

General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION
October 20, 2023 at 9:30am – 11am
Lincoln Park Room J301

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR	Julie Gathercole	Anh Nguyen
Tala Abu Hayyaneh	Geri Lynn Gouglas	Joseph Nguyen
Julie Booke	Lisa Graham	Nancy Ogden
Vicki Bouvier	Sally Haney	Jennifer Pettit
Meagan Bowler	Kalen Keavey	Stephen Price
Katherine Bright	Lynne Lafave	Katharin Pritchard
Fiona Chetty	Michelle LoGullo	Kari Roberts
Peter Choate	Moussa Magassa	Chris Rogerson
Liza Choi	Rusna Mahoon	Glen Ryland
David Clemis	Colin Martin	Marc Schroeder
Karim Dharamsi	Tori McMillan	Sara Sharun
Anupam Das	Jon Mee	Leda Stawnychko
Trevor Day	Lavinia Moldovan	Keir Stuhlmiller
Brooks DeCillia	Alexis Morris	Marwaa Tahir
Lee Easton	Mary-Lee Mulholland	Cheryl Techentin
Maryam Elahi	Elaine Mullen	Deepa Upadhyaya
John Fischer	Scott Murray	Phil Warsaba
Angela Faye Galeos	Jacqueline Musabende	Gaye Warthe
Shane Gannon	Mustansar Nadeem	Jonathan Withey

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY
Sheena Jensen, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Chad London, VICE-CHAIR	Tanya Gapara	Joyce Totton
David Bird	Carol Krol	Connie Van der Byl
Haroon Chehade	Brenda Lang	
Evan Cortens	Paul Rossmann	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:36am.

Land Acknowledgement

Fiona Chetty opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the October 20, 2023 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from September 22, 2023

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the September 22, 2023 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Approval of GFC Bylaw Revision (Membership)

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the revision to the GFC Bylaws 3.1.d.i. Additional Members – Senior Administration to add the “Vice-Provost Academic”.

Discussion:

- In response to a question about the ratio of elected academic staff members to administrator members, the Chair explained the composition of GFC that is set out in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (PSLA), including proportional representation calculations, and the mechanism used to appoint additional members that are not set out in the PSLA. Updated proportional representation calculations will be provided to GFC ahead of the next annual election cycle (Winter 2024).
- Discussion took place on a comment that was raised expressing concern about how composition changes and appointments impact the ratio of academic staff members to administration.
 - The Chair noted that the reduction in academic staff members related to the Vice-Provost Academic did not affect the overall percentage of academic staff members on GFC.
 - A member also reminded GFC that all appointments must be approved by GFC, and that this can be taken into consideration when deciding on the appointment of new members.
 - It was advised that the next proportional representation calculation will include the restructuring of Teaching and Learning, which will be reviewed by the GFC Executive Committee prior to going forward to GFC for information.

Motion carried

K. Dharamsi joined the meeting.

4. Approval of Academic Schedule

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the 2024-2025 Academic Schedule, with the aim to revisit the Academic Schedule policy to reassess if the timing of the Fall break has been successful.

Discussion:

- A member made a request to amend the motion to include a statement to “reassess if the timing of the Fall break has been successful”, based on student feedback they have heard.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the main motion be amended to include “with the aim to revisit the Academic Schedule policy to reassess if the timing of the Fall break has been successful”.

Discussion:

- Discussions considered the following areas for assessing the timing of the Fall reading break:
 - potential measures (evidence based) and anticipated outcomes that could be looked at to determine whether or not the timing of the Fall reading break has been effective
 - the total number of teaching dates required to be maintained in the academic year (e.g. consideration of the impact if paired with Remembrance Day)
 - comparison to the timing of other Alberta universities’ reading breaks
 - comparison to the timing of when the Winter break is scheduled, and if/why less feedback is received about the timing of that reading break
 - use of historical data that may need to be updated
- Comments were made in support of adding the amendment to the main motion, with various perspectives shared about how the earlier timing (in comparison to other universities) has impacted full-time and contract faculty members, and students.

Motion carried

Continued discussion of the main motion, with the amendment:

- Process and timing for conducting the assessment was addressed, including revisiting the Academic Scheduling Policy that would follow the policy revision process.
- Additional comments were shared expressing a desire for the reading break to be scheduled later in the Fall semester, including thoughts on potential benefits to faculty members and students.
- The Vice-President, Students gave an overview of background information and context for when the current timing of the Fall reading break was established, as well as preliminary insights on potential impacts if the break was moved later in the semester.
- Comments were made acknowledging all of the work and considerations made by the Registrar’s Office when putting together the academic schedule, and based on the feedback heard throughout the discussions to conduct this assessment with consideration of the feedback provided.

Main Motion carried, as amended

5. Approval of Curriculum

Faculty of Science and Technology:

- 5.1. New Program/Major – Data Science, BSc

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the New Program/Major – Data Science, BSc.

Motion carried

6. Committee Chair Reports

6.1. Executive Committee – T. Rahilly

A written Committee Chair report of the October 11, 2023 EC meeting was provided.

6.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee – C. London

A written Committee Chair report of the September 11, 2023 APBC meeting was provided.

6.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee – P. Choate

A written Committee Chair report of the September 25, 2023 APCC meeting was provided, and the Committee Chair added that APCC will be continuing their work to look at revising the Program Definitions Policy with respect to the Indigenous content requirement.

6.4. Academic Standards Committee – L. Easton

A written Committee Chair report of the September 26, 2023 ASC meeting was provided, and the Committee Chair added that ASC will be continuing their work to look at revisions to the Tenure and Promotion Criteria and the Tenure and Promotion Handbook.

6.5. Research and Scholarship Committee – C. Van der Byl

A written Committee Chair report of the September 27, 2023 RSC meeting was provided. A question seeking additional information on changes to the Faculty Research and Scholarship Dissemination Fund was responded to. However, as the AVP, Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement was not in attendance, the question will be passed on for additional follow-up.

6.6. Student Affairs Committee – P. Warsaba

A written Committee Chair report of the September 19, 2023 SAC meeting was provided.

6.7. Teaching and Learning Committee – N. Ogden

A written Committee Chair report of the September 28, 2023 TLC meeting was provided. In response to a question, it was confirmed by the Vice-Provost Academic that although the planning of the Celebrate! Teaching and Learning event is outside TLC's purview, there will still be support and funding for organizing this annual event.

7. Question Period

7.1. Written Questions

No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

7.2. Questions from the Floor

- A question was responded to that confirmed the Vice-Provost Academic's office is addressing how to support 3M and other fellowship opportunities for faculty.

8. Other Reports

8.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report. An update was provided on the next Chancellor search process and the Chancellor Search Committee that has commenced, and about the Board Chair position due to the Board Chair's resignation. In response to questions:

- The Board Vice-Chair is currently serving as the interim Chair.
- Additional information was given about the process and timing set by the Government of Alberta to appoint a new Board Chair.

8.2. Board of Governors Meeting Summary

A written summary of the May 25 and October 12, 2023 Board of Governors meetings was provided. Questions were responded to for additional information about the Investment Management Agreement (planned to come to GFC for information at the next meeting) and G Wing space planning.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Items Removed for Discussion

9.3.2. Draft Institutional Surveys Policy

A member expressed concern that not enough faculty members have read the draft policy and encouraged faculty members to review it in the consultation phase, including those faculty on HREB (Human Research and Ethics Board).

9.3.4. MRU Annual Report 2022-2023

With respect to the budget surplus reported and how they were used, a member suggested that APBC could review this.

9.3.1. Draft Selection, Review and Reappointment of a Dean Policy & Procedures

Concerns were raised with language used in various areas of the draft procedures and areas where there may have been missed opportunities to enhance collegiality in the processes. It was reminded that these policy and procedures documents were still open for consultation and members were encouraged to submit their feedback via the Policy website.

9.2. Items for Approval (*singular motion*)

9.2.1. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee Charter Revision (Membership)

9.2.2. Research and Scholarship Committee Charter Revision (Membership)

9.2.3. Teaching and Learning Committee Charter Revision (Membership)

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Consent Agenda items for the October 20, 2023 Open Session:

- THAT the revisions to the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee Charter be approved.
- THAT the revisions to the Research and Scholarship Committee Charter be approved.
- THAT the revisions to the Teaching and Learning Committee Charter be approved.

Motion carried

9.3. Items for Information

The following items were received for information:

- 9.3.1. Draft Selection, Review and Reappointment of a Dean Policy & Procedures
- 9.3.2. Draft Institutional Surveys Policy
- 9.3.3. Access and Inclusion Services Annual Report
- 9.3.4. MRU Annual Report 2022-2023
- 9.3.5. Call for Nominations for Honorary Degrees
- 9.3.6. Committee Meeting Minutes
- 9.3.7. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Adjournment 11:00AM