General Faculties Council
Approved Open Session Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2015
University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:
David Turpin        Chair, President and Chair, Statutory
Jason Acker         Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Donald Ademaj       Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Katherine Aitchison Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh    Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Susan Andrew        Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Lorne Babiuk        Member, Vice-President (Research), Statutory
Suressh Bairwa     Member, Graduate Student Member
Howard Bashaw       Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Gerald Beasley      Member, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Statutory
Hasan Birer         Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Cary Brown          Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sylvia Brown        Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather Bruce       Member, AASUA President and Additional Appointee
Andy Canjina        Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Alicia Cappello     Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Sean Caulfield      Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sam Cheng           Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Brandon Christensen Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Alix Clarke         Member, Graduate Student Member
Phyllis Clark       Member, Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Statutory
David Cooper        Member, Board of Governors Representative and AASUA Appointee
Pamela Mayne Correia Member, Academic Staff (FSO), FSO (Academic Staff Representative)
Kathleen DeLong     Member, University Library Academic Staff
Steven Dew           Member, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Statutory
Annie Duan          Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Duncan Elliott      Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Robin Everall       Member, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Fraser Forbes       Member, Dean, Engineering (Interim), Statutory
Kim Frail           Member, University Library Academic Staff
David Friedland     Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Yonas Gerima        Member, Undergraduate Student Member
David Goertzen      Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Allen Good          Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Lise Gotell         Member, Dean, Arts (Acting), Statutory
Raj Gupta           Member, Statutory Academic Staff
John Hampson        Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Don Hickey          Member, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Jennifer Jay  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Michal Juhas  Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Paul Jurasz  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
James Kehrer  Member, Dean, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statutory
Azhar Khan  Member, Board of Governors Representative, Undergraduate Appointee to GFC
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
Cerina Lee  Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Justin Leifso  Member, Graduate Student at-Large
Bernard Lemire  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Brian Maraj  Member (Delegate), St Joseph's College Representative and Additional Appointee
Maria Mayan  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Heather McCaw  Member, Vice-President (Advancement), Statutory
Lisa McDermott  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Eilish McKinlay  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Pierre-Yves Mocquais  Member, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean & Executive Officer of Campus Saint-Jean, Statutory
Anita Molzahn  Member, Dean, Nursing, Statutory
Benjamen Montpetit  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Colin More  Member, Board of Governors Representative, President, Graduate Students' Association
Tom Patrick  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Steve Patten  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Neesha Persad  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Debra Pozega Osburn  Member, Vice-President (University Relations), Statutory
Cheng Qian  Member, Graduate Student Member
Mohamed Rahall  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Fahim Rahman  Member, Student Nominated by UG Council of Students, V-P Academic (SU)
Leonard Ratzlaff  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sandra Rein  Member, Statutory Academic Staff, Augustana
Jeremy Richards  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Sean Robertson  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Jakub Romanek  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Carolyn Sale  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Toni Samek  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Terry Sperling  Member, Academic Staff (APO), APO (Academic Staff Representative)
Vincent Spurrell  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Sarah Stahlke  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Bruce Sutherland  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Harsh Thaker  Member, Student Nominated by GSA Council of Students, V-P Academic (GSA)
Ben Thondson  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Evan Tran  Member, Undergraduate Student Member
Amy Tse  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Mirko van der Baan  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
Dilini Vethanayagam  Member, Statutory Academic Staff
OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Motion: Dew/Elliott

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Agenda. CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of June 1, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)

Motion: Hickey/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council approve the Minutes of June 1, 2015. CARRIED
3. **Report from the President**

The President and Chair, Dr David Turpin, welcomed all to the 400th meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC). He extended a warm welcome to Acting Board of Governors Chair, Mr Richard Wilson, who was in attendance. Dr Turpin noted that he is pleased and humbled to serve the University of Alberta as President. He expressed his respect for the endeavors undertaken at the University of Alberta in the last decade, adding that he has been following the successes of the University for some time. He noted that the University is poised to continue its path of success, more so than any other Canadian research-intensive institution at this time.

