
General Faculties Council (GFC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, October 17, 2022
Remote Meeting via Zoom
2:00 PM - 4:35 PM

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair made the following acknowledgement:

We are privileged to reside on lands in Treaties 6, 7, 8 and the homeland of the Metis. To respect these agreements and to honour our relations with these Nations, we recognize this territory as we convene today. This is a sign of our commitment to working and living in good relations with Indigenous Peoples and nations who, through the treaty process, generously offered their lands.

The Chair noted that the meeting had pivoted to a fully online meeting via Zoom due to illness among governance staff.

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)

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

Discussion:

In his comments the chair spoke about the One University Operating Model and plans to consult with GFC on the University Strategic Plan in November.

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 June 6, 2022 and September 19, 2022

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of June 6 and September 19, 2022.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

TO APPOINT:

The following Librarians representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing October 17, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:

Patricia Sherbaniuk

The following Management and Professional Staff representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing October 17, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:

Eva Glancy

The following Academic Professional Officer representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing October 17, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025:

Jill Bagwe

The following Department Chair representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing October 17, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024:

Ryan Dunch

CARRIED

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory academic staff members who have been elected/re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2025:

Andrew McGee, Arts

Chetan Dave, Arts

Jinfeng Liu, Engineering

Bipro Dhar, Engineering

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning September 15, 2022 and extending for the duration of the appointment:

Jessica Butts Scott, Associate Vice-President, Online and Continuing Education

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning October 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2022:

Ali Shiri, Acting Vice-Provost and Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

The following ex officio member to serve on GFC for a term beginning November 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2023:

Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Revisions to Examination Procedures and Deferred Exam Procedures in the 2023-2024 University Calendar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Acting Vice-Provost and Registrar

Discussion:

N Rodenburg provided a brief overview of the proposed changes.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the Examination Procedures listed in the University Calendar, as set forth in the attached documents, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 University Calendar

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the procedures for Deferred Final Exams listed in the University Calendar, as set forth in the attached documents, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 University Calendar.

CARRIED

6. Notice of Motion: Rescission of the sub-delegation of authority to Facilities Development Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carolyn Sale, Elected Academic Staff Member of GFC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the item was the result of a notice of motion made at the September GFC meeting under section 8.7 of the Meeting Procedural Rules and that the proponent had worked with governance to bring forward a revised motion.

C Sale spoke to her motion noting the importance of facilities to the academy and that these matters should be considered by GFC. She explained that her motion had been revised in a way that better met the objective of ensuring that proposals come to full GFC.

Members asked clarifying questions about where the authority would be held and what this would mean for the authority of the GFC Facilities Development Committee (FDC).

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the rescission of the sub-delegation of authority to the GFC Facilities Development Committee as set out in the Terms of Reference for GFC FDC section 4.2 and revise the corresponding section of the GFC Terms of Reference section 4.3 to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

7. Notice of Motion: Policy requiring that proposals to the Board of Governors be brought to General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carolyn Sale, Elected Academic Staff Member of GFC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that he would not step out of the chair for this item because he did not intend to speak to the motion but rather to the constitutionality of the item. The Chair explained that he must rule the motion out of order noting that the preamble contained an incorrect interpretation and that while the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) does give GFC the broad authority to make recommendations to the Board under section 26(1)(o), it does not give GFC the authority to require the President or Provost to provide GFC with notice of all policies that the President or the Provost intends to take to the Board of Governors for its consideration. The Chair explained that under section 81 and 82 of the PSLA, the Board has the exclusive power to appoint the president and the vice presidents and since the President is appointed by the Board, reports to the Board and is accountable to the Board, only the Board has the general authority to compel the President to act.

C Sale made a motion to appeal the decision of the Chair and asserted that GFC could not exercise its statutory authority to make recommendations if it was kept in the dark about policies being brought to the Board by the

President or the Provost for the Board's consideration. She argued that In order to exercise its statutory authority, GFC must be informed about, and have the opportunity to make recommendations to the Board on any policy that might have implications for the academic affairs of the University. She further noted that nothing in the motion compelled the President to act and the motion was intended to provide GFC with the opportunity to express its will in this matter.

A member asked if the motion could compel the Chair of GFC rather than the President and heard that the President is the Chair of GFC as set out in the PSLA. A member noted that this motion was only a request for information to be shared to give GFC the opportunity to see what the Board was considering. Members asked clarifying questions about the vote and where the Chair was given the authority to rule a motion out of order. The Chair referenced *Roberts Rules of Order* 4:17 and 10:26(1) and explained that it was the obligation of the Chair to rule a motion out of order if it was outside the authority of GFC.

