



General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Approval

April 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Joule Bergerson
Olive Chapman
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette – arrived during Item 1
Rachel Lauer
Aoife Mac Namara
Satish Raj
Bill Rosehart – left during Item 10
James Steele – left during Item 10

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Meeting Secretary

Cherie Tutt

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Melanee Thomas

Guests

Deborah Book, Legal Counsel – present for Items 5 and 6
Kate Hamilton, Executive Director & Chief of Staff, Office of the President – present for Item 10
Corey Hogan, Associate Vice-President (Communications) and Chief Communications Officer, Office of Advancement – present for Item 10
Francine Smith, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Item 4
Anne Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor – 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 April 28, 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:

- Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne announced in Montreal today that the University's transdisciplinary 'One Child Every Child' initiative has been granted Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) funding of \$125 million. The initiative will have a total of \$269 million, including the funding brought by partner groups. This is the largest grant in the University's history, and a celebration was held on campus today.
- The University is also a partner in Concordia University's CFREF initiative 'Electrifying Society: Towards Decarbonized Resilient Communities', which Minister Champagne announced today has been granted \$123 million

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The celebratory speeches of initiative leaders Jennifer Leason, Faculty of Arts, and Susa Benseler, Cumming School of Medicine, at the 'One Child Every Child' event were emotional to hear
- The Students' Union's Teaching Excellence Awards event was held on April 19, 2023
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies' Three Minute Thesis competition was held on April 20, 2023. The event was judged by community leaders including former Mayor Naheed Nenshi, and there were great presentations by graduate students.
- The University's Promotion Review Committee has been meeting
- A meeting of the U15 Provosts was held this week, and Frédéric Bouchard's *Report of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System* was discussed
- The Taylor Institute's Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching was held April 26-28, 2023, and the Provost gave the welcoming address
- The Students' Union's Colour Night, which is the ceremonial transitioning to the new council, is being held today, April 28, 2023

3. Approval of the March 15, 2023 and April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meetings held on March 15 and April 11, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of Revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Francine Smith presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent gave a presentation describing the work of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG) and outlining the proposed revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook
- There were no questions
- The Vice-Chair thanked the ASCPHWG, and specifically its co-chairs, for this important work

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC approve the revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, effective July 1, 2023, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried**5. Recommendation of the Retiring of the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy**

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

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an explanation of the proposal to retire the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy
- Discussion included the suggestion that the proponent be prepared to explain that this policy is no longer needed because the University is doing this work in positive newer ways

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC retire the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy.

Carried**6. Revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book and Anne Wigham presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided explanation of the proposal to revise the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity
- The Committee discussed the wording relating to 'best practices' and 'fair and just procedure', and a member suggested that the wording around risk concerns refer to procedures that are "not as fair and just as they might be"

7. Appointment Work: Appointment of Four Academic Staff Members (at least one to be a member of GFC) to the Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee determined that none of the academic staff members appointed to the Academic Program Subcommittee should be from the same Faculty.

The Committee then named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Academic Program Subcommittee. The first four individuals, including at least one individual who is a member of the General Faculties Council (GFC), to agree to serve will be deemed appointed by the Committee.

8. Appointment Work: Appointment of One Academic Staff Member to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

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.

9. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Werklund School of Education

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

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 Werklund School of Education. 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 May 11, 2023 GFC meeting.

10. Strategic Plan

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, Penny Werthner, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Kate Hamilton, and Corey Hogan presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents gave a presentation outlining the development of the University's proposed Strategic Plan: Ahead of Tomorrow, including: how the Strategic Plan fits with the University's other strategies and plans; the timeline; details about the consultation process and data about participation; and details about the plan development and refinement

- Discussion included:
 - The continued use of the word “entrepreneurial” throughout the document, and that the use of this word is of concern to some members of the University community. It was questioned whether the word “innovative” could be used instead. The proponents explained that it is desired that the University’s Strategic Plan be distinctive, and that many institutions describe innovation in their strategic plans. Support for the use of the word “entrepreneurial” was also expressed, and it was observed that continued effort to define and dialogue about this may grow comfort. It was requested that a definition of the word “entrepreneurial” that clarifies the meaning for the University be added to the document.
 - That the University’s excellence in teaching is not as prominent in the Strategic Plan as some members of the University community would like to see, and that this could be better balanced with entrepreneurialism
 - The commitment to provide one semester of financial support for first-in-family students is applauded
 - The creation of required programming “focussed on entrepreneurial thinking, research, and creative scholarship”, and that the wording around this initiative could be refined to better communicate the purpose of this required programming
 - The importance of restating the University’s commitment to reconciliation
 - That community focus guides the University’s values, and this is present throughout the Strategic Plan
 - The connection of the Strategic Plan to companion institutional operational plans, including the Academic Plan and Research Plan, is important
 - Food and housing insecurity are big concerns for students, and so the commitment to increasing financial support for thesis-based graduate students is applauded
 - Developing the research ecosystem will benefit the University community broadly, including graduate students and international students
- In response to a question, the proponents reported that there is still opportunity for members of the University community to provide feedback on the proposed Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be discussed by the GFC and the Board of Governors (BG) in May, will return to this Committee in May, and then will be presented to the GFC and BG in June for approval.

11. Review of the Draft May 11, 2023 GFC Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the May 11, 2023 GFC meeting
- There were no questions or comments

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the April 28, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Cherie Tutt
Meeting Secretary