

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 42
March 28, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
David Cramb – left during Item 6
Tina Gabriele
Alicia Lunz
Adrienne Offenbecker
Nancy Pollock-Ellwand
Lorraine Radtke
Dennis Sumara
Jo Towers – arrived during Item 2

Non-Voting Member

Sandra Hoenle – left after Item 5

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Tara Beattie
Elizabeth Cannon
Michael Foley

Guests

Lesley Rigg, Dean, Faculty of Science, and Co-Chair of the Implementation Committee for the Prevention of Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence – present for Item 4
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Item 5

Observer

Tina Miller, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 28, 2017 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Tina Miller, incoming Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), was introduced to the

Committee. Alicia Lunz, outgoing SU Vice-President (Academic), and Adrienne Offenbecker, outgoing Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Vice-President (Student Life), were thanked for their service on the Committee.

- The Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) is on the docket for Spring session of the Legislature, and changes to the PSLA relating to labour relations are anticipated soon after
- The provincial government's post-secondary tuition and mandatory fees consultation committee has held six of its eight planned meetings. The government will consider the committee's feedback and then it is expected that a new model will be approved to take effect in 2018.
- The provincial government is hiring a consultant to collect information and work with the Ministry to develop a new post-secondary funding model. It is hoped that consideration of the post-secondary funding model and the tuition and mandatory fees model will be linked as they are related, but it is possible that the provincial government will treat these as separate initiatives.
- The provincial budget was announced on March 16, 2017, and includes a 2% per year increase to the base operating grants for post-secondary institutions. The post-secondary tuition freeze has been extended, but with no backfill funding.
- The federal budget was announced on March 22, 2017. The budget prioritizes innovation, but does not include increases to Tri-Council funding. The federal government separately announced the new Canada 150 Research Chairs program, which will provide funding to attract top international scientists to Canada.
- The Indigenous Strategy is in development, and a companion document with indigenous symbols is being developed as well. The pair of documents will come forward in June for discussion and will return later for approval by General Faculties Council (GFC) and the Board of Governors.

3. Approval of the February 24, 2017 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 February 24, 2017 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Sexual Violence Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Lesley Rigg, Co-Chair of the Implementation Committee for the Prevention of Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the consultation process and the recent revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy (SVP), and reported that any prior concerns with the policy have been resolved and there is now broad support for the scope of the SVP
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - It is expected that there are sufficient resources to support the SVP, between the existing

staff in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Protected Disclosure and one additional hire, but that need will be assessed after the SVP is in place and resources will be added if necessary

- A sexual violence support website has been created (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/sexualviolencesupport/>) which provides contacts for reporting violence and for seeking information. Additionally, a poster will be hung in all bathrooms across campus with relevant phone numbers and reference to the website.
- The process for reporting sexual violence, experienced or witnessed, will differ depending on whether the person is a student, academic staff member, or other staff member
- The Committee expressed strong support for the SVP

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the Sexual Violence Policy, substantially in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried**5. Recommendation of Fall Reading Break**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Vice-Chair reported that the SU is championing an initiative to introduce a full week break in the Fall term, and that the proposal is moving through the governance system at an accelerated rate in order that GFC may consider the proposal before the beginning of May when the SU's leadership turns over. The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) struck a committee to consider the matter, resulting in the report before the Committee today.
- The proponent reported that:
 - It is proposed to add a full week break around Remembrance Day
 - The impacts of this proposal include dropping to 61 days of instruction in some years, shortening Orientation to 2 days, and moving the Block Week into August
 - If a full week Fall break is approved, the Registrar's office will work with any Faculties needing a modified academic schedule
 - When the proposal is presented to the GFC for approval, the documents will be modified based on consideration of the feedback received from the GFC standing committees and other stakeholders
- The Committee expressed strong support for the concept of a full week break in the Fall term, and discussed the benefits to students and instructors in having a longer break during November
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - It is proposed to move Block Week into August, but Block Week will still be part of the Fall term
 - The change will take effect for the Fall 2018 term

- Reducing Orientation to two days has been carefully considered and determined to be workable
- Any accreditation-related concerns about reducing the days of instruction to 61 have been resolved
- During discussion, it was agreed that the break should be referred to as a “full week break” rather than a “full week *reading* break”
- The Committee thoroughly discussed the optimal number of days of instruction, and the desirability of consistency, and suggested that the Registrar consider revising the GFC Principles for Setting the Academic Schedule to state that the days of instruction in the Fall and Winter terms be “up to 62 days” rather than 62-65 days. The revised Principles would be provided to the GFC for information, since the motion authorizes the Registrar to make any changes necessary if the full week Fall break is approved.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC approve the addition to the 2018-2023 Academic Schedules of a full week break in the Fall term, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, and authorize the Registrar to make all required revisions to the Academic Schedules and the Principles for Setting the Annual Academic Schedule in order to give effect to this.

Carried

Nancy Pollock Ellwand abstained.

6. Nominations for Election by GFC of an Academic Staff Member of the Board of Governors

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Vice-Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

The Committee nominated, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election as the GFC nominee for appointment to the Board of Governors. The first two persons to agree to stand for election will appear on the ballot at the April 13, 2017 GFC meeting.

7. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Vice-Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), reported that the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) is a new position created to help develop the Indigenous Strategy, and to guide and lead the implementation of that strategy. The Advisory Search Committee will consist of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and representatives chosen by the Vice-President (Research), Deans' Council, GFC, Faculty Association, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, Management and Professional Staff, GSA, and SU.

The Committee nominated, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Provost (Indigenous

Engagement). The first four persons to agree to stand for election will appear on the ballot at the April 13, 2017 GFC meeting.

8. Nominations for Appointment of Two Co-Chairs of the GFC Student Academic Appeals Committee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Vice-Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

The Committee nominated, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve as Co-Chairs of the GFC Student Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC). The first two persons to agree to serve will be considered appointed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed that the workload of the three Co-Chairs of the GFC SAAC has increased significantly, in part because all cases relating to academic misconduct are now heard. It was decided that the University Secretary should bring forward a proposal to the next meeting of the Committee, to expand the number of SAAC Co-Chairs from three to five and to use the nomination list form today to fill the additional spots.

9. Review of the Draft April 13, 2017 General Faculties Council Agenda

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the April 13, 2017 meeting of GFC and made some suggestions for revision.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the March 28, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.