

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 50
January 26, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair
Tara Beattie
Eloise Carr
David Cramb
Tina Miller
Lorraine Radtke
Lesley Rigg
Dennis Sumara
Trevor Tombe

Non-Voting Member

Sandra Hoenle

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Observer

Cherie Tutt

Regrets

Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
Negar Mohammadi
Jo Towers

Guests

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) – present for Item 8
Andrea Klaiber-Langen, Student Appeals Officer – present for Item 8
Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation) – present for Item 10

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the January 26, 2018 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Calgary was not one of the cities shortlisted in the competition for the second Amazon headquarters. The University was involved in the bidding process, and took away from this

competition the need to strengthen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in the province.

- The provincial government will start sitting on March 8, 2018, and it is anticipated that the budget may be announced in the third week of March. The University will approve its budget at the March 16, 2018 Board of Governors meeting, and, if necessary, adjustments will later be made in response to the provincial budget.
- The Academic and Research Plans have been approved by the General Faculties Council (GFC), and there will be a lunch event on February 8, 2018

3. Approval of the December 19, 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 December 19, 2017 be approved.

Carried

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

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 Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Nursing. The first persons to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot at the February 8, 2018 meeting of the GFC.

5. Naming of the Academic Co-Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair reported that Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) member Andy Knight, Schulich School of Engineering, was approached and has agreed to serve as the Academic Co-Chair of the RSC if named to the position by the Committee.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee name Andy Knight, Schulich School of Engineering, as the Academic Co-Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), effective immediately, for a term ending on the earlier of June 30, 2021 or the end of his membership on the RSC.

Carried

6. Approval of the 2018-2019 GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedule

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

Highlights:

- The University Secretary remarked that the schedule is similar to last year and has been arranged to allow for the appropriate and efficient flow of items through the governance system
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the GFC and GFC standing committees 2018-2019 meeting schedule, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Approval of 2018 GFC Member Survey

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

Highlights:

- The Chair reported that it is being proposed to use the same questions for the 2018 GFC member survey as in the 2017 GFC member survey because the questions were well received and solicited effective feedback and to allow for comparison between years
- In response to a question, it was reported that there was a 50% response rate for the 2017 GFC member survey, and that the feedback received was informative
- The Committee discussed:
 - Whether there is value in rewording the question “How many meetings have you attended in 2017-2018?”. It was concluded that the question, as written, is more positive than asking how many meetings a member has missed, and it was noted that questions later in the survey allow members to express their engagement in the business of the GFC.
 - The possible addition of the question “What would you change?”, but it was concluded that this is facilitated by the box for “Additional Comments” at the end of the survey
- The University Secretary reminded the Committee that all of the written comments in original form are included in the evaluation report
- The Chair indicated that the survey would be sent to the GFC members in March so that the students who finish their terms at the end of April will have the opportunity to participate

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the 2018 General Faculties Council Member Survey, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

8. Proposed Disciplinary and Academic Standing Appeals Model

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Andrea Klaiber-Langen and Susan Barker presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee received a presentation on a proposed new disciplinary and academic standing appeals model for the University. The proponents emphasised that the proposed model aims to improve administrative efficiencies, improve the transparency of processes, provide dedicated support to decision-makers, and reduce risk to the institution.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the new appeals model will apply to all Faculties and programs, including professional programs. The proponents reported that they are meeting with a variety of units to address individual and Faculty-specific needs and concerns as the new model is developed.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The determination of the “reasonableness” of a decision. It was explained that, if the procedure leading to the decision was fair and properly followed and if a decision is within the realm of reasonable outcomes, then the decision should not be overturned
 - The proposed membership of the Academic Misconduct and Standing Review Committee and University Appeals Tribunal, and the need to populate these committees with people with relevant appeals experience
 - That the proposed model will be formally established through a University policy and procedure
 - That it is possible that the number of appeals may spike once the new model is introduced and student awareness increases. It was observed that, over time and as students feel fairly treated and understand decisions, the number of appeals should go down.
 - That efforts to educate students about academic integrity are continuing, and that this should decrease the instances of academic misconduct
 - The different grounds for appeal within the academic discipline and academic failure streams of the model, and that extenuating circumstances should be considered at the Faculty level for required-to-withdraw cases
 - How to address mental health issues within the different levels of decision and appeal
- The Committee suggested that, for future presentations:
 - The slide setting out the purpose for the new appeals model should not list “minimize legal and reputational risk” first, but rather after “improve student experience” and “support decision makers”
 - It be emphasised that dissatisfaction with a decision or procedure is not a ground for appeal in any of the streams
- The Committee determined that the GFC should receive this presentation at its February 8, 2018 meeting, and it was suggested that the GFC members should be encouraged to familiarize themselves with their current Faculty appeals procedures in advance of the GFC meeting

9. Review of the February 8, 2018 GFC Agenda

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Committee reviewed the draft February 8, 2018 GFC agenda.

10. Benefits to Post-Secondary Education Project

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bruce Evelyn presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee received a presentation on the provincial government's Benefits to Post-Secondary Education Project (BPSEP), which uses Statistics Canada data to analyse and compare median earnings for graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions in order to facilitate understanding of labour market outcomes for graduates. The presenter highlighted the data for the University by credential and by Faculty.
- The presenter explained that the data was compiled by tracking students who graduated in 2004-2005 and who appear in the Statistics Canada tax records, and that the data extends to nine years past graduation. Only the individual's highest degree received in 2004-2005 was considered, and individuals were not considered if self-employed or if some of their degree was earned outside of Alberta.
- In response to a question, it was reported that, after the provincial government releases the BPSEP information to the public, the University may publish its results
- The Committee discussed:
 - The relative earnings of doctoral graduates to other graduates
 - That graduating from a co-op program appears to have a positive impact on earnings, and that the University could try to leverage this data to grow these programs
 - That the public report is expected to contain province-wide aggregated data only
 - That, assuming it becomes available to institutions in February, it will be interesting to compare the University's data to that of other institutions, including the Universities of Alberta and Lethbridge.
 - The data does not indicate outlier earnings, as the data presents median income only
 - That, in future studies, having data for high school-only graduates would be interesting for comparison purposes

11. 2018-2019 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

It was noted that the calculations done by the Office of Institutional Analysis indicate that the Cumming School of Medicine will lose one elected academic staff member seat on GFC for 2018-2019 and the Werklund School of Education will gain one seat.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the January 26, 2018 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary