
General Faculties Council (GFC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2023
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)
2:00 PM - 4:12 PM

OPENING SESSION

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

We are located on Treaty 6 territory. 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 recognise 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.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Vice-Chair of GFC

Discussion:

V Yiu noted that she was in the Chair in the absence of President and Vice-Chancellor, B Flanagan.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Vice-Chair of GFC

Discussion:

In her comments, the Vice-Chair referred members to the President's Report in the meeting materials and spoke about the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes and the benefit concert to support relief efforts, and the Campus Food Bank February Fresh Food campaign.

GFC Secretary K Peters noted that the GFC Appointee to the Board of Governors would finish their term in June and that a call for nominations for the position would be sent out in the coming weeks. V Yiu and members of GFC thanked D Vethanayagam for her service.

Two members of the GFC Nominating Committee, E Holden and D Mackenzie were invited to speak about the upcoming GFC and committee replenishment cycle. They encouraged current members to reach out to their colleagues and students about applying for upcoming vacancies.

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 October 17, 2022, and January 30, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of October 17, 2022, and January 30, 2023.

CARRIED

4. New Members

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:

Douglas Gingrich, Faculty of Science

CARRIED

5. Proposed Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Medicine and FGSR

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Suspension of the Rehabilitation Medicine Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation, to take effect July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, Rehabilitation Medicine and FGSR

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the suspension of the Rehabilitation Medicine Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, to take effect July 21, 2023.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

7. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy Revised Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kathryn Todd Deputy Provost (Academic); Karsten Mündel Acting Vice Provost (Learning Initiatives); Lia Daniels Professor and Director of the Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME)

Discussion:

K Todd and K Mündel provided an overview of the proposal including the history of student evaluations at the UofA, the consultations and feedback that was addressed, key considerations, contributions by the experts in CRAME, and alignment with the Framework for Effective Teaching.

Members asked about how Faculty Evaluation Committees (FECs) used this data, expressed their apprehension that negative student feedback could have consequences for annual reviews, and asked about different ways that this data could be used to improve teaching. K Mündel noted that this tool should be used to inform the work of teachers and not be considered only as statistical analysis. He observed that evaluation of teaching

must be multifaceted and this was only one tool. He also noted that there were other methods that instructors could employ to gather feedback from their students.

In response to queries about why it was important to have all of the 18 questions included in the surveys, L Daniels explained that the psychometric properties for the scale were based on using all 18 questions which were mapped on to the Framework for Effective Teaching. She noted that removing questions would result in incomplete results. K Mündel noted that continued analysis on its effectiveness was important and that it would be ongoing.

Members asked about efforts to mitigate bias in the questions and heard that some questions were removed or rephrased to make them simple and straightforward, and that the focus was on collecting student perspectives and removing questions that invited judgment. A member asked why the questions were focused on the student rather than the instructor and heard that it was the student perspectives that were being gathered in these surveys.

A member expressed support of the proposal and observed that the tool was not perfect and would never be perfect but that it was useful and these questions were significantly better than the current ones.

A member confirmed that each question provided the opportunity to enter a comment.

A member confirmed that instructors could add questions after the standard 18 if they wished to.

A member expressed that they were not supportive of the proposal, felt that students should be able to provide overall feedback and acknowledge great instructors, and that it was difficult to add more questions since there were already 18.

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the UAPPOL Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT) Survey, as set forth in Attachment 1 to take effect July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Questions were submitted in advance regarding: The University Strategic Plan; and University Libraries Journal Licenses.

A member asked and received confirmation that instructors could add any questions from the Test Scoring & Questionnaire Services (TQS) database to their individual student surveys.

A member asked about the work of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force. Acting Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) K Mündel answered that guidance would be coming soon and that conversations related to AI were happening all across the learning environment. He urged instructors to talk to their students about how to interact with AI.

A member asked if an addition of an overall comment section in the SPOT surveys would be possible. K Mündel replied that he would take that suggestion back to the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) for further conversation.