The Chair invited students Mr Joshua Lee and Ms Victoria Thomsen to speak on their recent research and learning experiences, as a reminder to GFC of the importance of teaching and the impact that the University’s students are making in the community.

Mr Lee, a graduate student, delivered his award-winning three-minute thesis, “Treating Genetic Disease with DNA Band-Aids”.

Ms Thomsen, an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Engineering, spoke about her recent Engage North fellowship working with the Beaver First Nation.

The Chair thanked the students for their engaging presentations.

4. **Comments from the University Secretary for the New Academic Year**

University Secretary Ms Marion Haggarty-France welcomed all to the new academic year and to the new Council Chamber. She explained that the redesigned room would be the governance hub for the University, and a forum for collegial discussion, adding that many student groups and Faculties will be utilizing the space.

She acknowledged the hard work of the team of professionals who developed Council Chamber, including those from Facilities and Operations and Information Services and Technology (IST). She invited members to view the artwork around the room. She pointed out the improved acoustics, and mentioned that pillars had been removed to improve visibility.

She reported that in addition to the 37 new members of Council, that 23 more are being appointed at this meeting. She thanked members for serving the institution in this capacity, and welcomed Dr Turpin as Chair and President to his first GFC meeting, which is also the 400th meeting of GFC.

Finally, she introduced members of the University Governance team and invited members to contact her with any questions they may have.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. **The University of Alberta, GFC and Academic Governance**

There were no documents.

*Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)*

*Discussion:*
Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, the Chair noted that, as the University of Alberta enters its next phase of strategic planning, it is timely to reflect on the current landscape including: student and faculty demographics, teaching and research, and the University’s role in the province.

Within his presentation, the Chair noted the following: the University of Alberta has an overall population of nearly 40,000 students; it has more Academic All-Canadian athletes than any other institution; most students are from Alberta; there are opportunities for recruitment of students from other provinces and also opportunities to increase enrolment of First Nations students; teaching excellence is evidenced by the University’s 31 National 3M Teaching Fellows; the University ranks third nationally in research funding per faculty member; the University has a major economic impact on the Province of Alberta as the fourth largest employer in Alberta, with a $12.3 billion impact on the economy, and a further $348.5 billion annual revenue of organizations founded by alumni; and, he emphasized the importance of institutional endeavors aimed towards reaching out to Indigenous communities such as moving forward on an initiative to build the Maskwa House of Learning on North Campus as a gathering place.

He noted some challenges: changing student demographics – the impact on enrolment of the decline in the youth population across the country; faculty renewal challenges, a common concern raised at Faculty Councils, with respect to a decline in the number of assistant professors; increased competition nationally and internationally; the current economic outlook; and, anticipated tightening of government funding and new provincial funding models.

The Chair next spoke of the next institutional strategic plan. He noted that *Dare to Deliver, Dare to Discover*, and the Board of Governors Change Agenda will help in the development of a new, single document highlighting the academy’s shared vision and purpose. Towards this end, he reported that the strategic planning process had been introduced at the August meeting of the Senior Administrators Retreat with a discussion on questions to be considered, and that a joint Board of Governors and GFC retreat in November was being explored. He explained that a draft discussion paper would be distributed to all members of the community for consultation and feedback.

Dr Turpin acknowledged that now is a key time for the University of Alberta to set the tone of the strategic plan, as both the Province of Alberta and the University of Alberta have undergone recent leadership transitions, and the important role that Albertans trust the university to meet the needs of local communities, Alberta and Canada as a whole. He noted that the University of Alberta is expected to play a major leadership role in creating opportunities for all post-secondary institutions in the Alberta so that there can be collective benefit across the Province.

The Chair then spoke about the role of governance at the University and presented members with a brief summary of the academic mandate of GFC from the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA). He added that as President, he is attentive to ensuring that the Board of Governors respects its mandate, and that GFC stays within its jurisdiction, as part of an effective bi-cameral system of governance.

The Chair spoke briefly about the findings of a recent study of academic senates across Canada. He noted that, at 158 members, GFC is much larger than the 77 member average of academic senates in Canada. He pointed out that the survey reported that governance professionals identified the key issues of the need for additional engagement, more role clarity of members in terms of institutional interests, institutional autonomy and a need for more focus on program quality and standards.

He noted, on the other hand, that senate members identified the key concerns as: a need for more faculty engagement; role clarity between Administration, the Academic Senate and the Board of Governors; a perceived lack of relevance and power; and a need for effective oversight of program quality, teaching and
learning. He pointed out other data from the survey in relation to perceptions of senate effectiveness and role clarity.

The Chair concluded his presentation by stating that the University of Alberta is a unique institution, and that the changing internal and external environment presents a unique opportunity to develop the next institutional strategic plan. He stated that shared, collegial governance will play a role in this initiative.

In response to a question about the availability and relevance of President Emerita Samarasekera’s Report of the Task Force on GFC Reforms, the Chair indicated that the report would be made available to members and could be brought forward for discussion.

The Chair confirmed that feelings of disengagement among academic senate members is a national and institutional trend, but that this can be overcome by broadening the discussion at GFC to include substantive and strategic issues, while at the same time, respecting the existing delegations of authority to the GFC Standing Committees. He added that this continues to be an issue which he is mindful of.

The Chair reported that GFC presentation slides would be made available before meeting, when possible.

The Chair thanked members for their thoughtful commentary on these issues.

6. Information Session on the University Budget 2015/16 - Preliminary Forecast

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To provide members of GFC with an update in regards to the University of Alberta’s 2015-16 Budget.

*Discussion:*
The Chair welcomed Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr Steven Dew to Council, as well as Vice-President (Advancement) Ms Heather McCaw, in the second week of her new role.

Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Ms Phyllis Clark reported to members that the annual budget is drafted through a joint effort of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and her office. She added that it is also reviewed and approved by the President’s Executive Committee (PEC).

She explained, as an overview to her presentation, that Bill 3, the *Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act*, was passed and has significant implications on the institutional budget. She noted that regardless of the contents of Bill 3, that the budget details within the approved 2015 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) were still utilized. She reminded members that there is a website available containing budget primers, for those who may wish to access more information on this issue: [http://change.ualberta.ca/sustainable-financial-models/university-budgeting-101/budget-primer](http://change.ualberta.ca/sustainable-financial-models/university-budgeting-101/budget-primer)

In concert with a PowerPoint presentation, Vice-President Clark provided the details of the Consolidated Budget, including a brief account of institutional revenues and expenses. She provided members with a detailed explanation of the sources of revenue, as well as expenses, noting that salaries and benefits comprise the largest expense.
In terms of future planning, Vice-President Clark provided members with a summary of the budget assumptions for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

She reported on the impact of Bill 3 on tuition, noting that regulated tuition will be frozen at 2014-15 levels for two years; Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) will be frozen at 2014-15 levels; and that the proposed new market modifiers in Economics, MBA, Law, Pharmacy and Physical Therapy would not take effect.

In relation to the impact of Bill 3 on the Campus Alberta Grant, she noted that it reversed the 1.4% cut to the 2015-16 grant; included a grant increase of 2% for 2015-16; proposed a 2% grant increase for 2016-17; included base backfill funding to offset the 2015-16 tuition freeze only; included base backfill funding to offset loss from market modifiers.

Vice-President Clark noted that in terms of planning for one-time funding, that additional strategic direction and evidenced-based consideration is needed.

She explained that there are other budget risks and consideration to be mindful of, including the price of oil; the 2016-17 Campus Alberta Grant adjustment of 2%; university fiscal estimates on exchange rates, equity markets, inflation, classroom and learning technologies, building and space maintenance; and strategic plan initiatives.

She concluded her presentation by explaining that during 2015-16, there will be an institutional-wide focus on identifying high-priority one-time funding areas. She noted that budgeting is driven by identification of institutional priorities, and that feedback from members regarding this is crucial to the process.

Provost Dew noted that two additional factors will impact the budget; first, technical issues with regards to the current enrolment cycle and second, a drop in applications from international students.

In regards to a question about one of the last slides of the presentation, Vice-President Clark noted that the slide did reflect average individual salaries, not salaries en masse. She also clarified that the budget assumptions, as presented within this presentation, represent the worst-case scenario, and that in order to offset the financial obligations that the university has, policy decisions must be made, which involves a lot of consultation and decision-making.

**ACTION ITEMS**

7. **New Members of GFC**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter: David Turpin, President and Chair, General Faculties Council (GFC)*

*Purpose of the Proposal: To Appoint and Receive new members of GFC.*

*Discussion:*  
The GFC Secretary made note of two changes to Motion II.

Motion I: Friedland/Everall

[**MOTION I: TO APPOIN/RE-APPOINT** (This motion may be proposed only by statutory members of GFC)]
The following academic staff members to represent administrative professional and faculty service officers, for terms beginning immediately and extending for the duration of their appointments:

Pamela Mayne Correia, Academic Staff Representative (FSO) (June 30, 2018)
Terry Sperling, Academic Staff Representative (APO) (June 30, 2016)

The following academic staff member to represent University Library Academic Staff, for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2018:

Kim Frail, Academic Staff (University Libraries)

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

Naik Arbazada, Faculty of Science
Suresh Chandra Bairwa, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Shreyak Chaplot, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Alix Clarke, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Cheng Qian, Faculty of Arts

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

Yonas Gerima, Alberta School of Business
Jakub Romanek, Faculty of Arts

CARRIED

Motion II: Molzahn/Beasley

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

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

Chris Anderson, Acting Dean, Faculty of Native Studies
Heather Zwicker, Interim Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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:

Howard Bashaw, Faculty of Arts
Sylvia Brown, Faculty of Arts
Sean Caulfield, Faculty of Arts
Jennifer Jay, Faculty of Arts
Leonard Ratzlaff, Faculty of Arts
Sandra Rein, Augustana Campus
Ofer Arazy, Alberta School of Business
Maria Mayan, Faculty of Extension
8. **Changes to Section 30.5.2(6) of the Code of Student Behaviour: Appeal of Declining to Proceed with a Complaint**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**Presenter(s):** Steven Penney, Professor, Faculty of Law and Chair, GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC); Deborah Eerkes, Director, Student Conduct and Accountability

**Purpose of the Proposal:** To simplify and make more efficient the current appeal of a decision not to proceed with a complaint under the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) while maintaining the required fairness of the process. The proposed changes to section 30.5.2(6) of the COSB would save both time and resources for the institution without compromising fairness.

**Discussion:**
Professor Penney noted that this proposal, which contains fairly minor changes to Section 30.5.2(6) of the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB), was reviewed by the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) and recommended to the GFC Executive Committee.

Ms Eerkes indicated that the name of her office has been changed from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs to Student Conduct and Accountability. She then provided members with a brief synopsis of the proposed changes, adding that even though this kind of appeal does not occur regularly, the changes are crucial because the current process is resource-intensive and inefficient. She stated to members that a change to Section 30.5.2(6) of the COSB would save both time and resources for the University without compromising fairness. A working group (comprised of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA), General Counsel, Residence Services, an Associate Dean, the Student OmbudService and the Appeals and Compliance Officer) was created to review this section of the Code and identified a number of issues, including: that the Unit Director is redundant; the process to appeal a Dean's decision not to proceed should stay within the Faculty; constituting a three person panel is time consuming and unnecessary. In addition, under the current model, she noted, if the three-person panel were to find that the matter should proceed, the Discipline Officer does not have the authority to act.

**Motion:** Dew/Beasley

THAT General Faculties Council approve changes to Section 30.5.2(6) of the Code of Student Behaviour: Appeal of Declining to Proceed with a Complaint, as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective October 1, 2015.

CARRIED


Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**Presenter(s):** Walter Dixon, Associate Vice-President (Research); Susan Babcock, Acting Executive Director, Research Ethics Office
Purpose of the Proposal: To recommend endorsement of the proposed revisions to the Animal Ethics Policy Suite, rescission of the Animal User Training Policy, Animal Euthanasia Procedure, Animal Ethics Review Procedure, and Animal Care and Use Committee Scientific and Pedagogic Merit Review Procedure. To consolidate the Animal User Training Policy with the Animal Ethics Policy. To update the Animal Ethics Policy to align with Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines and policies and to reflect the introduction of new procedures as well as changes in organizational structure and business practices at the University.

Discussion:
Associate Vice-President (Research) Dr Walter Dixon introduced himself and Ms Susan Babcock to members.

Dr Dixon explained that the while the intent of the Animal Ethics Policy has not changed, proposed amendments reflect improved compliance with the Canadian Council of Animal Care (CCAC) and Tri-Council agreements, and align better with the University’s existing rules, regulations and organizational structure. He reported that all of these proposed changes fall in line with the standard of minimal harm to animals. He noted that that during the development of this proposal, extensive academy-wide consultation was conducted.

In response to a question from the floor, University Secretary Ms Marion Haggarty-France confirmed that the final approver is the Board of Governors as the ultimate authority over this policy but that future changes to the policy would follow the same governance pathway as the changes presented here.

Motions I and II: Babiuk/Dew

THAT General Faculties Council endorses and recommends to the Board of Governors, approval of the revisions to the Animal Ethics Policy as submitted by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval by the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

THAT General Faculties Council endorses and recommends to the Board of Governors, rescission of the Animal User Training Policy, to take effect upon final approval by the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Question Period

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

10.1 Q Question from Fahim Rahman, Students’ Union Vice-President (Academic) Regarding Programming at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College

and

10.1 R Response from the Vice-Principal of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College

10.2 Q Question from Thomas Patrick, GFC Undergraduate Student Member Regarding Policies for professors incorporating content (such as i-clickers) into courses

and

10.2 R Response from Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

10.3 Q Question from Thomas Patrick, GFC Undergraduate Student Member Regarding ban on Geer
Week 2016

and

10.3 R Response from Interim Dean of Students

10.4 Q Question from Thomas Patrick, GFC Undergraduate Student Member Regarding student group displays in the Quad

and

10.4 R Response from Interim Dean of Students

Discussion:
The Chair invited members to participate in Question Period.

In relation to a follow-up question submitted by Mr Fahim Rahman in regards to the timeline of the next round of campus-wide consultations regarding programming at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, the Chair noted that Martin Ferguson-Pell, Vice-President of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, would follow-up after the meeting with a response.

In regards to his question, Item 10.3, Mr Thomas Patrick asked whether the Engineering Student Society (ESS) would be able to forfeit confidentiality rights in order to publicly discuss the handling of the ban of Geer Week 2016. In response, Dr Robin Everall, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, noted that it is standard practice to not disclose specific details of cases, and that she is available to discuss this further with ESS, if they elect to pursue the matter further.

In response to a question from a member of Council, the Chair noted that it is difficult to compare education-associated costs from the University of Alberta to the University of Calgary, due to the differing program mixes offered at each separate institution.

INFORMATION REPORTS

11. Report of the GFC Executive Committee (September 14, 2015)
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Report of the GFC Academic Standards Committee (September 17, 2015)
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

16. Report of the Board of Governors (June 1, June 19, 2015)
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

17. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

18. Reports

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment

Before adjournment, the Chair reminded members that there may be a joint GFC/Board of Governors meeting planned, and invited members to stay after the meeting to celebrate GFC’s 400th meeting. He acknowledged the student and staff musicians in attendance for the reception.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.