



General Faculties Council
Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 27, 2017
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall (UNH)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Statutory Members:

Ex-Officio:

David Turpin, Chair
Chris Andersen
Stanford Blade
Katy Campbell
Lisa Collins
Lesley Cormack
Greta Cummings
Kathleen DeLong
Steven Dew
Walter Dixon
Joseph Doucet
Gitta Kulczycki
Dennis Kunimoto
Pierre-Yves Mocquais
Kerry Mummery
Paul Paton
Andrew Sharman
Jacqui Tam
Jennifer Tupper
Heather Zwicker

Elected faculty:

Jason Acker
Jeff Birchall
Cary Brown
Peter Carver
Ryan Dunch
Duncan Elliott
Nadir Erbilgin
Bill Foster
Kim Frail
Lesley Harrington
Pierre Lemelin
Pamela Mayne
Correia
Rob McMahon
Lynn McMullen
Alice Nakamura
Carla Peck
Lisa Stein

John Seubert
Carrie Smith-Prei
Sarah Stahlke
Brent Swallow
Benjamin Tucker
Dilini Vethanayagam
Akiko Watanabe

Students:

Firouz Khodayari
Shane Scott
Ilya Ushakov

Appointed

Members:

Ruben Araya
Daniel Atchison
Matthew Barnett
Darcy Bemister
Robert Bilak
Daniel Bilyk
Katherine Binhammer
Linzy Bohn
Michelle Borowitz
Heather Bruce
Meijun Chen
Darren Choi
Heidi Cossey
André Costopoulos
Jonah Dunch
Shannon Erichsen
Shawn Flynn
Kyle Foster
Gautam Gaur
Connor Palindat
Gohar Jamal
Amy Li
Wei Liu
Sean Oliver
Michael Sandare
Babak Soltannia
Andrews Tawiah

Amanda Wakaruk
Brayden Whitlock
Janet Williamson
Brandon Yip

REGRETS:

Katherine Aitchison
Solomon Amoateng
Susan Andrew
Alizeh Ansari
Marina Banister
Allen Berger
Abigail Bridarolli
Sylvia Brown
Erica Chang
Brandon Christensen
David Cooper
Neal Davies
Benjamin Denga
Genna DiPinto
Fraser Forbes
Tarek El-Bialy
Dean Eurich
Adam Gaudry
Murray Gingras
Robert Haennel
Daanish Hamid
Delane Howie
Irehobhude Iyioha
Gaganpreet Jhaji
Maryam Kebbe
Mahmoud Kenawi
Maryse Ndilu Kiese
Marina Kirillovich
Alex Kwan
Eva Lemaire
Leijun Li
Monica Lillo
Steven Lin
Mark Loewen
Habba Mahal

Godfrey Man
Heather McCaw
Lisa McDermott
Al Meldrum
Kyle Monda
Roger Moore
Vivian Mushahwar
Aleks Nakevski
Anthony Nguyen
Smit Patel
Leonard Ratzlaff
Carolyn Sale
Jonathan Schaeffer
Georg Schmolzer
Marc Secanell
Kim Solez
Jorge Sousa
Eleni Stroulia
Bruce Sutherland
James Thibauddau
Amy Tse
Eddie Wang
LJ Valencia
Jonathan White
Erin Wright
Bonnie Watt
Ian Winship
Ziyu Yang
Kue Young

STAFF:

Meg Brolley, GFC
Secretary
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: Sharman/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of October 30, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Tupper/Binhammer

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of October 30, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Report from the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Chair, GFC

Discussion:

The Chair provided members with an update on the recent Campus Forum on Financial Sustainability which provided the university's plans towards eliminating the structural deficit, adopting a multi-year budgeting process, and the development of a budget model.

In addition, the Chair reported on continuing advocacy efforts around implementation of the recommendations contained within the Fundamental Science Review.

The Chair reported that a working group has been struck regarding next steps for the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) and that additional updates would be reported at the next GFC meeting.

Finally, the Chair noted that the work of implementing the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority continues, with a number of items reflected on the current GFC agenda.

Following his opening remarks, the Chair took questions in relation to research funding and membership composition of the PLLC Working Group.

4. Update on ad hoc Committee Recommendations - Board / GFC Relations

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Michael Phair, Chair, Board of Governors; Deborah Burshtyn, Member, GFC ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Burshtyn introduced University of Alberta Board of Governors Chair Michael Phair and referenced the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority on the importance of inter-body dialogue between GFC and the Board of Governors.

