

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

January 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Olive Chapman
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Rachel Lauer
Aoife Mac Namara – arrived during Item 2
Bill Rosehart
Melanee Thomas

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Joule Bergerson
Satish Raj
James Steele

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the January 25, 2023 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 the University continue to speak with representatives of the municipal, provincial, and federal governments about the value of investing in postsecondary institutions
- The University's proposal to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) for the project 'One Child, Every Child' has just completed the final interview stage of the competition, and it is expected that decision will be heard in the coming months

The Vice-Chair reported that the search for a Dean of the Haskayne School of Business is underway, and candidates will soon be longlisted. The renewal processes for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural

Resources) and Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) are underway.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- There have been uncertainties due to the pandemic and upcoming provincial election, and it has been decided that it is best for the University for Penny Werthner to continue her strong leadership as Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and so her term has been extended for one year, until June 30, 2024. The search for a new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) will begin in Fall 2023.
- There are processes underway in preparation for upcoming leadership renewals/appointments, including for the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) role

3. Approval of the November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on November 16, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Establishment of the 2023-2024 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

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

Highlights:

- The General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC) reviewed the results of the annual calculation by the Office of Institutional Analysis (OIA) of the GFC elected member distribution for 2023-2024
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Faculties have the elected academic staff member seats calculated by the OIA as described in Section 24.2.b of the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), and most Faculties also have at least one additional academic staff member seat assigned to them by the GFC under Section 25 of the PSLA
 - If one of the two Faculties that is losing a seat on the GFC does not have a representative ending their term on June 30, 2023, the University Secretary will work with the Dean to determine the best way forward

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out on the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Endorsement of Change to a Recent Appointment to the GAPS

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

Highlights:

- The University Secretary reported that this item of business is clean-up, because circumstances changed after the November 16, 2022 meeting of the EC and a new member of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) is now not needed until July 1
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve that the term of appointment to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee of Kimberly Lenters, Werklund School of Education, will be from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 rather than January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Carried

6. Revisions to the GFC Bylaws

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

Highlights:

- The University Secretary provided an overview of the updated proposal to revise the GFC Bylaws, including description of the revisions made as a result of feedback from the EC and GFC
- Discussion included:
 - Section 7.7.1 of the Bylaws was discussed again. It was noted that it still sets out that a vote in favour by two-thirds of the members present at the meeting is required to pass a motion to overturn a ruling of the Chair. It was suggested that this threshold instead be set at 50% +1 (majority of the members present), as this signals trust in the GFC members and that the Chair must maintain support from the majority of members, and it was observed that there are some other universities that have this lower threshold.
 - The University Secretary reiterated the opinion that a higher threshold should be required for motions of this nature that overrule a Chair's ruling. The GFC currently enjoys collegial operations, and there is a desire for this to continue. It was noted that there also may be unintended consequences if a change is made to the Section 7.7.1 voting threshold.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - It was clarified that the change proposed to section 3.4 is that the members who are appointed by title in section 3.1 of the Bylaws (the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Vice-Provost (Student Experience), Chief Information Officer, and President of the University Faculty Association) can designate an individual to act in their place for any meeting of the GFC
 - Section 3.3 of the Bylaws sets out the procedure for if a GFC member will be absent from three or more consecutive GFC meetings. Electing/appointing bodies may, if desired, elect/appoint an alternate representative who may serve if a member will miss a GFC meeting, and the University Secretary will work with these bodies on the procedure for this and ensure that the procedure fulfills necessary requirements including ensuring an

individual attending is properly prepared and informed to participate in a fulsome manner. It was emphasised that individual elected/appointed GFC members cannot name an alternate for themselves.

- At GFC meetings abstention votes do not count as in favour of or against a motion, and Section 8.2 of the Bylaws now sets this out. In the case of a vote like set out in Section 7.7.1, abstention votes will not change the number of votes in favour needed to pass a motion to overturn a ruling of the Chair, for example, if 60 members are present then 40 votes in favour are needed to pass the motion to overturn regardless of how many members present choose to abstain from voting, as they are still present even if they opt not to vote.
- When periodic reviews are conducted, such as periodic reviews of the GFC Bylaws, the University Secretariat looks at the notes from the prior review to be reminded of feedback that may not have been incorporated at that time
- The proposed addition to the GFC Bylaws, that members will “ensure that they reflect and respect the diversity of the University”, means that members are meant to consider reconciliation and Indigenous engagement and equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility during the conduct of GFC business. The PSLA sets out how the members of the GFC are elected/appointed, and, while diversity is desired, the GFC Bylaws cannot dictate membership criteria. The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is working on guidelines to advise units on committee/representative nomination and selection processes.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC approve the revised GFC Bylaws, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Review of the Draft February 9, 2023 GFC Agenda

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

Highlights:

- The EC reviewed the draft agenda for the February 9, 2023 GFC meeting
- The format for the GFC meetings for the remainder of the academic year was discussed, including:
 - It has been heard that some members of the GFC would prefer a virtual or hybrid format for the meetings. It was noted that some members have also expressed preference for in-person.
 - The University Secretary noted that the GFC meeting space, ST147, cannot support full participation in a hybrid meeting and so hybrid GFC meetings are not being offered. Other spaces have been explored but the requirements of the GFC cannot be met. ST147 is on a list for possible renovation. In response to questions, it was reported that some institutions are doing in-person GFC (or equivalent) meetings, some institutions that are doing hybrid meetings are now questioning if this is allowing for full participation, and a few have remained solely virtual.
 - The University Secretary confirmed that it will be current practice that Faculties/

groups may, if desired, elect/appoint an alternate representative who may serve if a member cannot attend a GFC meeting, and the University Secretary will work with these bodies on the procedure for this

- In-person meetings arguably allow for better dialogue and engagement
 - While it can become obvious during an in-person meeting that quorum is lost, there is no way to know if members connected to a virtual GFC meeting are actually present/participating due to high numbers with cameras off
 - It was concluded that the February 9, 2023 meeting will be held in-person in ST147, and the remaining GFC meetings of this academic year will alternate in format with the concluding June 15 meeting being held in person, as posted on the GFC website
 - It was agreed that, for the 2023-2024 meetings, consideration will be given to when the last day of classes is each term and, if the format for the GFC meetings will still be alternating, in-person meetings not be scheduled for when instructors and students may prefer to be off campus (e.g. after the end of classes in December). The 2023-2024 meeting schedule is being brought for approval at an upcoming EC meeting, and the expected format for the meetings will be determined at this time.
- In response to a question, it was reported that the Social Innovation Initiative item is an information item describing what is happening at the University in this area, and that this presentation was given at the January 19, 2023 meeting of the GFC's Research and Scholarship Committee
 - In response to a question, it was reported that the GFC's Teaching and Learning Committee has recommended that the GFC approve the new University of Calgary Teaching Award in Inclusive Excellence, and that not all of the business before the GFC has to be seen by the EC as the other standing committees have purview of some matters as outlined in each committee's Terms of Reference

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the January 25, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.