



General Faculties Council  
**GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting 71  
October 21, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair  
Semhar Abraha  
Joule Bergerson  
Sarah Eaton  
Meghan McDonough  
Mary O'Brien – left during Item 9  
Alex Paquette  
Bill Rosehart  
Richard Sigurdson  
April Viczko  
Hussein Warsame

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Staff***

Jaclyn Carter

***Guests***

Florentine Strzelczyk, Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group – present for Item 6

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair reported that Item 5 (Recommendation of the Revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy) has been withdrawn from the agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 21, 2020 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved, with the reported amendment.

**Carried**

**2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Consultation on the Growth Through Focus (GTF) vision is ongoing
- A meeting with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education was held yesterday, during which there was discussion about topics such as the development of the University's GTF

vision and other University initiatives, the provincial post-secondaries system review, and the sustainable funding model and tuition support. Representatives of the University continue to communicate the value of the University to the provincial government.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- A ruling has been made in the York University copyright case. The Court found in favour of York University with respect to the payment of the Access Copyright tariff and in favour of Access Copyright with respect to following fair dealing guidelines. Both parties have appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Tuition consultations with the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association are occurring, and the tuition proposal will be presented to the Board of Governors in December

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- York University and other institutions' decisions to opt out of the Access Copyright system was based on factors such as a significant increase in costs and a lack of clarity in what the repertoire included
- Board chairs are attending the provincial government's Alberta 2030 initiative consultations as representatives of their institutions, and public consultation should be occurring soon

### **3. Approval of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on September 16, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Naming of the Academic Program Subcommittee Academic Co-Chair**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

The University Secretary reported that Jocelyn Hayley, a current member of the Academic Program Subcommittee from the Schulich School of Engineering, was pre-approached by the Co-Chair of the APS, and has expressed willingness to serve if appointed.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee name Jocelyn Hayley, Schulich School of Engineering, as the Academic Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS), effective immediately, for a three-year term or until her term on the APS ends if that is sooner.

**Carried**

### **5. Item Withdrawn**

## **6. Recommendation of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook – Part I**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda and tabled at the meeting. Florentine Strzelczyk presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reminded the Committee that the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook is comprised of what remains from the Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Manual and General Promotions Committee Manual after the processes related to tenure, promotion and assessment were removed and inserted into the Collective Agreement in 2019. The proponent reported that the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group is now bringing forward a first set of Handbook revisions relating to the criteria for merit assessment, renewal, transfer, tenure, and promotion, and that it is expected that a second set, relating to the criteria for academic appointment, will be brought forward later this academic year.
- The proponent provided an overview of the changes being proposed, and specifically explained the use of the words “where applicable” and “normally”. The proponent reported that sections 4.8.1 and 4.8.2. have been revised to provide that the councils of the Librarian and Counsellor academic staff groups will establish the criteria for these groups.
- Discussion included:
  - The use of the words “where applicable” and “normally”, and that this is necessary to reflect the diversity in some units and does not diminish the criteria and requirements
  - The statement in section 5.5 that a tenured academic staff member may not apply for stream transfer to a position at the Assistant Professor or Instructor rank in another Faculty. It was reported that transfer of an academic staff member from one Faculty to another is an unusual occurrence and is negotiated by the Deans and the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).
  - That section 4.3.2.b should be revised to read “publication of high-quality peer reviewed or equivalent juried creative work in highly ranked journals of the field **and** competitive peer-reviewed conference proceedings” rather than “and/or”

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend to the GFC the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook - Part I as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the reported and requested amendments, and authorize the proponents to make non-substantive changes to the document prior to its submission to the GFC.

**Carried**

## **7. Review of the Draft November 5, 2020 GFC Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the draft November 5, 2020 GFC Agenda.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that Items 15-17 will be presented for discussion and that a Growth Through Focus update will be included as part of the Chair’s Remarks.

## **8. Growth Through Focus Vision**

Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an update on the development of the GTF vision, and reported that the feedback received through the October town hall and other consultation is being incorporated and that ideas are being honed over time.
- The presenter reported that the specifics of GTF will be discussed by the University community at smaller meetings starting in December, that consultation with stakeholder groups, such as: the Faculty Association, Graduate Students' Association, Students' Union, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, Management and Professional Staff, and Postdoctoral Association will take place, that another town hall will likely be held in the future, and that any decisions related to GTF will move through the University's governance system in due course
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Faculties will be evaluating their departmental structures
  - Deans have been given parameters for budget cuts
  - Any changes to programs will move through the governance system following normal process, and students in any eliminated programs will be supported
  - The provincial government is developing a new process to accelerate the approval of program proposals
  - Incentive structures are being developed to encourage GTF endeavours
  - The four transdisciplinary areas at present represent very broad inclusive areas that will be more defined by scholars' active participation
- Discussion included:
  - The connection of GTF to University budgeting, and whether resources raised by some units can be shared with others
  - That the three foundational commitments of the *Eyes High Strategy 2017-2022* (sharpen focus on research and scholarship, enrich the quality and breadth of learning, and integrate the University with the community) remain in GTF
  - That the University community will need guidance in operationalizing GTF
  - That some disciplines, such as Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, are not obviously located in GTF, and that the names of the plan's four transdisciplinary areas of focus and examples should be more inclusive

## **9. Approved 2020-2021 GFC Executive Committee Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

## **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the October 21, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary