaching assistantships;
- child care issues; and
- the vaccine mandate.

11. Residence Community Standards Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students, Residences; Alison Exner, Supervisor, Residence Life-Community Support

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the proposed updates to the Residence Community Standards Policy, and the creation of associated procedures and an information document in the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) as set out in the attached.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the Council on Student Affairs (COSA) and the GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC) had both discussed the draft documents and that it was at GFC for early consultation.

Ms Johnson provided a high-level overview of the draft changes to the Residence Community Standards Policy including moving the policy and procedures into UAPPOL. She noted that the proposed changes would bring the documents up to date and increase the accountability and transparency of current process.

A member observed that there had been critiques of the shift to restorative justice practice written by both feminist and Indigenous scholars. She noted an opinion that restorative justice could be coercive, and criticism of the confidentiality documents.

The Chair noted that this item would come back to GFC for further discussion before GFC was asked to make a recommendation.

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 (no meeting since the September 20 meeting of GFC)

15. GFC Nominations and Elections
16. Report of the Board of Governors
17. A. Student Demographic Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Census
B. COVID-19 Governance Emergency Protocols Decision Tracker
18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - Call for nominations – Executive Governance and Procedural Oversight Committee (Exec GPO)
 - Memo from the Chair and Orientation on GFC Meeting Procedural Rules

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: November 29, 2021

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