A member made a motion to call the question which passed with a two-thirds majority vote.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT GFC call the question/end debate and move to a vote.

CARRIED

A member made a motion to adjourn the meeting citing concerns with access to the electronic voting system. The Chair asked that the meeting continue with members who were unable to access the voting system chatting their votes to the governance team. The motion to adjourn failed.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT the meeting of GFC adjourn.

DEFEATED

The motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair was carried and the discussion continued.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT the General Faculties Council appeal the decision of the Chair to rule the motion out of order.

CARRIED

Several members remarked that the President should step out of the Chair as he would naturally be drawn into the debate and had already spoken against the motion by ruling it out of order. The Chair replied that he had no intention of participating in the debate on the substance of the motion and had only spoken to the authority as was his responsibility as chair. A member made a motion that the President step out of the chair and the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) step into the role. The motion failed.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT the President step out of the chair.

DEFEATED

General Counsel and University Secretary, Brad Hamdon, noted that his team looked into this matter in detail and the motion was outside the authority of GFC because only the Board has the power to direct the President.

C Sale argued that this was not about the Board's authority and acknowledged that GFC's responsibility for the academic affairs of the university was subject to the authority of the Board. She further noted that any policy proposal should be open and transparent so that GFC has the information it needs to be able to make recommendations, that the proper route to the Board was through GFC, and that this was about what was right for the university's system of bicameral governance.

Members discussed whether administration may need to make a decision within a timeframe that makes it impossible to bring the matter to GFC, if the College Dean procedure should have come to GFC, and whether some other items may not need to come to GFC. Members observed that reasonable people can have differing opinions, that nothing in the motion infringes on the Board's decision-making powers, that it was within GFC's authority to ask for this information, and that they could not understand the "hostility" around the request.

A member acknowledged that nothing would happen if the motion was approved as it was and proposed an amendment. The Chair explained that the amendment was not germane to the motion and would require a new motion. The proposed amendment was withdrawn.

Members discussed that this motion was symbolic and even if it did not have any power, it would still send a message to the Board and could perhaps be used to support collective action, and expressed that there should be a University Secretary who guarded the governance process on a non-partisan basis.

A member proposed an amendment to the motion to change the word "shall" to "be encouraged to". Several members spoke against the motion because they felt it was not strong enough.

A motion was made to extend the meeting by 30 minutes and was carried.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT the General Faculties Council extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

CARRIED

Members asked about legislation and the practical implications of this motion and whether there were some matters that would not come to GFC, and heard that items typically come to GFC if they touch on academic matters and that all post-secondary institutions in Alberta were subject to the PSLA.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor - Proposed Amendment:

It is moved that the President be encouraged to provide the General Faculties Council with notice of all policies that the President or the Provost intends to take to the Board of Governors for its consideration so that the General Faculties Council will have both the opportunity and sufficient time to exercise its statutory right to make recommendations to the Board on any matter "considered by the general faculties council to be of interest to the university.

DEFEATED

The motion was moved and seconded.

It is moved that the President shall provide the General Faculties Council with notice of all policies that the President or the Provost intends to take to the Board of Governors for its consideration so that the General Faculties Council will have both the opportunity and sufficient time to exercise its statutory right to make recommendations to the Board on any matter "considered by the general faculties council to be of interest to the university.

CARRIED

8. Notice of Motion: Request that the Board pause implementation of the College Dean Selection Procedure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carolyn Sale, Elected Academic Staff Member of GFC

Discussion:

C Sale presented her motion to request that the Board delay implementation of the procedure for the selection of the College Deans indicating that GFC should have had an opportunity to weigh in on the procedure and that timing was not a factor as good management included planning ahead for consultation.

The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) noted that the searches were underway, spoke about the selection procedure, and noted that she was open to feedback.

In response to a question the GFC Secretary confirmed that the Board Report for the September 19, 2022 meeting of GFC included the decision to approve the College Dean Selection Procedure.

Members spoke in favour of the motion asserting that GFC should have had an opportunity to review the procedure and the College Dean job description, that these positions have academic implications and are more powerful than Deans, and that a special meeting of GFC should have been called to allow the opportunity for GFC to weigh in on the procedure before it was approved. Members asked what would happen with this recommendation if it was passed and remarked that approving this motion would send a clear message to the Board.

The motion was moved and seconded.

The General Faculties Council requests that the Board of Governors not act upon or continue to act upon this "Procedure" until such time as the General Faculties Council has had the opportunity to consider and make a recommendation to the Board on the "Procedure," as its statutory right.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no indication of follow up questions and there was no motion to extend the meeting further.

10. Update on the College Dean's progress and plans

Item was deferred.

11. Online and Continuing Education

Item was deferred.

12. Review of the GFC Nominating Committee Terms of Reference and Procedures

Item was deferred.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
14. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
15. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
16. GFC Nominations and Elections
17. Information Items:
 - A. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring (UAT/College Metrics)
 - B. Student Accessibility Assessment Project Report
18. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - GFC Meeting Materials - Now available (Memo to GFC Members on Procedural Matters)
 - Invitation from Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
 - FYI: Announcement - Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
 - FYI: Announcing the Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: November 14, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members

Ex-Officio:

Bill Flanagan, Chair
Simaan AbouRizk
Barbara Billingsley
Stanford Blade
Jessica Butts Scott
Todd Gilchrist
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Tammy Hopper
Christine Hughes
Nathalie Kermoal
Diane Kunyk
Elan MacDonald
Kyle Murray
Kyra Pyke
Aminah Robinson
Fayek
Norma Rodenburg
Andrew Sharman
Ali Shiri
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Jennifer Tupper
Frederick West
Robert Wood
Verna Yiu

Academic Staff:

Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Cary Brown
Robert Burrell
Marie Carrière
Susan Chatwood
Chetan Dave
Bipro Dhar
Melanie Dreyer-Lude
Michael Dyck
Richard Field
Zachary Friggstad
Michael Hendzel
Jessica Kolopenuk
Vadim Kravchinsky

Hollis Lai
Jacqueline Leighton
Pierre Lemelin
Jinfeng Liu
Christopher Lupke
Derek MacKenzie
Andrew McGee
Weimin Mou
Mario Nascimento
Pauline Paul
Graham Pearson
Jerine Pegg
Sujata Persad
Frances Plane
Elena Posse de Chaves
Spencer Proctor
Tracy Raivio
Christian Reyns-
Chikuma
Keith Rourke
Carolyn Sale
John Spence
Chris Sprysak
Mirko van der Baan
Yifeng Wei
Shauna Wilton
Richard Wozniak
Nese Yuksel

Students:

Bishoi Aziz
Joannie Fogue
Gurleen Kaur

Appointed Members:

Abdul Abbasi
Haruun Ali
Fateh Arslan
Cirila Bartley
Josephine Bolaji
Marsha Boyd
Heather Bruce
Daniela Carbajal
André Costopoulos

Telisa Courtney
Greta Cummings
Alexander Dorscheid
Joseph Doucet
Ryan Dunch
Anas Fassih
Levi Flaman
Shawn Flynn
Kyle Foster
Eva Glancy
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Rachel Hislop-Hook
Emily Holden
Jelena Holovati
Leo Huang
Matina Kalcounis-
Rueppell
Valentina Kozlova
Lionel Liu
Precious Majekodunmi
Angie Mandeville
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Tessa Monaghan
Abner Monteiro
Jennifer Passey
Hubert Piatkowski
Jad-Julian Rachid
Polina Reisbig
Marian Sanchez
Meruja Selvamanikkam
Srivathsan
Shanmuganathan
Subrat Sharma
Patricia Sherbaniuk
Sophie Shi
Chanpreet Singh
Allison Sivak
Pien Steinbusch
Gordon Swaters
Andrei Tabirca
Frederick Tappenden
Dilini Vethanayagam
Adrian Wattamaniuk
Rachel Yang

REGRETS:

Sandeep Agrawal
Hussain Alhussainy
Saadet Andrews
Dale Askey
Rebecca Avila
Jill Bagwe
Ahmed Bouferguene
Jayden Brooks
Jason Carey
Yiming Chen
Pierre Chue
Sharon Compton
Charvi Dhamija
Jaida Han
Carol Hodgson Birkman
Shanthi Johnson
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Mobashhir Khan
Mohit Kumar
Devshri Lala
Ariane Lamoureux
Warren Leung
Liran Levin
Priyanka Mittapelly
Milan Regmi
Dan Romanyk
Kent Rondeau
Dweej Shah
Rana Sunjog Singh
Thind
Mani Vaidyanathan
Vedant Vyas

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Counsel and University
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Kate Peters, GFC
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Heather Richholt, Scribe
Faiza Billo
Erin Plume