



General Faculties Council  
**GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

October 19, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Olive Chapman  
Shaziah Jinnah  
Aoife Mac Namara  
Satish Raj  
James Steele – left during Item 7  
Melanee Thomas

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Joule Bergerson  
Rachel Lauer  
Bill Rosehart

***Guests***

Deborah Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 4  
Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) – present for Item 4

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 19, 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:

- Representatives of Universities Canada and the U15 have been communicating with the federal government about the need for increased funding relating to research (including for the Canada Research Chairs program and the Tri-Council), increased support for students (including funding targeted to high quality programs and increased funding for awards, and indexing this to inflation) and the more rapid processing of student visas

- The memberships of the University's Strategic Planning Steering (now Oversight) Committee and its working groups are being finalised and these will begin meeting soon. The pre-consultations process regarding the process to develop the University's next strategic plan is underway.
- The University's Community Report 2017-2022 will have three events, on the main, Foothills and downtown campuses. The events will include celebrations of the University's achievements and will kick off the new strategic planning process.
- The search for a new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) will start soon
- The Hunter Student Commons opening ceremony was held yesterday

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The leadership reviews for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice President Research (Indigenous Engagement) and the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) are launching soon
- The University is hosting the annual Killam Awards celebration tomorrow and the Killam Trustees will attend
- The 2022 Dinos Hall of Fame event was held last week
- A \$5 million donation by the Daniel Family Foundation to the Own Cancer campaign (a partnership between the University, Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Cancer Foundation) was announced last week
- The University's budget townhall will be held on October 28
- Representatives of the province's Comprehensive Academic and Research Universities (CARU) continue to meet about matters that impact the four institutions

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The delays in processing student visas are the most significant to date. This is in part due to post-Covid delays in processing documents and also due to other situations including in Afghanistan and Ukraine. The University is accommodating the impacted students and engaging them with the University as much as possible.
- The President and Vice-Chancellor has not yet met with the new Alberta Premier, Danielle Smith. Representatives of the University will engage with the Ministry of Advanced Education once Cabinet is announced and the Deputy Minister appointments are confirmed.
- There will be transparency about the pre-consultation and consultation phases of the development of the University's new strategic direction, including talking with the University community about the feedback received, and the process is intended to be open to all stakeholders and engaging

### **3. Approval of the September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on September 21, 2022 be approved.

**Carried**

#### **4. Recommendation of the Revisions to the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book and Verity Turpin presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the proposed revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy are in response to a request from the provincial government, and that a full review of the policy is not being done at this time but is scheduled to be done within the next two years. The presenters noted that one additional revision was made following the October 6, 2022 General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting, to add a statement at the beginning of the document that “Any member of the University Community impacted by Sexual and Gender-Based Violence may contact the Sexual Violence Response Office for support”.
- In response to questions, it was reported that Section 2 of the policy (Scope) sets out the conditions in which the policy applies. The Sexual Violence Response Office will navigate jurisdiction on a case-by-case basis, considering the Complainant, Respondent and impacts of the reported action.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC recommend that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

#### **5. Nominations for the Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)**

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

Highlights:

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It is expected that the work of this Advisory Review Committee will be completed in December 2022
  - Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) (EDI), is working on guidelines for conducting appointment work in a manner that aligns with the University’s commitment to EDI
- Discussion included:
  - Whether persons on leave should be asked if they want to stand for election, since persons on leave are not expected to engage in service. It was decided that individuals on leave could be asked and the decision be left to them as individuals.
  - The GFC Executive Committee (EC)’s rank-ordering process, and that this is strategically done such as to ensure that there is no duplication of Faculties on a ballot

The EC then 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 Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President

Research (Indigenous Engagement). The first four individuals to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot for the election of two by the GFC. The election will be held electronically following the November 3, 2022 GFC meeting.

**6. Nominations for the Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources)**

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

Highlights:

- In response to a question, it was indicated that the Libraries and Cultural Resources unit will be electing representatives to this Advisory Review Committee

The EC then 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 Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources). The first four individuals to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot for the election of two by the GFC. The election will be held electronically following the November 3, 2022 GFC meeting.

**7. Nominations for the Election by GFC of Three Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

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

The EC then named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Provost and Vice-President (Academic). The first six individuals to agree to stand for election will be presented on a ballot for the election of three by the GFC. The election will be held electronically following the November 3, 2022 GFC meeting.

**8. Review of the Draft November 3, 2022 GFC Agenda**

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

Highlights:

- With regard to the Partisan Political Activities Policy, the EC discussed:
  - That the Partisan Political Activities Policy proposal is not following the current standard routing for proposals of this nature, specifically that it is not coming to the EC for recommendation of the revisions to the GFC. The routing followed for this item mirrored the routing from when the policy was originally approved.
  - That this is considered to be a time-sensitive matter, as it is desired to have the revisions to the Partisan Political Activities Policy approved well in advance of the next provincial election. The approval authority, the Human Resources and Governance Committee (HRGC), meets on November 28, 2022 and so taking this proposal to the November 16 meeting of the EC and then to the December 8 meeting of the GFC will not allow this to be approved by the HRGC in November.
  - That the Partisan Political Activities Policy is an important policy that gets referred to,

cited, and used in various ways

- Whether fulsome discussion of the proposal by the GFC could be sufficient
- Whether a special meeting of the HRGC could be held after the December GFC meeting
- That the University could be at risk because the current Partisan Political Activities Policy is outdated and does not reflect current legislation
- Following this discussion, it was decided to call a special meeting of the EC as soon as possible to review the revisions to the Partisan Political Activities Policy proposal such that the item can remain on the November 3 GFC agenda. It was also determined that any person who has strong concerns about the Partisan Political Activities Policy could speak directly with the proposal's proponents in addition to offering feedback at the EC and GFC meetings, in order to ensure that they are heard
- The EC expressed no concerns with the remainder of the November 3 GFC agenda
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the three elections will be held electronically immediately following the November 3 GFC meeting

#### 9. Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 10. Adjournment

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the October 19, 2022 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary