General Faculties Council  
Approved Open Session Minutes  

Monday, June 01, 2015  
1-140, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  

ATTENDEES:  

Voting Members:  
Indira Samarasekera  Chair, President and Chair, Statutory  
Katherine Aitchison  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh  Member, Graduate Student at-Large  
Ben Angus  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
Kevin Arulmaran  Member, Graduate Student at-Large  
Angela Bayduza  Member, Academic Staff, Sessional Staff Representative  
(Delegate)  
Lorne Babiuk  Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory  
Mike Belosevic  Member, Board of Governors Representative, GFC Appointee  
Deborah Burshtyn  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Alicia Cappello  Member, Graduate Student at-Large  
Phyllis Clark  Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory  
Lisa Collins  Member, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Statutory  
Chris DeGara  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Kathleen DeLong  Member, University Library Academic Staff  
Annie Duan  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
Shannon Erichsen  Member, Non-Academic Staff (Nominated by NASA)  
Jason Cobb  Member, Dean of Students  
(Delegate)  
Umer Farooq  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
David Goertzen  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
John Harris  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Don Hickey  Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)  
Brendan Hokowhitu  Member, Dean, Native Studies, Statutory  
Michal Juhas  Member, Graduate Student at-Large  
Sushmitha Karunakaran  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
James Kehrer  Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory  
Azhar Khan  Member, Board of Governors Representative-Undergraduate  
Navneet Khinda  Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Students' Union  
Vivian Kwan  Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, VP Student Life  
Alex Kwan  Member, Undergraduate Student Member  
John Law  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Cerina Lee  Member, Graduate Student at-Large  
Kathleen Lowrey  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Godfrey Man  Member, Statutory Academic Staff  
Brian Maraj  Member (Delegate), St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee  
Ellish McKinlay  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC
Motion: DeGara/Belosevic

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 9, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

Motion: Belosevic/Vethanayagam

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of March 9, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the President

President and Chair of General Faculties Council (GFC), Dr Indira Samarasekera, welcomed all to the 399th meeting of GFC and reported on:

- Welcome to Ms Meg Brolley, new Secretary of GFC and Manager of GFC Services.
- Congratulations to Dr Lorne Tyrrell, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, for his recent Killam Prize award.
- Congratulations to Ms Linda Cameron, Director, University of Alberta Press, for the Association of Canadian Publishers President’s Award.
- Update on the new Provincial Government. Dr Samarasekera reported that she had a phone call with Premier Notley shortly after the election and thanked her for her public support of post-secondary education. She also noted a phone call with Minister Sigurdson who indicated that the government would be moving to implement the post-secondary education platform. The Chair indicated that she has been in contact with the other Alberta post-secondary presidents to discuss this transition, and that President-Elect David Turpin and Dr Steven Dew have also been on contact with new Provincial leadership.
- Welcome to Ms Heather McCaw, Vice-President (Advancement), and thanks to Mr Colm Renehan for his interim leadership.
- Welcome to incoming Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Dr Steven Dew, and thanks to Dr Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic). She also expressed her thanks to Dr Roger Epp, Dr Brenda Leskiw, and Dr Robert Luth for their leadership within the Office of the Provost.

ACTION ITEMS

4. New Members of GFC

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC
Discussion:
Ms Haggarty-France verbally added additional individuals to Motion II.

A member made note of a correction to one of the names.

Motion I: Collins/Belosevic

MOTION I: TO APPOINT/REAPPOINT:

The following undergraduate student members elected by the Students’ Union (SU) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for terms that are concurrent with their terms on the Board (May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016):

Navneet Khinda, President, SU
Azhar Khan, Undergraduate Student Appointee, SU

The following graduate student member elected by the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) to the Board of Governors and appointed to GFC for a term that is concurrent with his term on the Board (May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016):

Colin More, President, GSA

CARRIED

Motion II: Babiuk/Collins

MOTION II: TO RECEIVE [This motion may be proposed by any member of GFC]:

The following statutory undergraduate student members nominated by the Students’ Union (SU) to serve on GFC for terms beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016:

Fahim Rahman, Vice-President (Academic), SU
Vivian Kwan, Vice-President (Student Life), SU

The following statutory graduate student member nominated by the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) to serve on GFC for a term beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016:

Harsh Thaker, Vice-President (Academic), GSA

The following undergraduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2016:

Ellish McKinlay Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Evan Tran Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Ben Angus Faculty of Arts
Hasan Birer Faculty of Arts
John Hampson Faculty of Arts
Mohamed Rahall Faculty of Arts
Hannah Schlamp Faculty of Arts
Ben Thondson  Faculty of Arts
Bo Zhang  Faculty of Arts
Dante Zhu  Faculty of Arts
David Friedland  Alberta School of Business
Nick Olsen  Alberta School of Business
Neesh Persad  Faculty of Education
Sam Cheng  Faculty of Education
Sushmitha Karunakaran  Faculty of Engineering
MengJi (Jane) Yu  Faculty of Engineering
Thomas Patrick  Faculty of Engineering
Andy Canjina  Faculté Saint-Jean
Brandon Christensen  Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Hong (Helen) Doan  Faculty of Nursing
Todd Li  Faculty of Nursing
Vincent Spurrell  Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
David Goertzen  Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Donald Ademaj  Faculty of Science
Annie Duan  Faculty of Science
Alex Kwan  Faculty of Science
Umer Farooq  Faculty of Science

