

General Faculties Council
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 39
December 20, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair – arrived during Item 7
Tara Beattie
Mike Foley
Alicia Lunz
Nancy Pollock-Ellwand
Jo Towers

Non-Voting Members

Sandra Hoenle

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Abubaker Abdelhafiz
David Cramb
Tina Gabriele
Lorraine Radtke
Dennis Sumara

Guests

Loren Falkenberg, Chair of the Energizing *Eyes High* Secretariat – present for Item 7

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Quorum was achieved at 2:32 p.m. during Item 7.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair reported that Item 7 (Energizing *Eyes High* Update) would be addressed before the Agenda's action items.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the December 20, 2016 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Submissions have been made for the provincial government's tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees review. The government is now forming a panel to consider the feedback

received and to make recommendations to the government

- The University has received a survey from the provincial government relating to the funding model for post-secondary institutions, and this is due in January 2017. A working group will consider the feedback received and will make recommendations to the government.
- The provincial government's review of the province's agencies, boards and commissions is underway, and will include considering governance in all aspects
- A provincial pre-budget meeting was held this month with Joe Ceci, Minister of Finance, and Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education

In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that a full search will be conducted for a new President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), as Alain Beaudet has just announced his retirement from public service and the CIHR.

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair reported that the Vice-Presidents are meeting tomorrow to discuss their portfolios' budgets.

4. Approval of the November 22, 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 November 22, 2016 be approved.
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Carried

5. Nominations for Appointment of One Academic Staff Member to the Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee nominated, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Academic Program Subcommittee. The first person to agree to serve will be considered appointed by the Committee.

The Committee determined that the term of the appointment would be until June 30, 2019.

6. Review of Draft January 19, 2017 General Faculties Council Agenda

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee reviewed the draft January 19, 2017 General Faculties Council agenda, and decided that, if there are no additional items, the meeting should be cancelled. The Chair indicated that this will be determined in the new year.

7. Energizing Eyes High Update – Results of the Consultation Process

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Loren Falkenberg, Chair of the Energizing *Eyes High* Secretariat, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Chair thanked Loren Falkenberg and her colleagues for their work on the Energizing *Eyes High* initiative to date, and observed that the Energizing *Eyes High* Secretariat will now continue with the feedback analysis and drafting phase
- The presenter reported that the writing team currently has three working papers in draft form: an environmental scan, analysis of the feedback received from the focus groups, and analysis of the feedback received from the surveys
- The presenter then reviewed the general themes of the feedback received relating to each of the five Energizing *Eyes High* pillars (Research and Scholarship, Teaching and Learning, Integration with Community, Student Experience, and Campus Culture), in particular highlighting that:
 - There is desire for better administrative support for researchers navigating the bureaucracy of funding, better conditions and benefits for Post-doctoral Scholars, and better maintenance of research facilities
 - There is strong feedback relating to the need for better measurement, assessment, and recognition of teaching quality and engagement
 - In addition to fundraising, alumni could be greater engaged with the University through better communication and inclusion in more campus sports, arts, and educational events
 - There is high demand for improved classroom, study, and social spaces
 - There is repeated feedback drawing attention to the workload of faculty and staff, and the need for improved flexibility and work-life balance
- The presenter reported that it is expected that the three foundational commitments of the *Eyes High* strategy will continue in the energized version: Sharpen Focus on Research and Scholarship, Enrich the Quality and of Breadth of Learning, and Integrate the University with the Community
- The presenter shared the first recommendations for potential changes to *Eyes High*, noting that these are preliminary:
 - Develop descriptions within the *Eyes High* text that recognize curiosity driven research and the need to monitor for emerging signals of new research areas
 - Expand the activities/initiatives that increase knowledge translation and dissemination
 - Develop inclusive measures of the impact/recognition of research/artistic activities
 - Develop the commitment “Integrate the University with the Community” to reflect a two-way interaction with the community
 - Build the concept of interdisciplinarity throughout the discussions of research, teaching, and community engagement
- In response to questions, the presenter reported that:
 - No feedback called for wholesale change to *Eyes High*
 - Members of the campus community seem pleased with the University’s health and wellness-related efforts

- Broad consultation will continue as the energized *Eyes High* document is developed
- The three working papers are in addition to the energized *Eyes High* strategy document. The working papers serve to report back to the campus community on the feedback that was received during the first consultation phase of the initiative.
- The themes and recommendations arising from the survey data and the focus groups data align
- There will be greater detail in the University's Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plan, which will themselves be energized once the *Eyes High* strategy is approved
- The Committee discussed that:
 - Undergraduate research opportunities may be difficult to develop in Faculties with very structured programs, but that opportunities for a variety of experiences can be explored
 - There is a definite need for improved classroom, study and social spaces at the University. This is a commuter campus, but improved spaces may encourage students to spend more time on campus.
 - The feedback relating to the Campus Culture pillar contained the most negatively-skewed responses, which is a clear reflection that faculty and staff are feeling overloaded. Staff are reporting that they are not being permitted to access the flexible work systems that the University has put in place, and this should be examined.
- The Chair reported that the working documents will come to the Committee in January, with a goal of having the energized *Eyes High* strategy approved in March

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the December 20, 2016 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.