

General Faculties Council  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting 34  
May 3, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair  
Abubaker Abdelhafiz  
Lynne Cowe Falls  
David Cramb  
Alastair Cribb – arrived during Item 2  
Rob Newton  
Brenda O’Neill  
Nancy Pollock-Ellwand – left after Item 10  
Jo Towers

***Non-Voting Member***

Sandra Hoenle

***Regrets***

Alicia Lunz  
Cynthia Mannion  
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair

***Guests***

Richard Sigurdson, Dean, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 4  
Florentine Strzelczyk, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 4

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

Abubaker Abdelhafiz, Graduate Students’ Association Vice-President (Academic), was welcomed to his first General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC) meeting.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the May 3, 2016 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

## **2. Remarks of the Chair**

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- A book commemorating the University's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been published. It is entitled *The Age of Audacity: 50 Years of Ambition and Adventure at Calgary's Own University*, and it was written by Aritha van Herk, Department of English.
- The Minister of Advanced Education, Marlin Schmidt, was on campus on April 29, 2016 for the University's anniversary celebration, and while here he confirmed \$17.2 million in provincial funding for the MacKimmie complex renovation project
- The federal Minister of Science, Kirsty Duncan, is conducting a review of the Tri-Councils this year. This has implications for the post-secondary sector, and institutions are communicating the need to invest in Tri-Council funded research, in keeping with the federal government's priorities of innovation and growth.
- The call for applications for Board of Governors Chair and public member positions closes May 10, 2016

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Science A building remains a University priority for renovation. The University recently submitted several proposals to the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund program, and the Science A renovation was one proposed project. The University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan lists all of the University's priority capital projects.

## **3. Approval of the March 29, 2016 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 March 29, 2016 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Recommendation of the Creation of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Richard Sigurdson, Dean, and Florentine Strzelczyk, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that it is anticipated that this proposal is the last phase in restructuring the Faculty of Arts. The proposed merger brings together all of the language programs in the Faculty.
- The School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures (the "School") will be led by a Director who will have comparable responsibilities to a Department Head
- The School will be structured into divisions, with each division housing one or more academic programs. The School will also contain the French Centre and Language Research Centre.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It was decided to label the merged departments as a school because there is language training occurring, and the offering of training is considered one of the criteria for calling a unit a school
  - The School's administration will be centralized, while the specialized advising of students will occur in the divisions
  - When the Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures (LLC) voted on the proposal in January 2015, the necessary 2/3 in favour vote was not achieved, in part due to how the votes were counted. The LLC's concerns were addressed prior to the approval at Faculty Council in April 2016.
  - There are no changes to any programs being proposed at this time
  - It is expected that there will be collaborative research across divisions
  - It has not yet been determined how students will be chosen for the School's committees
- The EC remarked that having contiguous space will be important to ensuring that the School's faculty, staff, and students feel part of a cohesive unit
- The EC suggested that the proponents should prepare to explain the numbers presented on pages 13 and 14 of the proposal document (the results of the January 2015 Department votes), as these numbers don't obviously match with the Department demographics described on page 15 of the document

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Executive Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the creation of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures, resulting in the dissolution of the Department of French, Italian and Spanish and the Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried****5. Nominations for GFC Election of 4 Members of GFC to the GFC Executive Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The EC nominated, in rank order, GFC members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the EC. The first eight persons to agree to stand for election will appear on the ballot at the May 19, 2016 GFC meeting.

**6. Nominations for Election by GFC of 3 Academic Staff Members to the *Eyes High* Strategic Oversight 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 election to the *Eyes High* Strategic Oversight Committee. The first six persons to agree to stand for election will appear on the ballot at the May 19, 2016 GFC meeting.

**7. Appointment of 3 Academic Staff Members to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee**

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 serve on the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee. The first three persons to agree to serve will be considered appointed by the EC.

**8. Appointment of a Co-Chair to the Student Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC)**

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 serve as a Co-Chair of the SAAC. The first person to agree to serve will be considered appointed by the EC.

**9. Appointment of 15 Current Faculty Appeals Committee Members to the SAAC Pool of Academic Staff Members**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

In accordance with the *Processes for Appointing to the Student Academic Appeals Committee for Hearings*, the EC appointed fifteen academic staff members to form a pool of academic staff members, to be approached on an as-need basis for GFC Student Academic Appeals Committee hearings

**10. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The EC discussed the concept of adopting an open/closed model for its meetings, in particular for conducting any appointment work in a closed meeting in order to ensure confidentiality, but decided not to pursue this model at this time
- The EC discussed its appointment work process, and agreed that it would re-visit the process for seeking nominations at a future meeting
- It was confirmed that the option to participate in meetings by telephone is provided in Section 5 of the GFC Standing Committee General Terms of Reference
- The EC discussed the process for adding items of business to GFC agendas, and the role of the EC in this process
- The EC discussed that the Question Period at GFC meetings could be better promoted to ensure that members of GFC, and the people they represent, use this opportunity to raise matters of interest or concern to GFC. The EC agreed that it is desirable, but not necessary, for people to submit their questions in advance to allow for better preparation of answers.

**11. Review of Draft May 19, 2016 General Faculties Council Agenda**

The EC reviewed the draft May 19, 2016 GFC agenda.

Highlights:

- The EC directed the University Secretariat to send a message to the members of GFC inviting questions for the Question Period at the May 19, 2016 GFC meeting
- The EC suggested that consideration be given to inviting Lisa Young, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies), to speak with GFC at a future meeting about the new Candidacy Procedures and Manuscript Based Thesis Guidelines

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the May 3, 2016 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary