



General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

November 16, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair
Joule Bergerson
Olive Chapman
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Rachel Lauer
Aoife Mac Namara
Satish Raj
Bill Rosehart

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Jessica Ayala
James Steele
Melanee Thomas

Guests

Ron Kim, Vice-President (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer – present for Item 5
John Alho, Associate Vice-President - Government Relations – present for Item 5
Janet Stein, Director - Risk Management and Insurance – present for Item 5

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the November 16, 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:

- A meeting with Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaides and Alberta Post-Secondary Presidents occurred in Edmonton today, and the Presidents are meeting with representatives of the New Democratic Party (NDP) later today

- The Community Report was presented on the main campus on November 14, 2022 and the Foothills campus on November 15, 2022, and the members of the University community who came out to these events are thanked for their engagement. The sunsetting *Eyes High* Strategy was celebrated and the process to develop a new strategic plan was launched. The Community Report will be presented downtown on December 5, 2022.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The posting for the search for a new Dean of the Haskayne School of Business is now up
- The advisory review committees for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) and Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) are now almost fully populated, and the committee memberships will be posted on the Provost's Office website
- The search for a new Director of the School of Public Policy is on pause while recent unit and governance reviews are studied. The search will be re-initiated in February 2023.

3. Approval of the October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meetings held on October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Appointment of One Academic Staff Member to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

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

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee. The first individual to agree to serve will be deemed appointed by the Committee.

Secretary's Note: Following the meeting, Kimberly Lenters, Werklund School of Education, agreed to serve.

5. Institutional Enterprise Risk Management Program – Student Risk Review

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ron Kim, Janet Stein, and John Alho presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the Student Attraction, Recruitment and Retention Risk was reviewed by the Enterprise Risk Management Committee and Executive Leadership Team in October 2022 and this remains ranked sixth of the University's ten risks, and that:
 - Undergraduate and graduate student recruitment aligning with institutional objectives and funded expansions is a priority

- Enrolment was negatively impacted by delays in processing international student visas for 2022-2023 and that it is unknown if this will continue into 2023-2024. Efforts have been made to offer online alternatives for new international students to begin their programs and advocacy is underway to seek improved visa processing times.
- Access to post-secondary education is a challenge as the University cannot meet enrolment demand
- Resources and learning supports have been added to improve the student experience
- A pilot bursary program for students in unpaid Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is launching
- The Teaching and Learning portfolio has developed a pedagogical framework and guiding principles for decision-making on post-pandemic course modalities
- The University's career, advising, and experiential learning platform has been upgraded
- Discussion included that access to housing fits under both the infrastructure risk and the student risk, as access to housing is a big factor in recruiting and retaining students, and that access to food and the general cost of living are also concerns for students. The proponents agreed to add reference to cost of living before the risk is presented to the Audit Committee for discussion.

6. Revisions to the GFC Bylaws

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

Highlights:

- In a follow-up to the update provided at the September 21, 2022 meeting of the Committee, the presenter provided an overview of the updated proposal to revise the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws, reported that the University Secretary has consulted with all of the GFC standing committee co-chairs, the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), and the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) about the proposed revisions, noted that previous consultations had also been completed by the previous University Secretary including with the President of The University of Calgary Faculty Association and other stakeholders, and highlighted that the proposal will be discussed by the GFC in December before returning to the Committee for further discussion and recommendation and further discussion and approval by the GFC in the new year.
- Discussion included:
 - That it had been suggested to revise section 3.4 because this currently allows only ex-officio members of GFC to designate an individual to act in their place. The University Secretary explained that Faculty Councils and other units elect and appoint specific individuals as representatives and that it is not good practice for these individuals to designate others to serve in their place, but indicated that the Secretariat would revise the proposal to include the members who are appointed by title in section 3.1 as members who can designate. Those members are the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Vice-Provost (Student Experience), Chief Information Officer, and President of the University of Calgary Faculty Association.
 - The proposed wording in section 6.1, that GFC members must adhere to "all" University policies and procedures applicable to members, and it was agreed that the word is unnecessary and would be removed

- That section 7.1 states that a special meeting of GFC will be called upon written request by at least one-quarter (1/4) of the of the GFC members, and whether a specific number of members (i.e., 25) would be better here. The University Secretary observed that the membership of GFC is calculated every year and so preference is not to set a specific number in this section.
- It was suggested that section 7.7.1 be revised to set '50% + 1' as the number of members needed to overturn a decision of the Chair rather than the current two-thirds (2/3). The University Secretary observed that a threshold of 2/3 ensures that more groups are represented in this decision and noted that University leadership does not hold 1/3 of the membership and so cannot protect the Chair from the overturn of a decision. It was observed that regular motions pass with a threshold of '50% + 1' and so this could also be the threshold for overturning a decision of the Chair, but the University Secretary noted that it is common practice to have a higher bar for overruling.
- It was suggested that section 14.3 be expanded to require review and drafting by a special committee chaired by the Secretary before the Bylaws are reviewed by the GFC at least once every three years, rather than having the Secretariat lead the process. Satisfaction with the current process, including review by the EC and GFC at least twice each, was expressed but it was agreed to specifically reference review by the EC in section 4.3. The University Secretary suggested that section 14.3 should also enshrine that the EC should direct who should be consulted during a review of the Bylaws.

7. Review of the Draft December 8, 2022 GFC Agenda

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

Highlights:

- All items of business being tracked for the December 8, 2022 GFC meeting are flowing as expected
- The meeting will be held in-person in ST147

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the November 16, 2022 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.