Mr Phair, in his comments, provided an overview of the Board of Governors' mandate over long-range planning and the business affairs of the university, and provided an update to members on the Board's current priorities including the establishment of a Board Working Group to review Board committees and processes, post-secondary funding, and the implementation of Bill 7.

5. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: To appoint, or re-appoint new members of General Faculties Council.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Dew/Zwicker

MOTION I: TO APPOINT: The following graduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms commencing immediately and ending April 30, 2018:

Linzy Bohn
Faculty Arts/Science (Psychology)

Erica Chang
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Heidi Cossey
Faculty of Engineering

Gautam Gaur
Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Joint Board / GFC / Senate Summit

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Chair, GFC

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the upcoming Board/GFC/Senate Summit planned for January 2018.

Discussion:

The Chair spoke about the scheduled joint Summit of the Board of Governors, GFC and the Senate, and referred to the recommendation in the ad hoc committee report towards regularizing an annual joint meeting. He reported that a working group was being struck to identify a theme for the event and that freedom of expression and responsible dialogue on campus were being considered.

7. Renewal of the Undergraduate Nursing Curriculum, Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Greta Cummings, Dean; Olive Yonge, Vice-Dean; Sandra Davidson, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Faculty of Nursing

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the curriculum renewal project which used a Development Evaluation framework and the resulting changes to the undergraduate nursing program.

Discussion:

Dean Cummings, together with Vice Dean Young and Associate Dean Davidson, provided an overview of the recently approved changes to the undergraduate nursing program which will allow the Faculty to deliver an enhanced undergraduate experience to students by utilizing evidence-based, concept-based teaching which will more closely align classroom, lab and clinical learning experiences. This proposal was considered and approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee, with delegated authority from GFC, on October 25, 2017, and was brought forward to GFC to inform and to share innovations and best practices.

During the ensuing discussion, members congratulated proposers on the project and enquired about the inclusion of Indigenous health within the program, the revamped admissions criteria, how the program aligns with standards set by local and national health authorities, and the availability of clinical spaces in the community for students.

ACTION ITEMS

8. Proposal to Waive English Language Proficiency Requirement for the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs delivered in Mandarin by the Alberta School of Business, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Deborah Burshtyn, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Michael Maier, Associate Dean, Master's Programs, Alberta School of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To allow the Alberta School of Business to waive the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirement which will enable them to offer a degree where the language of instruction is in Mandarin without determining the English Language Proficiency (ELP) of the applicants.

Discussion:

Dr Burshtyn provided members with a summary of the proposal to waive ELP requirements for two programs, the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA), which would be delivered in China in Mandarin. She noted that the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) decided to recommend this item to GFC rather than exercise its delegated authority for several reasons including that the proposal could set a precedent for waiving ELP when delivering international programs.

Dr Maier explained that the program is geared towards senior executives in China who may not speak English and that this approach, intended to maximize learning outcomes, is utilized by several other Canadian and American universities. He added that he continues to work with the Office of the Student Ombuds to ensure students have access to resources in Mandarin related to academic misconduct.

Members, during the discussion, enquired about the delivery of this program off-shore; whether there were plans to deliver programs in languages other than English at the Alberta campuses; the value of offering this program in Mandarin; whether governance structures at Chinese partner institutions are conducive to the delivery and objectives of these programs; implications on accreditation when programs are delivered off-shore; clarification about Mandarin language proficiency assessment being utilized for these programs. Members further noted that this could pose a risk to reputation for the University of Alberta; that an institutional statement on language of delivery may be useful; and, that important information can be lost in translation.

Motion: Doucet/Mocquais

THAT General Faculties Council approve the proposed waiver of the English Language Proficiency requirement for the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs delivered in Mandarin by the Alberta School of Business, as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Question Period

10.1 Question from GFC member Dilini Vethanayagam regarding policies on accepting research funding with regards to marijuana

and

10.2 Response from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

There were a number of follow-up questions in relation to Item 10.1 and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dew noted that the working group established to review institutional factors resulting from the legalization of recreational cannabis includes involvement by the Vice-President (Research). He indicated that the working group is currently looking at other jurisdictions across Canada.

From the floor, a member posed a question about the university's response to the Universities Canada principles on equity, diversity and inclusion.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

11. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

12. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. GFC Nominations and Elections (current GFC committee vacancies)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

14. Report of the Board of Governors

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

15. Information Items

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

A. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual report to GFC (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

B. Annual Report of Residence Discipline Statistics: 2016-2017

C. Student Conduct and Accountability Annual Report

D. Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2016-2017)

16. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.