

General Faculties Council
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 31
February 2, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
David Cramb
Alastair Cribb
Stephan Guscott
Cynthia Mannion
Rob Newton
Nancy Pollock-Ellwand
Jo Towers

Non-Voting Member

Sandra Hoenle

Regrets

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Lynne Cowe Falls
Blake Lewis
Brenda O'Neill

Guests

Yat-Sing Cheng, Associate Director, Enterprise Risk Management – present for Item 7
Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services) – present for Item 7
Valerie Pruegger, Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Protected Disclosure – present for Item 5
Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services – present for Item 5

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the February 2, 2016 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Acting Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Preparations for the University's anniversary celebrations are underway. Anniversary-related

activities will extend from April 2016 to April 2017, with a focus on community engagement.

- New provincial ministerial appointments have been announced, and Marlon Schmidt is the new Minister of Advanced Education
- The province's Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions (CARI) Provosts recently met in Edmonton, and topics of discussion included professional Masters degrees. The CARI Provosts meeting was followed by a full provincial Provosts meeting, and topics of discussion included the timeline and data needed for Ministry approval of program proposals.
- University's budget planning is progressing, including planning for funding scenarios ranging from -1% to -3%. After the provincial budget announcement in March or April, the University's budget will be finalized.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The University is able to withstand a small funding cut because of its net asset position
- The University has been communicating its infrastructure needs to the provincial government and is positioned to take advantage should the government decide to invest in infrastructure

3. Approval of the December 18, 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 December 18, 2015 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the 2016-2017 GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedule

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Belcher, University Secretary, presented the proposed 2016-2017 meeting schedule. There were no questions or concerns expressed.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the 2016-2017 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedule, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Report from the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services, and Valerie Pruegger, Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Protected Disclosure, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) reported that the *ad-hoc* Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence (*ad hoc* committee) was charged with conducting a review of the existing policies, procedures, programs, and initiatives related to sexual

harassment and sexual violence by students against other students on our campus, and to determine what changes, if any, are required

- The proponents reported that the *ad hoc* committee found that the University has strong policies and procedures, and a variety of initiatives to educate students, but that improvements at an institutional level could be made. They emphasised that it is important to ensure that students feel that they are part of a community that will not tolerate sexual violence in any form. The key recommendations in the report are:
 - Develop a stand-alone, student-centred sexual violence policy that is easy to find and understand
 - Develop an institutional prevention, consent, and resistance education framework, and increase the transparency and interconnectedness of existing programs
 - Develop a comprehensive sexual violence resource and prevention website that is easy to find and navigate
 - Engage with researchers to encourage ongoing research in this area, in order to study and understand and to develop an evidential basis for the investment of resources
 - Align student supports to remain relevant and responsive to student needs, including culturally relevant and gender-inclusive supports
 - Strike an implementation committee to oversee the institutional response to the report
- The EC discussed:
 - While the University has good policies in effect now, a victim should not have to search multiple documents or sources in order to determine what to do
 - There is a link between this initiative and the University's Mental Health Strategy
 - Anonymous reporting may increase the reporting of incidents, but this idea must be balanced against the right of the accused to be fairly dealt with
- In response to a question, it was emphasised that the report relates to student-to-student sexual harassment and violence only. The Collective Agreements cover issues involving professors and staff. This will be made clearer in the next version of the report.
- The EC suggested that:
 - Any stand-alone student-centred policy should be linked to other institutional policies relating to behaviour
 - The policy should reflect the language used in criminal law
 - Communication and education should be ramped up at times known to show a peak in incidents, such as Bermuda Shorts Day
 - Once the new policy is in place, this should be clearly communicated to the whole campus community and, in addition to a resource website, the University should use tools such as social media and the televisions in Mac Hall to communicate with students
 - Students should be made aware of their options to obtain legal assistance on campus, such as the Faculty of Law's law clinic and Student Legal Assistance
 - The following wording in the Executive Summary, on page 3, should be reconsidered as its intent can be misinterpreted: "*...prevention strategies including educational initiatives promoting consent*"
 - Point 6, on page 7 of the report, could be revised as follows: "*...effective means to help reduce sexual harassment and sexual violence ~~of~~ against students*"

- A student should be included in the membership of the implementation committee

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC) recommend that GFC recommend that Management proceed to implement the recommendations articulated in the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence – Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report as presented to the EC.

Carried**6. Review of Draft February 18, 2016 General Faculties Council Agenda**

The EC reviewed the draft Agenda for the February 18, 2016 meeting of GFC.

The Acting Chair reported that the University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) will be in a different format this year, and that portions of the CIP will be ready for review by GFC in March.

7. Enterprise Risk Management – Committee Risk Assignment and Oversight

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), and Yat-Sing Cheng, Associate Director, Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the Audit Committee (AC) of the Board of Governors (BG) has assigned oversight of the following institutional risk to the EC: *Inability to attract, recruit and retain high quality students to fulfil the University's mandate*
- It was reported that mitigation efforts underway in relation to this risk are considered to be effective, and that this will be reported semi-annually to the EC
- It was agreed that the EC should receive the full Strategic Enterprise Risk Management (SERM) report relating to this risk, so that an informed discussion can be held. When the SERM report is brought to the EC for discussion, the EC should receive another education session relating to ERM so that it understands its role.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The SERM report considers both known and anticipated factors relating to this risk
 - The University must be prepared to manage unforeseen reputational impacts such as the 2014 Brentwood murders and 2013 flood
- The proponents confirmed that in addition to receiving semi-annual reports relating to this risk, the EC will receive reports on the seven academic risks assigned to various GFC standing committees for oversight, and that the EC fulfills a role equivalent to the AC on the BG side in this respect.

8. 2016-2017 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the February 2, 2016 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary