



General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 83
February 23, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Joule Bergerson
Meghan McDonough
Alex Paquette
Bill Rosehart
Richard Sigurdson
April Viczko
Jennifer Winter

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Lise Houle

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Observer

Cherie Tutt

Regrets

Rachel Lauer
Renzo Pereyra

The 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 February 23, 2022 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- The Throne Speech was given yesterday, and the provincial government's detailed budget will be announced tomorrow. Representatives of the University will have calls with the Minister of Advanced Education after the budget announcement. A summary of the budget will be communicated to the University community, but it is important for people to be aware that the University interacts with several ministries and so it will take several days to understand the full implications of the budget for the University.

- This will be discussed under Item 9, but it is being proposed to cancel the March 10 General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting and to hold, in its place, a campus town hall meeting regarding the budget

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University will maintain most of its COVID-19 protocols this semester, including the requirement for masking and asking people to stay home if they are unwell. The University's communications will emphasise that these protocols are in place to support the continuity of the University's operations. The mask requirement has been modified to allow instructors to teach without a mask if they are distanced appropriately from the students and to allow for necessary eating and drinking in the classroom. An escalation process has been established for dealing with serious instances of noncompliance, and the University will be monitoring social media in order to have awareness of people's views on the protocols.
- The University has obtained a supply of 16,000 COVID-19 rapid testing tests, and a process is being developed for distributing these
- Scholars Weekend is being held this coming weekend

Discussion included:

- There may be some opposition to the continuance of the University's requirement for masking, since the provincial government has lifted this requirement generally, but the University's plan for the Winter semester was communicated to faculty, staff and students and people have planned accordingly and it would be unfair to change the University's requirements now. In response to an observation that the policing of mask-wearing, and the potential for confrontation, is a concern, the Vice-Chair reported that an informational PowerPoint will be provided to instructors to show in class, so that messaging about the University's requirement is clear and consistent, and that a team of student ambassadors will again be patrolling the campuses to encourage compliance.
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that the University will no longer have a requirement for COVID-19 vaccination. While the University is not a sealed environment and some guests to campus may not be vaccinated, members of the University community are nearly 100% vaccinated. The University's emphasis is now on measures to reduce transmission.
- Prior to COVID-19, people who were sick were able to stay home to recover and there was not an expectation for them to work from home; currently, there is an expectation by some that people home sick will adjust their process but continue to deliver their work while sick (e.g. remote lectures). The Vice-Chair indicated that people home sick should not be expected to work, but it is complicated and there may be circumstances when people home for various reasons should be working.
- Similarly, some students who have been absent now have an expectation that the course material will be delivered to them in an alternate form or that extensions will be given, and instructors are feeling pressures (e.g. to record lectures or to change assignments) that did not exist prior to COVID-19. It is necessary for the University to clearly communicate to instructors and students what is required of instructors and the responsibilities of students if they miss course work or deadlines, and instructors need to be supported in saying no to unreasonable demands from students. The matter is complicated by the fact that some students were not students prior to COVID-19 and do not know that students used to have to ask other students for class notes, etc.

3. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on January 26, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Interim University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that it is the Secretariat's current process to set the General Faculties Council (GFC) and GFC Standing Committees meeting schedules for two years out, and that the revised 2022-2023 and new 2023-2024 schedules follow the normal pattern of meetings and provide for a reasonable flow of business. The changes to the 2022-2023 schedule, to adjust the dates of some meetings, were reviewed.
- In response to a question, it was reported that the decision to shift the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) meetings to Wednesday mornings rather than afternoons was made in consultation with the Co-Chair and members of the GAPS

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the revised 2022-2023 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedule and the 2023-2024 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedule, in the forms provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Nominations for the Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Interim University Secretary presented this item.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The elections will be held electronically immediately following the April 7, 2022 meeting of GFC
- Ideally, four nominees will be presented on each ballot

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing.

6. Nominations for the Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Interim University Secretary presented this item.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

7. Naming of the Teaching and Learning Committee Academic Co-Chair

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Interim University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that a replacement Academic Co-Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) is needed at this time, and that the Co-Chair of the TLC has identified a member of the committee willing to take on this role
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee name Barbara Brown, Werklund School of Education, as the Academic Co-Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, effective immediately and for a term until September 30, 2022 or until Amy Warren is able to return as the Academic Co-Chair of the TLC if that is sooner.

Carried

8. 2022 GFC Evaluation

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Interim University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee was reminded that the GFC Bylaws require that the GFC is to carry out an evaluation of its performance and operations no later than two years following its last evaluation, in accordance with a process approved by the GFC Executive Committee (EC). It was reported that, since an evaluation was not done in 2021, it is necessary to do one this year.
- The Committee discussed the format for the 2022 GFC evaluation (a survey versus a discussion session) and determined that an interactive discussion session is preferred. The Committee further discussed:
 - That Zoom offers tools that could be utilised, including polling, whiteboard brainstorming, and breakout rooms
 - That the 2020 GFC evaluation session was successfully moderated by a veteran member

of the GFC and EC

- The sort of information that is desired from the evaluation
- It was decided that the University Secretariat will reach out to the person who facilitated the Schulich School of Engineering's recent interactive Zoom session for some guidance, and will draft some evaluation questions for the Committee to review at its next meeting.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The GFC and GFC standing committee meetings will be held via Zoom for the remainder of this meeting year. The plan for the 2022-2023 meetings has not yet been determined, but participation, accessibility, engagement, and efficiency will be considered.
 - It is necessary to review the GFC Bylaws this year, as the GFC Bylaws require that this be done every three years

9. Review of the Draft March 10, 2022 GFC Agenda

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the March 10, 2022 GFC meeting.

Discussion included:

- The Chair reported that, because there is minimal and non-urgent business for this meeting, the Chair and Vice-Chair consulted with the Executive Leadership Team and are proposing to cancel the March 10, 2022 GFC meeting and replace this with a budget townhall open to the whole University community
- There were no concerns
- In response to a question, it was reported that the format for the townhall has not yet been confirmed. It was noted that hybrid in-person/online townhalls have been held successfully in the past, but that many members of the University community may not be comfortable with in-person gatherings yet.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

The February 23, 2022 meeting of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.