

General Faculties Council
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 28
October 30, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
Lynne Cowe Falls
David Cramb
Alastair Cribb – arrived during Item 4
Stephan Guscott
Blake Lewis
Rob Newton
Brenda O’Neill
Jo Towers

Non- Voting Members

Sandra Hoenle

Regrets

Cynthia Mannion
Nancy Pollock-Ellwand

Guests

Anders Nygren, Associate Dean (Academic & Planning), Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 4
William Rosehart, Dean, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 4

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda for the October 30, 2015 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting was approved by consensus.

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attended a meeting of Universities Canada this week, to talk about post-secondary education and the role of universities
- The provincial government’s mini-budget announced in June restored some funding to the

University. The full provincial budget announced on October 27, 2015 did not add any additional funding, and did not announce any specific new post-secondary infrastructure projects. The process for applying for some of the provincial government's general infrastructure funding will be communicated soon, and the University may choose to make an application.

- The University's provincial ministry is now named the Ministry of Advanced Education. A new Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has been created, and this new ministry will impact entities related to the University, such as Alberta Innovates. This new ministry arises from the provincial government's desire to incent employment, diversification, and innovative research.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's Mental Health Strategy and Institutional Sustainability Strategy were both approved by the Board of Governors on October 23, 2015
- The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning building will officially open on April 18, 2016

In response to a question, it was reported that the University's Capital Plan sets out for the provincial government the University's priorities for new construction, as well as facility renovation and renewal projects. The MacKimmie complex and the Science A building are among the University's priorities for renewal.

3. Approval of the September 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on September 29, 2015 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the Schulich School of Engineering Faculty Council Terms of Reference

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. William Rosehart, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE), and Anders Nygren, SSE Associate Dean (Academic and Planning), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Dean reported that:
 - The SSE welcomed the opportunity to replace its old Faculty Council Terms of Reference, and contemplated its existing Faculty Council Terms of Reference while undertaking this project
 - The membership of the SSE Faculty Council was carefully considered. It was decided not to include representatives from other Faculties as members any more. The inclusion of a representative of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta was continued, as this is required by the Post-Secondary Learning Act. The President of the Engineering Students' Society continues as a member, and two additional undergraduate students, a graduate student, and an alumnus are now included as

members.

- The SSE Faculty Council chose to strike a Faculty Council Committee, and carefully considered what the quorum for the Faculty Council Committee would be
- The final SSE Faculty Council vote on the new Terms of Reference was done by e-mail in order to maximize participation
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee (EUSC) is an SSE committee charged mainly with approving the Faculty's Calendar changes. Its membership is comprised of representatives of the Faculty's programs, with the number of representatives in proportion to the size of the program. There are no students on this committee.
 - The SSE Faculty Council determined that the EUSC will appoint the two additional undergraduate student members of the Faculty Council upon the recommendation of the SSE Associate Dean (Student Affairs). After discussion, it was agreed that the SSE should develop guidelines for these appointments, and that the Engineering members of the Students' Union (SU) Students' Legislative Council (SLC) would be invited to have input on the development of these guidelines. The Dean committed to bringing these guidelines to the SSE Faculty Council for endorsement.
 - The 30% quorum rule for the Faculty Council Committee currently translates to 52 people. The SSE Faculty Council was not concerned about setting a minimum attendance from each Department.
 - The SSE Faculty Council meeting schedule and meeting agendas will be made public, and the SSE Faculty Council meetings are open meetings
 - If a SSE Faculty Council member feels that insufficient time has been given for the members to prepare for an item, the member can propose that action on the item be postponed until the next meeting
 - The "Meeting Agendas" and "Invited Guests and Visitors" sections of the Terms of Reference set out the rules for speaking at Faculty Council meetings. If a non-member wishes to introduce an item of business, prior permission of the Chair is required, but if a non-member wishes to speak to an item of business already on the agenda, the Chair may grant permission during the meeting.
 - The "Casual Vacancies" section of the Terms of Reference provides a procedure for dealing with appointed members who are absent for two or more consecutive meetings
- In response to a comment, the Vice-Chair reported that the Deans agree with students having a voice at Faculty Council meetings. However, the way that students are included in Faculty Council meetings, and how they are appointed, should be decided by each Faculty Council. The Dean reiterated that members of the SLC are welcome to attend SSE Faculty Council meetings as guests.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the Faculty Council Terms of Reference for the Schulich School of Engineering, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

Stephan Guscott – opposed.

Basis: "There has been a significant lack of consultation with the SU as a legitimate representative of undergraduate students in reviewing and revising these Terms of Reference. Specifically, there was a

notable lack of opportunity and effort on the part of University officials and Faculty Council to involve the SU in finding a solution that would ensure an accountable and transparent method of appointing undergraduate student members that meets the needs of all undergraduate students.”

5. Additional Nominations of Academic Staff Members for the General Merit Committee (previously called the General Promotions Committee)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The EC nominated, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for appointment to the General Merit Committee (GMC). The approval of the GMC slate, and the election of additional GMC members, will take place at the November 19, 2015 GFC meeting.

6. Additional Nominations for Appointment of a Member of the Teaching and Learning Committee to the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The EC named, in rank order, TLC members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee (CFDS). The first person to agree to serve will be deemed to be appointed to the CFDS for the remainder of their term on the TLC.

Scribe's note: Following the meeting, Jessica Ayala agreed to serve as the TLC member of the CFDS.

7. Review of Draft November 19, 2015 General Faculties Council Agenda

The EC reviewed the draft Agenda for the November 19, 2015 meeting of GFC.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the October 30, 2015 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.