General Faculties Council

December 15, 2016

M I N U T E S

Present:
M. Baehr
V. Caden-Baptiste
O. Barcelo
D. Bruneau
G. Calic
M. Carey
M. Desjarlais
D. Docherty, Chair
N. Khemka-Dolan
A. Dube
M. El Hazzouri
J. Fischer
S. Gadamsetti
S. Gannon
C. Giancarlo
B. Glanzman
J. Goldberg, Vice-Chair
C. Hepler, Speaker
P. Herscovitch
S. Holman
A. Horne
S. Kell
J. Keshen
A. Lefter
C. Lavallo
D. MacDonald
H. McLellan, Deputy Speaker
C. Merkley
S. Morante
E. Mullen
R. Murdoch
R. Nelson
P. Nordstrom
T. O’Connor
B. Oliver
K. Olsen
R. Owen
R. Platts
M. Quance
M. Quann
S. Reed
M. Schroeder
R. Pickett Seltner
L. Semple
D. Sheehan
C. Shepstone
R. Surdu
C. Techentin
D. Valdez
P. Warsaba, Secretary
G. Warthe
C. Webber
F. Widdowson
J. Zimmer

Absent with Regrets:
A. Dwyer
L. Easton
E. Evans
A. Fedoruk
S. Garrow-Oliver
R. Hoar
E. Hutchison
A. Krishnamurthy
B. Lang
N. Lawley
S. Murray
E. Natynczyk
C. Smey Carston
C. Snowdon
M. Yeo

Absent:
A. Das
A. Gieck
K. O’Connor
J. Pettit

Resources:
K. Homer, Recording Secretary
J. O’Connor

Guests:
K. Black
M. Deane
J. McNichol
T. Smyth
A. Swabey
J. Withey

C. Hepler, Speaker, convened the December 15, 2016 meeting of General Faculties Council at 4:00 p.m.

1.0 Approvals
1.1 Agenda for December 15, 2016

General Faculties Council approved the agenda for the December 15, 2016 meeting with no formal motion.

1.2 Minutes for November 17, 2016

General Faculties Council approved the minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting with no formal motion.

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arose from the minutes of the previous meeting.

3.0 Reports from Senior Administration

3.1 President

D. Docherty provided a written submission for information. Further to this, he reported that:

☞ He, J. Zimmer and J. Mc Nichol signed an MOU with Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia that looks towards building partnerships for the Public Relations Degrees. There will be opportunities for faculty and student exchanges.

☞ The nomination period for Honorary Degrees for the Spring Convocation closes January 15, 2017.

3.2 Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

J. Goldberg submitted a written report for information. In addition, noted were the following:

☞ Recognition was given to Dr. T. O’Connor as this is her last GFC in the capacity as the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology. J. Withey is the incoming Dean and attended as a guest.

☞ The Academic Plan Steering Committee reported that they are moving towards the completion of the first draft. A website has been established to allow colleagues to provide feedback, anonymously. Town halls will be held January 18, January 19 and February 21, 2017. In March, the document will be fine-tuned before being brought to GFC for approval.

4.0 Discussion of Reports from Senior Administration

There was no further discussion.

5.0 Question Period

5.1 Written Questions

No written questions were submitted for the consideration of General Faculties Council.
5.2 Questions from the Floor

As Chair of APPC, S. Gannon was asked to request an interpretation of the General Education Policy (POL 501). While he acknowledges that APPC is a good group to vet policies dealing with curricula, he is not certain that it is authoritative in this matter and is certainly not authoritative in the matter of General Education Policy (POL 501). Interpreting policy is outside of what he understands as APPC’s mandate, as outlined in the By-Laws. His question is:

**Whose task is it to interpret policy?**

*If it is an interpretation in relation to GFC, the Secretary of GFC is responsible. However, if it is an interpretation within the Academic Unit, it is the Office of Administrative Responsibility or the Policy Sponsor’s responsibility to interpret the policy.*

Within the Academic Standing, Continuance and Graduation Policy (POL 512) there is no limit on how many times a student can enroll in a course without passing.

**Is it possible to get statistics on how many students are repeating courses and how many times they are enrolling (the DFW rates)?**

*This will be brought back to GFC as an information item for further discussion, if required.*

Within the Research and Scholarship Standing Committee (RSSC) October minutes, it indicates that Human Resources is developing terms and conditions of employment for a new category; Postdoctoral Fellows. Under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, does the Board of Governors have the authority to designate members to the academic staff and if not, then would they be non-academic staff? **Has the Board of Governors contemplated the Postdoctoral Fellows’ designations? Will they be MRSA or MRFA?**

*This has not yet been discussed by the Board of Governors.*

6.0 Decision Items

6.1 APPC: PHED 15811 Program Termination

Moved by S. Gannon; seconded by B. Glanzman:

**THAT General Faculties Council approve the termination of the "Bachelor of Physical Education - University Transfer".**

*Carried.*

6.2 APPC: GNED Exemptions for Demonstrable Accreditation

Moved by S. Morante; seconded by S. Gannon:

**THAT General Faculties Council approve the exemption to Program Definitions, specifically relating to General Education requirements, for Nursing, Midwifery, Interior Design, Education, and Health and Physical Education.**

S. Gannon, Chair, Academic Program and Priorities Committee noted that given that the revisions to the General Education Policy (POL 501) defined the only valid reason for requesting an exemption to Program Definitions as “demonstrable accreditation
requirements that would necessitate an exemption”, the APPC decided to clarify this statement with the following: “the principle for demonstrable accreditation will require documentation from the accrediting association that defines the professional standards. Professional faculty members would interpret the standards and apply the standards to the program, which would then be assessed by GFC.” Given the documentation provided by those requesting the exemption, APPC accepted the requests and recommends to GFC that the requests be granted.

Carried.

6.3 Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Five Year Renewal

Moved by J. Keshen: seconded by D. MacDonald:

THAT General Faculties Council renew the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship for a five-year term (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2021).

Carried.

7.0 Information

There were no information items provided.

8.0 Reports

General Faculties Council were provided with the following reports:

8.1 Committee Reports

8.1.1 Executive Committee
8.1.1.1 Draft Minutes from December 6, 2016

8.1.2 By-laws and Striking Committee
8.1.2.1 Minutes from September 27, 2016
8.1.2.2 DRAFT Minutes from November 29, 2016

8.1.3 Academic Program and Priorities Committee
8.1.3.1 Minutes from September 20, 2016
8.1.3.2 DRAFT Minutes from November 22, 2016

8.1.4 Academic Standards Committee
8.1.4.1 Minutes from October 27, 2016

8.1.5 Research and Scholarship Standing Committee
8.1.5.1 Minutes from October 25, 2016

8.1.6 Library Standing Committee
8.1.6.1 Minutes from September 26, 2016

8.1.7 Teaching and Learning Standing Committee
8.1.7.1 Minutes from April 12, 2016

8.1.8 Student Awards Committee
8.19 Board of Governors Report

9.0 New Business [requires a motion to consider]

No new business was submitted for the consideration of General Faculties Council.

10.0 Amendment of By-laws

10.1 Notice of Motion: Revisions to the GFC By-laws

11.0 Elections

No elections were required.

12.0 Closed Session

General Faculties Council moved to Closed Session with unanimous consent.

12.1 List of Graduands

Moved by R. Nelson; seconded by V. Caden-Baptiste:

THAT General Faculties Council approve a list of graduands submitted by the Office of the Registrar.

Carried.

13.0 Adjournment

Moved by C. Hepler; seconded by P. Warsaba:

THAT the December 15, 2016 General Faculties Council meeting adjourn at 4:39 p.m.

Carried.