



General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 73
December 16, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
Semhar Abraha
Joule Bergerson
Sarah Eaton
Meghan McDonough
Mary O'Brien
Alex Paquette
Bill Rosehart
Richard Sigurdson
April Viczko – arrived during Item 6
Hussein Warsame

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Guest

Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Item 6

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the December 16, 2020 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair reported that the plan for Alberta 2030 public consultation will be announced soon, and remarked that University representatives have to date been communicating to the Ministry about the importance of bicameral governance and institutional autonomy.

The Vice-Chair reported that a COVID-19 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Survey was released on Monday, and members of the University community are encouraged to complete this.

3. Approval of the November 25, 2020 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 25, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Nominations for Election by GFC to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Science

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

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Science. Four nominees will be presented for the election of two at the January 14, 2021 General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting.

5. Review of the Draft January 14, 2021 GFC Agenda

The Committee reviewed the draft January 14, 2021 GFC Agenda.

The Committee discussed the presentations to GFC, and confirmed that the presenters will be asked to limit their presentation to five slides, will be encouraged to clearly set out any feedback they are requesting, and will be asked to engage GFC members in their presentation as much as possible.

6. Other Business

Approval of an Additional Study Day - Winter 2021 Final Exam Period

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to revise the 2020-2021 academic schedule to make April 19, 2021 an additional study day (non-instructional) prior to the Winter 2021 final exam period. It was noted that this is a time sensitive decision.
- The proponents reviewed the various options that had been considered to add an extra break to the Winter 2021 term, including delaying the start of term, shifting Block Week to the end of term, and adding a break in March. The proponents reported that adding a break prior to the start of the Winter 2021 final exam period was determined to be the best course of action, and noted that the exam period can be compressed because most courses will be offered online.

- Discussion included:
 - That the addition of a study day prior to the final exam period will benefit students, particularly those who may have a number of assignments due at the end of term
 - That some Winter 2021 course outlines have already been submitted for approval and may need to be adjusted
 - Other recent decisions that have been designed to reduce the stress upon students, including the option to take a CR/F in one course in the Fall 2020 term. The proponents reported that a permanent regulation relating to the CR/F option, possibly to make it such that a student may take a CR/F for up to four courses over the duration of their degree, is in development and is expected to be brought forward for approval by March.
- The Committee requested that, because academic staff members are also under stress at this time, the proponents consider again relaxing the 6-day rule to submit grades after the end of the Winter 2021 term, as has been done for the Fall 2020 term. The proponents reported that this is being considered, and a decision will be made in due course.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve April 19, 2021 as an additional study day (non-instructional) prior to the Winter 2021 final exam period, as presented to the Committee.

Carried

April Viczko abstained.

7. Adjournment

The December 16, 2020 meeting of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary