



General Faculties Council
Executive Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, November 20, 2017
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

David Turpin, Chair
Lisa Collins
Lesley Cormack
Steven Dew
Bill Foster
Firouz Khodayari
Al Meldrum
Shane Scott

Eleni Stroulia
Sylvia Brown

REGRETS:

Delane Howie
Brent Swallow
Jonathan White

STAFF:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator
Marion Haggarty-France,
University Secretary
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

The Chair reordered the agenda to accommodate a scheduling conflict.

Motion: Collins/Scott

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 16, 2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Cormack/Stroulia

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve the Minutes of October 16, 2017.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair reported on the recent Campus Forum on Financial Sustainability which he indicated was well-attended and included important questions from members of the university community.

Regarding the Naylor Report, now called the Fundamental Science Review, the Chair reported on the continued advocacy efforts for implementation of its recommendations amongst the members of the U15, Universities Canada, and the University of Alberta. The Chair noted that details surrounding funding and planning sequencing were not clear at this point.

In addition, the Chair commented on recent activities related to the recommendations of the ad hoc committee including the invitation of the Board Chair to attend the next GFC meeting to speak about activities at the Board and the plans for a joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit on January 26, 2018.

Secretary's note: Item 8 Joint Board/GFC/Senate Summit was discussed after the Comments from the Chair. President Turpin then left the meeting and Provost Steven Dew chaired the remainder of the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. General Appeals Committee (GAC) Annual Report to General Faculties Council (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Johnson, Special Advisor, Faculty and Staff Relations

Purpose of the Proposal: To report to GFC as per legislative requirements.

Discussion:

Dr Johnson reported that there was one case in the past year and that it was a lengthier case with lawyer involvement that had not yet been resolved. He noted that the annual report normally contains approximately 6-8 cases.

There was no further discussion.

5. Annual Report of the Residence Discipline Statistics: 2016-2017

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Trent Nabe, Supervisor, Residence Life, East Campus

Purpose of the Proposal: To report on the discipline statistics from the U of A residences for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Discussion:

Mr Nabe provided a summary of the report and noted that the use of restorative justice had been expanded to include maintenance and operational issues (such as cleanliness, subletting) which could account for the 35% increase in incidents. He noted that most of these incidents took place at Lister. Mr Nabe reported that there were 161 cases of students of concern.

During the discussion members enquired about how students of concern were tracked and supported, data on repeat offenders, and how the decision to use sanctions was determined.

6. Student Conduct and Accountability Annual Statistical Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): André Costopoulos, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the GFC Executive Committee with the annual statistics of SCA for the 2016-17 academic year.

Discussion:

Dr Costopoulos reported on the report noting that it reflected a decrease in non-academic discipline cases; he noted that this trend was continuing into the current year. He also noted that there was frequent utilization of supportive approaches rather than punitive ones.

Members, during the discussion, enquired about the decrease in alcohol and drug statistics and the strategy to prepare for legalized cannabis at the institution. Dr Costopoulos reported that a working group had been struck to review the provincial framework in order to ensure that health and safety issues were addressed ahead of legalization. Members also discussed academic misconduct, and international students.

7. Annual Report of the Appeals and Compliance Officer (2016-2017)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Peterson, Appeals and Compliance Officer

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide Committee members with the annual report of statistical information on discipline cases, as required by GFC.

Discussion:

Mr Peterson indicated that the report set out information about discipline decisions and the appeal process. He noted that it contained data on the activities of the three university-level appeal bodies and that these bodies represent the last level of appeal at the university.

Members discussed international students in relation to offences, offences by year of study, and the determination of sanctions by appeal bodies.

8. Joint Board / GFC / Senate Summit

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): David Turpin, President and Chair, GFC Executive Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the plan for organizing the Board/GFC/Senate Summit.

Discussion:

The Chair reported that the joint Board/GFC Summit had been expanded to include the Senate; which would represent the three statutory bodies at the University of Alberta and will also provide a better balance of numbers given the size of each body. He indicated that free speech and respectful discourse on campus was being considered as the topic for the summit as a topical area in today's university environment. He emphasized that the purpose of the summit is not to write policy or come to conclusions but rather to have a conversation on what these tensions are. He invited members to provide comments and suggestions.

Members discussed: the importance of having a conversation, not just presentations; balancing free speech with the individual's responsibility for their words; ensuring the objective of the summit was clear; and the importance of building community.

The Chair noted that a group would be struck to structure the program and invited members to contact him if they were interested in serving on the group.

EARLY CONSULTATION

9. Experiential Learning

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper reported that Dr Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives), is currently engaged in discussions with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in defining experiential learning at the University of Alberta, one of the objectives within *For the Public Good*. She reported that surveys with deans, directors, chairs, and faculty members have been completed and the survey will be distributed to students next.

In addition to these activities, Dr Hopper noted that an administrative council has been established to review experiential learning.

During the ensuing discussion, members suggested the addition of desired outcomes in framing the discussion at GFC such as a simple one-pager with definitions and specific questions GFC members should be considering. A member reported that experiential learning placements do not always recognize the intent of the experience and thus do not address the needs of students and/or instructors.

In regards to an institutional approach, members discussed that experiential learning has different outcomes in different Faculties which would make measurable outcomes difficult to assess. A member noted that the Faculty of Arts conducted a survey about experiential learning and identified 5 pillars of experiential learning.

Members discussed how to frame the consultation at GFC including: activity underway, how we understand experiential learning in different contexts, discussion questions, what GFC was being asked for.

The Acting Chair, noting the short timeline for the next GFC meeting, stated that the item may be deferred to the January meeting so that additional material could be prepared.

ACTION ITEMS

10. Proposed Changes to Faculty Council Composition - Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis, Acting Vice-Dean, Faculty Affairs, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: To update the composition of the Council of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry to better reflect current external partners.

Discussion:

Dr Brenneis provided a summary of the proposed changes to Faculty Council, including the addition of vice-deans as voting members, a reduction in medical students from 6 to 4 members (one for each year of study), and changes to external organization names and membership.

Members discussed whether vice-deans should be voting members, that the Graduate Dental Students' Association does not exist, and clarification regarding the selection process for students.

Dr Brenneis indicated that the Faculty continues to work on this composition and anticipated that further revisions would be proposed in the coming months.

Motion: Foster/Collins

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the composition of Council of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as set forth in Attachment 1, submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

11. Proposed New Course Designator of KRLS, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Designator

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ann Jordan, Academic Professional Officer, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Purpose of the Proposal: To create a new course designator, KRLS, to replace the current course designator, PERLS, in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, for the 2018-2019 University of Alberta Calendar.

Discussion:

Ms Jordan reported that the proposal adds a new course designator in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation to reflect changes in language used in the field of Kinesiology.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Cormack/Foster

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the new course designator of KRLS (Kinesiology, Recreation, Leisure, and Sport), as submitted by the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, to take effect for Fall Term 2018.

CARRIED

12. Proposal to Waive English Language Proficiency Requirement for the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs delivered in Mandarin by the Alberta School of Business, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Deborah Burshtyn, Vice Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Michael Maier, Associate Dean, Master's Programs, Alberta School of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To allow the Alberta School of Business to waive the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirement which will enable them to offer a degree where the language of instruction is in Mandarin without determining the English Language Proficiency of the applicants.

Discussion:

Dr Burshtyn provided members with a summary of the proposal to waive ELP requirements for two programs, the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA), which would be delivered in China in Mandarin. She noted that the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) decided to recommend this item to GFC rather than exercise its delegated authority for several reasons including that the proposal could set a precedent for waiving ELP when delivering international programs.

Dr Hopper noted that the program standards conform to the university's existing degrees as well as the Government of Alberta guidelines for off-shore program delivery. She noted that the programs are subject to external review as well as quality assurance processes mandated by Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC).

Dr Maier explained that the program is geared towards senior executives in China who may not speak English and that this approach, intended to maximize learning outcomes, is utilized by several other Canadian and American universities.

Members sought clarification about the availability of instructional materials, quality assessment, and instructors for these programs. In addition, members engaged in discussion about the risks to the University of Alberta brand and other unintended consequences in waiving ELP requirements. Members suggested that the proposal could include a language proficiency requirement for the language of instruction.

Members expressed support for ASC's decision to refer this matter to GFC.

Motion: Stroulia/Foster

THAT the GFC Executive Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed waiver of the English Language Proficiency requirement for the Master of Financial Management (MFM) and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs delivered in Mandarin by the Alberta School of Business, as recommended by the GFC Academic Standards Committee, and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM GFC ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR GFC AGENDA (for information only)

13. Renewal of the Undergraduate Nursing Curriculum, Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

ACTION ITEMS

14. Draft Agenda for the Next Meeting of General Faculties Council

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew, Acting Chair and Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve the next Agenda for General Faculties Council (GFC).

Discussion:

The Acting Chair led members through a review of the draft Agenda for the GFC meeting of November 27, 2017.

Motion: Cormack/Khodayari

THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Agenda for the November 27, 2017 meeting of General Faculties Council.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. Question Period

A member requested an update on the status of the tuition regulation review. A member sought clarification about how the work conducted by Universities Canada on equity, diversity and inclusion would be implemented at the University of Alberta. A member noted the attention to safety issues in general arising from development in the Ice District.

INFORMATION REPORTS

16. Items Approved by the GFC Executive Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

17. Information Items Forwarded to GFC Executive Committee between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

18. Adjournment

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.