

GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 17, 2021
University Boardroom A341

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly	CHAIR, President and Vice-Chancellor
Elizabeth Evans	VICE-CHAIR, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Geri Lynn Gouglas	University Registrar
Jennifer Pettit	Deans' Council Representative
Marc Schroeder	GFC Academic Staff Member
Peter Choate	GFC Academic Staff Member
Kari Roberts	GFC Academic Staff Member
Israel Dunmade	GFC Academic Staff Member
Leah Hamilton	GFC Academic Staff Member
Yasmin Ahmed	Student Member of GFC (<i>via video conference</i>)
<u>Resources:</u>	
Amy Nixon	General Counsel and University Secretary
Sheena Jensen	RECORDING SECRETARY, Assistant University Secretary, GFC

T. Rahilly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02p and confirmed quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the November 17, 2021 GFC Executive Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

- Amendment: Moved Item 4.1. ahead of the discussion items

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the October 4, 2021 GFC Executive Committee special meeting be approved.

Motion carried.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the October 13, 2021 GFC Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes. It was clarified that the question raised at the October 22, 2021 GFC meeting regarding abstentions was responded to at the meeting and no further action required.

GFC AGENDA APPROVALS FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2021***Moved and seconded:***

THAT the General Faculties Council November 26, 2021 Open Session Agenda be approved, as presented.

Motion carried.**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION****Update on GFC Academic Indigenization Committee**

A written update on the GFC Academic Indigenization Committee (AIC) was provided in the meeting package and highlighted at the meeting. The General Counsel and University Secretary and the Assistant University Secretary - GFC met with Dr. Linda ManyGuns. The ongoing work Dr. ManyGuns is helping to lead at MRU will set the foundation for governance related processes and decisions. With advice from Dr. ManyGuns, EC supported revisiting the matter later in 2022 once other work has resulted in some stronger foundational relationships and understanding.

The matter of ensuring appropriate consultations, such as consulting with Indigenous Studies, was raised with respect to those GFC committees who are working on Indigenous-related items. P. Choate, Chair of APCC, advised he has met with Dr. ManyGuns, and will bring this feedback to APCC.

Next Steps for Approved Syllabus Guidelines Recommendations (TLC)

The Chair of TLC submitted a written request to EC asking for their recommendation on next steps for the Syllabus Guidelines approved by GFC in May 2021. EC discussed the request and it was agreed that TLC has completed their mandate and role on work related to the Approved Syllabus Guidelines and that TLC provide the "Syllabus Guideline Recommendations – Possible Paths Forward" to GFC for comment before passing it over to Management. If any elements of the implementation of the syllabus guidelines require GFC approval, they will come forward through the normal process at that time.

APBC Chair Vacancy

EC followed up on a question asked at the GFC October 22 meeting asking for an update on the status of filling the vacancy for the Chair of the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC). A GFC member had raised a concern with the membership structure of this committee because the chair position is vacant. Discussion focused on the reasons why this position may still be vacant. It was agreed more discussion is needed to understand APBC's mandate including how it might be resourced with the goal that clarity will help encourage the role to be filled or have a candidate step forward to assist with the work. T. Rahilly will report this back to GFC at the next GFC meeting.

GFC Engagement when Responding to Emergency Situations

A commitment was made at the October 22, 2021 GFC meeting to bring forward to EC a comment made with respect to preparing for future emergency situations to ensure the proper collegial governance bodies (such as GFC and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee) are appropriately engaged to best respond to the situation. T. Rahilly spoke to the comment explaining how the governance side has been engaged on

necessary decisions within the purview of the Board and of GFC. EC members gave feedback and suggestions for improvement with respect to communication throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

GFC Bylaws – Electronic Voting Provision for Committees

Based on feedback from EC members on the draft electronic voting provision for Committees to add to the GFC Bylaws, it was agreed to revisit a previous provision used in the former GFC's Bylaws for electronic voting for committees that is at a more appropriate level of detail than what was originally presented. It was suggested to include the number of votes required to pass a motion over email, such as a two-thirds majority. This will be brought back to EC at the next meeting for review and further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A matter related to the “Winter Semester 2022 and Associated Policy Changes” item from the October 22, 2021 GFC meeting was raised by the Registrar. The Registrar received a question from a GFC member with respect to the 25% of grade reporting date for Winter and if the motions passed at GFC at the October 22 meeting violate section 1.5.d. of the Grades and Examination policy: *“Formal evaluation feedback accounting for not less than 25% of the total final grade must be communicated to students no later than the open of business on the Monday preceding the withdrawal deadline.”*

It was advised by the Registrar and affirmed by EC that this specific item was covered in the briefing note for the motion: *“Formal evaluation feedback accounting for not less than 25% of a student’s total final grade should be assigned by March 14, 2022. As such, no additional policy exemptions are required to enact this change.”*

There was agreement that the policy language indicates that communication must be “no later than”. Given this, an early time period of March 14, 2022 does not violate the policy requirement. In addition, it was noted that the motions that were approved in the October 2021 GFC meeting were quite similar to those approved in previous cycles. T. Rahilly will provide comments at the GFC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

4:20 PM