

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 44
June 9, 2017, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
David Cramb
Mike Foley
Tina Gabriele
Tina Miller
Lesley Rigg
Jo Towers

Secretary

Susan Belcher*

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Tara Beattie
Sandra Hoenle
Negar Mohammadi
Lorraine Radtke
Dennis Sumara

**by telephone*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the June 9, 2017 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Tina Miller, Students' Union representative, and Lesley Rigg, Deans' Council representative, were welcomed to their first General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee meeting, and Mike Foley and Tina Gabriele, outgoing elected academic staff GFC members of the Committee, were thanked for their service

- Convocation ceremonies were held this week, and were positive events for all involved. It has been noted that, in the future, it would be desirable to have more women nominated for honorary degrees.
- A \$40 million gift from the Hunter family to establish the interdisciplinary Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking was announced last week
- A communication was sent to the campus community on June 7 reporting that the University is maintaining close contact with the Canadian embassy in Qatar, and monitoring the situation carefully, but there is no elevated risk at this time and so normal activities for the University's students, faculty and staff in the State will continue
- The University is maintaining awareness of, and responding appropriately to, the provincial government's current initiatives, including those relating to post-secondary tuition, funding, mandates, and labour relations

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- There has been terrific response so far to the survey collecting feedback to be used in the development of the 2017-2022 Academic Plan (AP) and Research Plan (RP). The survey will remain open until June 23.
- Representatives of the Ministry of Advanced Education will be on campus on June 14 to discuss a variety of issues
- The provincial government's new post-secondary tuition model and post-secondary institutions roles and mandates model are both anticipated to be complete in the Fall. The post-secondary institutions funding review is underway and a report is anticipated for Spring 2018.

The Committee shared anecdotes highlighting that the University is the first-choice university for many new undergraduate students, which speaks well of the University's reputation.

In response to a question, the Vice-Chair confirmed that students are encouraged to respond to the AP/RP survey.

3. Approval of the May 2, 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 May 2, 2017 be approved.
--

Carried

4. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members of GFC to the GFC Executive Committee

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 stand for election to the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC). The first persons to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot at the June 15, 2017 meeting of GFC.

5. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Design

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 stand for election to an Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Design. The first persons to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot at the June 15, 2017 meeting of GFC.

6. Naming of the Academic Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

The Committee named, in rank order, current academic staff members of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve as the Academic Co-Chair of the GAPS. The first nominee to agree to serve will be deemed appointed by the EC.

7. Naming of the Academic Co-Chair of the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair remarked that Sasha Tsenkova, Faculty of Environmental Design and member of GFC, is being recommended as the Academic Co-Chair of the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee. She has agreed to serve if named.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee name Sasha Tsenkova, Faculty of Environmental Design, as the Academic Co-Chair of the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee, for a three-year term effective July 1, 2017.

Carried

8. Appointment of One Member of the Research and Scholarship Committee to the Campus and Facilities Development Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) 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 RSC.

9. Recommendation for Appointment of a GFC Representative to the West Campus Development Corporation Board of Directors

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair remarked that Scott Radford, Haskayne School of Business, is being recommended for appointment to the West Campus Development Corporation Board of Directors (WCDCB) to replace Nancy Pollock-Ellwand who resigned from the WCDCB. He has agreed to serve if appointed.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the Human Resources and Governance Committee of the Board of Governors appoint Scott Radford as the GFC representative on the West Campus Development Corporation Board of Directors for a term of three years, effective immediately.

Carried

10. Review of Draft June 15, 2017 General Faculties Council Agenda

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the May 18, 2017 meeting of GFC and provided feedback.

11. 2017 GFC Member Survey Results

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Susan Belcher, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The University Secretary gave a high level presentation on the results of the 2017 GFC Member Survey, specifically noting that:
 - Approximately 50% of GFC members responded to the survey
 - 81% of the respondents indicate that they are highly or moderately engaged in the work of the GFC
 - Common comments from those members that expressed less engagement are included in the report
 - Those individuals interested in serving on a GFC committee can express their interest to a member of the Committee or the Secretariat and this information will be given to the Committee when doing its appointment work
 - With regards to the role and work of the GFC standing committees, there is a variety of material publically available relating to this, including educational presentations, Terms of Reference, and approved Minutes on the Secretariat website, and work plans and regular reporting to the GFC on the work of the committees.

- The Committee discussed:
 - The comments relating to the acoustics in the ST147 meeting room. The University Secretary indicated that the University Secretariat could explore other meeting room options over the Summer.
 - The comments relating to the engagement of GFC members during meetings, particularly the observations of members doing other tasks while in attendance
 - In respect of the engagement of GFC members, that 42% of the respondents indicate that they serve on a GFC standing committee, which means that many GFC members will have already seen and discussed items of business before they are presented to the GFC
 - That the practice of routing substantive items of business to the GFC more than once, for discussion and later for decision, is an appreciated practice
 - That Faculty (or group) representatives bring the perspective of their Faculty (or group) to GFC discussions, and that it is up to the individual representatives to determine how they are going to engage with, and report back to, the people they represent about the work of the GFC
 - That the Chair and Vice-Chair demonstrate and foster respectful conduct during GFC meetings
 - That some respondents expressed that the meetings are rushed, while others expressed that the pace is appropriate

12. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the Executive Committee Terms of Reference

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Chair expressed appreciation for the members' participation in meetings, and noted that the Committee serves an important function within the GFC governance structure
- The Committee discussed its performance, and it was concluded that the Committee functions well and that the members demonstrate outstanding preparedness and participation
- The EC discussed the potential for conducting some business, such as appointment work, in a closed session, and the need to balance openness with respect for privacy. It was determined that, should a circumstance ever arise when a closed session is warranted, this will be addressed at the time as permitted by the Committee's Terms of Reference and that the GFC would be advised appropriately of the Committee's actions.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the June 9, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary