

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 49
December 19, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
Tara Beattie
Tina Miller
Negar Mohammadi
Lorraine Radtke
Dennis Sumara
Jo Towers *

Non-Voting Member

Sandra Hoenle

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Eloise Carr
David Cramb
Lesley Rigg
Trevor Tombe

Guests

Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 4 and 5

* by telephone

The 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 December 19, 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:

- A group of Canadian university presidents travelled to Israel last week, in order to exchange ideas on innovation and learning, and to explore opportunities for academic collaboration

- The provincial government recently decided to continue the tuition freeze, but with backfill funding for the 2018-2019 budget year. The University is awaiting information about its operating budget, and will finalize the University's 2018-2019 budget in the coming months.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The provincial government recently required all public agencies, boards and commissions (including universities) to submit a "discretionary spending restraint plan", setting out how they could cut expenditures from their budgets
- The University's Vice-Presidents will be rolling-up their budgets soon, and then, after some decision-making in January, the 2018-2019 budget will begin to proceed through the University's governance system. Adjustments to the University's budget may need to be made after the provincial government's budget is announced.

3. Approval of the November 17, 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 November 17, 2017 be approved.

Carried

Secretary's Note: Items 4 and 5 were addressed together.

4. Recommendation of the Academic Plan

5. Recommendation of the Research Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Ed McCauley presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the consultation process for, and the recent changes to, the Academic Plan and the Research Plan
- The Committee discussed:
 - The purpose for the table "Enhancing Our Value Propositions", found at the end of each of the plans. It was explained that the table is intended to: a) tie expected outcomes to the proposed value propositions of the University, b) balance the opening pages common to both the Academic Plan and Research Plan with a summary statement; and c) enable members of the campus community to see themselves reflected in the plans. The EC suggested that a preamble to the table, or summary statement, might make its purpose more clear.
 - Combining the Academic Plan and Research Plan, and it was explained that, while the Academic Plan and Research Plan are complementary documents, there are occasions when they must be used separately

- The importance of attracting quality graduate students. The proponents noted that the goal to attract talented faculty, students, staff and leaders is emphasised in the plans.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Metrics relating to the plans are in development, and will be shared with the campus community when ready
 - The University has a student population goal of graduate students to undergraduate students, and Professional Master's programs have been identified as an area for growth
 - Academic advisors will be trained to provide information to students about embedded and stackable certificates
- The Committee suggested that, given the complementary nature of the plans, they should move forward to the General Faculties Council (GFC) under a single motion

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (EC) recommend that the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Academic Plan, in the form provided to the EC, and authorize the proponent to make non-substantive changes to the Academic Plan prior to its presentation to the GFC.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (EC) recommend that the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Research Plan, in the form provided to the EC, and authorize the proponent to make non-substantive changes to the Research Plan prior to its presentation to the GFC.

Carried**6. Review of the January 18, 2018 GFC Agenda**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Committee reviewed the draft January 18, 2018 GFC agenda.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the December 19, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.