The following graduate student representatives, to serve on GFC for terms beginning immediately and ending April 30, 2016:

Ahmad Al-Dabbagh  Faculty of Engineering
Kevin Arulmaran  Faculty of Engineering
Alicia Cappello  Faculty of Arts
Michal Juhas  Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Cerina Lee  Faculty of School of Public Health
Justin Leifso  Faculty of Arts
Ramin Rahmat Samii  Faculty of Engineering
Brayden Whitlock  Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

The following ex officio members, to serve on GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2015 and extending for the duration of their appointments:

David H. Turpin  President and Vice-Chancellor
Steven Dew  Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Lise Gotell  Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts
Randall (Randy) Wimmer  Interim Dean, Faculty of Education

The following ex officio member, to serve on GFC for a term beginning September 15, 2015 and extending for the duration of their appointment:

Heather McCaw  Vice-President (Advancement)

The following statutory faculty members who have been elected or re-elected by their Faculty, to serve on
GFC for terms beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Faculty/School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steven Patten</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Patterson</td>
<td>Alberta School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akiko Watanabe</td>
<td>Alberta School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Peck</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Watt</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Acker</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Andrew</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Rodgers</td>
<td>Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The following statutory faculty member who has been elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a Term beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2017:

Paul Jurasz Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Presentation on the University of Alberta Senate by Chancellor

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Ralph Young, Chancellor, University of Alberta Senate

Discussion:
The Chair welcomed Chancellor Ralph Young to GFC. The Chancellor thanked members for his warm welcome, and introduced members of the Office of the Senate.

The Chancellor provided members with an historical review of the University of Alberta Senate, including the establishment of the Senate and the decision in 1942 to divide institutional governance responsibilities with General Faculties Council (GFC).

The Chancellor summarized his responsibilities, as detailed within the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), and also provided members of GFC with details in relation to the membership composition of the Senate. The Chancellor explained the duties of the Senate, including the election of a Chancellor as well as the duty to inquire into any matter that might benefit the University and enhance its position in the community. He noted that the Senate works diligently to achieve its objectives, and has established several working groups. He explained that the Senate presents a report containing numerous recommendations to the Board of Governors on an annual basis.

The Chancellor emphasized the value of the Senate to the University of Alberta.

During the ensuing discussion in regards to this presentation, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that information in this presentation should be readily accessible to students; whether the Senate could play a role towards the enhancement of clinical educational activities of the University of Alberta in rural communities; thanks to the Chancellor for his extensive and impressive engagement in his role; clarification regarding the reasons behind conferring Honorary Degrees.
The President invited members to consider worthy individuals for future Honorary Degrees.

6. **President's Visiting Committee (PVC)**

There were no documents.

*Presenter: Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC*

*Discussion:*
The President provided members with an update in regard to the activities of the President’s Visiting Committee (PVC). She noted that the following the strategic retreat in 2013, the Board of Governors asked the President to develop a model to develop a high level strategic picture of Faculty activities. The PVC was developed, following consultation with various Faculties, as a pilot in response to this. The focus of the PVC, she explained, was to function as an external advisory group which would maintain a mentoring role to the Faculty after the review. The PVC would not replace the activities of accreditation, but would focus on the areas of graduate education, research and advancement activities. She provided members with a review of the member composition of the PVC, as well as the unique nature of the continuing relationship between the PVC and the Faculties which they review.

The President noted that going forward, President-Elect Turpin and incoming Provost Dew will review the feedback gathered from Dean Mummery and Dean Doucet, the two Deans who participated in the pilot project of the PVC, to further review the process.

A member sought clarification regarding how faculty members in the pilot projects have received the PVC process.

7. **399th Meeting of General Faculties Council - Wrap-up and Council Chamber Update**

There were no documents.

*Presenter: Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary*

*Discussion:*
University Secretary Marion Haggarty-France provided members with a brief summary of the recent challenges resulting from the absence of a designated, permanent Council Chamber, noting that the temporary spaces have not been conducive to collegial discussion at GFC. She reported that under the leadership of Vice-President Don Hickey and his colleagues in Facilities and Operations, a new Council Chamber space has been designed in University Hall.

Ms Haggarty-France outlined the unique requirements of a proper Council Chamber, including a space which fosters collegial discussion and debate, enough seats for full GFC attendance, good sightlines for presentations, voting capabilities, and the ability for members to see and hear one another during Council. She reported that other campus-wide legislative bodies will also utilize this space, and have been consulted on its design.

She provided members with several architectural renderings of the new Council Chamber, adding that the 400th meeting of GFC will most likely take place in the new Council Chamber.

Finally, she presented members with Dr Samarasekera’s first GFC Agenda, and noted that she had chaired GFC over her term as President and Chair in four different locations. She thanked Dr Samarasekera for her hard work and diligence as Chair of GFC.
8. **Question Period**

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Indira Samarasekera, President and Chair of GFC

*Discussion:*
There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

9. **GFC Executive Committee Minutes of April 13, 2015**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

10. **Reports of the Board of Governors (March 13 and May 8, 2015)**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There was no discussion.

11. **Report of the GFC Nominating Committee (May 22, 2015) and Selection Committee for New Chancellor**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary

*Discussion:*
University Secretary Marion Haggarty-France reminded members of the contents of this Report, as well as the upcoming vacancy for the role of GFC Member on the Board of Governors.

12. **Report of the GFC Replenishment Committee**

There were no items.

13. **Information Items Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings**

There were no items.

14. **Reports**

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

15. **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.