9. Proposed Changes to GFC Terms of Reference and Reapportionment Procedure

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jerine Pegg, Professor and Chair of GFC Executive's Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GPO); Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager of GFC Services

Discussion:

J Pegg went over the changes to the Mandate, Responsibilities, and Authority and asked members to consider the changes that had been suggested in the draft GFC Terms of Reference and Reapportionment Procedure noting that the discussion on composition would be more complex and could be discussed next.

Members asked how our document compared with the terms of reference for University of Calgary and the new structure for setting out the composition.

J Pegg spoke about the discussions at GPO and Executive Committee and went over the questions to consider, noting GPO's request for feedback and guidance.

The Vice-Chair confirmed that this item would come back to GFC for additional discussion.

A member spoke to an intention to bring forward a proposal to increase the number of academic staff on GFC noting that there was a serious composition problem, and that at least 51% of the body should be full-time academic staff engaged in teaching and research. She also noted that the revised language in the terms of reference was a narrowing of the authority to impede GFC.

A member asked if the appointed ex-officio members could be non-voting members and heard that the appointed members could be made non-voting but the statutory members could not.

10. Facilities Update (no documents)

Presenter(s): Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)

Discussion:

A Sharman provided an update on facilities and referred members to information resources including: Capital Plan 101, Deferred Maintenance Dashboards, Campus Cleaning Standards and Schedule, and Campus Maintenance Response Standards. A Sharman also spoke about some significant initiatives including: Central Academic Building multi-purpose space renovation, University Commons, School of Business student commons renovation, and all-gender washrooms. He also noted that space optimization was a priority and the Faculty and College Deans will be called upon to meet space reduction targets.

Members asked when the available all-gender washrooms would be updated on campus maps, and about elevator maintenance and the priority of accessibility for those with mobility challenges.

A member made a motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT the General Faculties Council extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

11. University Strategic Plan consultation summary: "What We Heard"

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Vice-Chair of GFC

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair spoke about the "What We Heard" report which summarized the key input from the consultation process of the past several months and the four themes discussed in the report: Growing with the province, Research, Talent Hub, and Indigenization and Equity.

12. Student Experience Action Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Vice-Chair of GFC; Melissa Padfield Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment),

Discussion:

M Padfield presented on the work to create a Student Experience Action Plan. She noted the goal of crafting a student experience that we can be proud of and that reflects what is unique about the University of Alberta.

University of Alberta Students' Union President A Monteiro, one of the project sponsors, observed that students are at the heart of this plan and in the driver's seat for its development.

M Padfield also spoke about an additional 1.6 million dollars in student mental health funding that would be used to relieve the pressure in counseling and clinical services and would be directed toward culturally aware counseling, training, and hiring.

13. Budget Model 2.0 Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

T Gilchrist spoke about the six budget model principles that were approved in 2017 and the proposal to add three additional principles: Fairness, Collaboration, and Strategic. He noted that there would be an online form circulated to gather input from GFC and acknowledged the tight timeline with the principles going to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) the following week and then back to GFC for recommendation at the March 20, 2023 meeting.

A member expressed that there was not enough time left in the meeting for adequate responses and that GFC had become "a glorified townhall". She noted that fairness was not the same as equity and asked how fairness would be determined and by who.

A member who was attending via the remote Zoom meeting observed that budget information was always received late.

The Zoom platform was disrupted at this point.

T Gilchrist noted that the provincial government's 2023 budget will be delivered the next day, February 28.

The Vice-Chair apologized for the disruption and immediately adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

INFORMATION REPORTS

14. Report of the GFC Executive Committee
15. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee
16. Report of the GFC Programs Committee
17. Report of the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee
18. GFC Nominations and Elections
 - A. NC Report to GFC -January 27, 2023
 - B. Recent Elections
 - C. Anticipated Vacancies for 2023-24
19. Information Items:
 - A. GFC 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule
 - B. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment for 2022/23
 - C. 2021-2022 Annual Report of Student Conduct Responses
 - D. 2021-2022 Annual Report of Appeals and Compliance Officer
 - E. International Strategy Implementation Plan
 - F. Office of the Student Ombuds ReportG. 2023 Faculty & Staff Engagement Survey
20. Report of the Board of Governors
21. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
 - A. Request for Feedback : Embedded Certificate Framework and GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference

CLOSING SESSION

22. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: March 20, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

Verna Yiu, Chair
Simaan AbouRizk
Barbara Billingsley
Jason Carey
Roger Epp
Todd Gilchrist
Brenda Hemmelgarn
Tammy Hopper
Christine Hughes
Nathalie Kermoal
Diane Kunyk
Elan MacDonald
Kyle Murray
Kyra Pyke
Norma Rodenburg
Andrew Sharman
Demetres
Tryphonopoulos
Jennifer Tupper
Frederick West
Robert Wood

Academic Staff:

Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Cary Brown
Robert Burrell
Marie Carrière
Chetan Dave
Bipro Dhar
Melanie Dreyer-Lude
Richard Field
Zachary Friggstad
Douglas Gingrich
Michael Hendzel
Jelena Holovati
Vadim Kravchinsky
Hollis Lai
Jacqueline Leighton
Pierre Lemelin
Liran Levin
Christopher Lupke
Derek MacKenzie
Andrew McGee

Weimin Mou
Jerine Pegg
Sujata Persad
Frances Plane
Elena Posse de Chaves
Tracy Raivio
Christian Reyns-Chikuma
Kent Rondeau
Keith Rourke
Carolyn Sale
John Spence
Chris Sprysak
Mani Vaidyanathan
Mirko van der Baan
Shauna Wilton
Richard Wozniak
Minn-Nyoung Yoon
Nese Yuksel

Students:

Joannie Fogue
Gurleen Kaur

Appointed

Members:

Haruun Ali
Jill Bagwe
Cirila Bartley
Marsha Boyd
Heather Bruce
Telisa Courtney
Greta Cummings
Alexander Dorscheid
Joseph Doucet
Ryan Dunch
Levi Flaman
Shawn Flynn
Kyle Foster
Eva Glancy
Rachel Hislop-Hook
Emily Holden
Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell
Valentina Kozlova
Devshri Lala

Warren Leung
Lionel Liu
Angie Mandeville
Priyanka Mittapelly
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Jad-Julian Rachid
Milan Regmi
Marian Sanchez
Patricia Sherbaniuk
Sophie Shi
Allison Sivak
Gordon Swaters
Andrei Tabirca
Sydney Tancowny
Frederick Tappenden
Dilini Vethanayagam
Rachel Yang

REGRETS:

Bill Flanagan
Abdul Abbasi
Sandeep Agrawal
Hussain Alhussainy
Saadet Andrews
Fateh Arslan
Dale Askey
Rebecca Avila
Bishoi Aziz
Stanford Blade
Josephine Bolaji
Ahmed Bouferguene
Jayden Brooks
Jessica Butts Scott
Daniela Carbajal
Susan Chatwood
Pierre Chue
Sharon Compton
Charvi Dhamija
Michael Dyck
Anas Fassih
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Jaida Han
Carol Hodgson
Birkman

Shanthi Johnson
Simran Kaur Dhillon
Mobashhir Khan
Mohit Kumar
Ariane Lamoureux
Jinfeng Liu
Precious
Majekodunmi
Tessa Monaghan
Jennifer Passey
Pauline Paul
Graham Pearson
Hubert Piatkowski
Spencer Proctor
Polina Reisbig
Aminah Robinson
Fayek
Dan Romanyk
Meruja
Selvamanikkam
Dweej Shah
Srivathsan
Shanmuganathan
Subrat Sharma
Chanpreet Singh
Pien Steinbusch
Rana Sunjog Singh
Thind
Helen Vallianatos
Vedant Vyas
Adrian Wattamaniuk
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