



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

Meeting 72  
November 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair  
Semhar Abraha – arrived during Item 2  
Joule Bergerson  
Sarah Eaton  
Meghan McDonough  
Mary O'Brien  
Alex Paquette – arrived during Item 2  
Bill Rosehart  
Richard Sigurdson  
April Viczko  
Hussein Warsame

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Staff***

Jaclyn Carter

***Guests***

Janet Stein, Director of Risk Management and Insurance – present for Item 4

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the November 25, 2020 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Development of the Growth Through Focus vision (GTF) is continuing, and consultations including with members of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty Association have yielded valuable feedback that will improve GTF
- Representatives of the University continue to engage in the provincial government's Alberta 2030: Building Skills For Jobs initiative, including talking about issues such as post-secondary funding and governance

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- It has been confirmed that the provincial government's announcement yesterday of new COVID-19 restrictions results in no changes for post-secondary institutions; classes may continue as they have been and working from home is still encouraged. The University's Crisis Management Team (CMT) will meet tonight to consider COVID-19 safety at the University.
- The review of the Dean of the Faculty of Law is almost complete, and the search for a Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is underway
- The Indigenous Strategy ii'taa'poh'to'p annual progress update will be held November 26, 2020
- A request from the Students' Union to provide a Credit/Fail (CR/F) option again this Fall term, for student mental health reasons, was discussed at the November 23, 2020 meeting of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) and the November 24, 2020 meeting of Deans' Council. Background work is currently being done, and an emergency APPC meeting will likely be held to address this further.

Discussion included:

- As the end of term is nearing, any decision regarding the CR/F option will have to happen quickly
- Indicators of increased stress in students is being observed, likely due at least in part to high workload levels
- It will be necessary to ensure that students understand the possible ramifications of choosing the CR option, such as that application to programs may be impacted
- The CR/F option was made available during the Winter 2020 term, when COVID-19 was new and there were many uncertainties, but not during the Spring and Summer 2020 terms. Students who enrolled in the Fall 2020 term knew that their coursework would be online and a change at this point to allow the CR/F option should be carefully considered.
- In response to a question, it was reported that a number of students took the option for a CR in the Winter 2020 term and processing this was a tremendous amount of administrative work

### **3. Approval of the October 21, 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 October 21, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Institutional Enterprise Risk Management Program – Student Risk Review**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Janet Stein presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reminded the Committee that the Student Risk is one of ten identified institutional risks, and that this risk has been assigned to the Committee for oversight. The proponent then

gave a presentation on the active issues, key risk indicators and mitigations in relation to this risk. The Committee learned that the Student Risk has risen to a rank of seventh in relation to the University's other institutional risks, due to two new active issues; the move to a hybrid teaching environment during COVID-19 and increased competition for students.

- Discussion included:
  - The University has mitigation strategies to address accessibility, including scholarships and bursaries
  - The mental health of students is very important, and student mental health should be considered among the key risk indicators for this risk if this is not already done
  - The next National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be administered in 2023, and it is possible that the instrument will be modified to ask questions relating to the impacts of COVID-19

## **5. Review of the Draft December 10, 2020 GFC Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the draft December 10, 2020 GFC Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee made adjustments to the order and timing of items and it was determined that any questions relating to COVID-19 will be handled during the Question Period, rather than as a standalone item
- The Committee discussed the length of presentations and determined that presenters will be required to limit their in-meeting presentation to five slides, and that longer presentations can be included with the documentation uploaded to the D2L for the GFC meeting

## **6. Other Business**

The Committee discussed the University of Toronto's UCheck web portal which enables persons to complete COVID-19 self-assessment symptom screening and determine if they should attend campus in person. The Vice-Chair reported that the Crisis Management Team did consider the use of a self-assessment portal and could re-consider this. It was noted that the cases on campus can be linked to persons not following protocols such as masking and distancing, and that increased education and enforcement are being considered.

## **7. Adjournment**

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| The November 25, 2020 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus. |
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The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.