



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

Meeting 74  
January 27, 2021, 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  
Alex Paquette  
Bill Rosehart  
Richard Sigurdson – arrived during Item 2  
April Viczko  
Hussein Warsame

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Staff***

Tasha Hodzic

***Guests***

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) – present for Item 6  
Deborah Book, Legal Counsel – present for Items 5 and 6

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the January 27, 2021 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:

- The provincial government's Alberta 2030 review is in its final stages. Meetings with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding post-secondary governance and autonomy and the Minister of Finance regarding budgeting will be held soon.
- A meeting with the President of the Treasury Board of Canada regarding the upscaling of national investment in the post-secondary ecosystem will also be held soon

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Spring and Summer 2021 courses will again take place through a hybrid model of in-person and online delivery. In order to give the University community some certainty about future delivery, a decision about Fall 2021 will be announced in April. Other decisions relating to the impacts of COVID-19 will be announced as they are made.
- The University's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Week is February 1-5, 2021 and the annual EDI Awards will be celebrated in an online event on February 3
- The searches for a Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and Registrar are ongoing
- The University is working towards a budget approval by the Board of Governors in March

A member of the Committee noted that a number of Black History Month activities will also be taking place during EDI Week.

In response to a question, it was reported that the Growth Through Focus congress is postponed due to technical difficulties and will now launch on February 5.

### **3. Approval of the December 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 December 16, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Recommendation of the Establishment of the 2021-2022 GFC Elected Membership Distribution**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley and Susan Belcher presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal to establish the 2021-2022 General Faculties Council (GFC) elected academic staff membership distribution, noting that this is an annual item and a straightforward arithmetic calculation
- There were no questions

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## 5. Recommendation of the Revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy (SVP), and reminded the Committee that these revisions were made in response to concerns raised when the last revisions to the SVP were approved by the Board of Governors (BG) in June 2020
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The reference in section 4.19 of the policy to the Writing Symbols Lodge as an available support was removed at the request of the Indigenous Lens Review Team and the Writing Symbols Lodge. A new webpage with links to external resources will include resources specifically for Indigenous persons.
  - Student feedback has been positive during the consultation period, and it is believed that the unexpected concerns raised during the June 2020 BG meeting have been addressed
- Discussion included:
  - The consultation process to date, and whether and how comments expressed (e.g. by the Faculty Association) will be addressed before the policy moves forward for approval
  - The use of the term 'victim-survivor', and whether this is appropriate to use before an investigation is completed and a respondent's actions have been judged. The proponent noted that the term 'victim-survivor' was added to the policy because consultation indicated the desire for supportive language in the policy.
  - How records of allegations will be kept, and the processes to safeguard confidentiality. The proponent explained that the University will follow appropriate retention rules, such as those set out in the Occupational Health and Safety management system and the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, and that confidentiality measures will differ from case to case.
  - That members of the University community are expected to be aware of the SVP, but that training for faculty, staff, and teaching assistants in how to handle a disclosure is needed
  - That members of the University community should respond to a disclosure by referring an individual to the Sexual Violence Response Office, but that an individual cannot be forced to report an incident
  - The addition of 'Resolution Through Supported Conversations' as an avenue to address a report is applauded

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC recommend the revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **6. Revisions to the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book and Susan Barker presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the history of the Student Non-Academic Misconduct (SNAM) policy and procedure, and provided an overview of the revisions being proposed
- Discussion included:
  - Whether the policy applies to student non-academic misconduct out in the broader community, and the proponents indicated that situations are examined on a case by case basis when complaints are received but that the University generally does not have jurisdiction when an incident occurs off campus
  - That the current revisions to the SVP provide for restorative conversations as a means of resolution without a formal hearing, and that perhaps this could also be incorporated into the SNAM policy. The proponents reported that this was considered, but it was determined that the University is not ready for this in relation to student conduct.
  - Whether compliance with pandemic safety behaviours (e.g. masking) should be specifically referenced. The proponents indicated that this is effectively addressed within Appendix 1 (prohibited conduct) by the statement “shall not... endanger the safety of another individual”.
  - Section 1c of Appendix 1, and whether this means that students who are recording a lecture under an accessibility accommodation must secure the consent of their classmates. The proponents reported that if a student has permission to record from Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the instructor is notified but this does not have to be disclosed to other students. SAS educates students on the appropriate use of a recording.
  - The composition of a Hearing Board. In response to a question, the proponents reported that the chair of a Hearing Board is identified by the Vice Provost (Student Experience) and may be a faculty or staff member.
  - Whether the policy applies to a student visiting another institution. The proponents noted that section 2.2 of the policy sets out that the University will collaborate with the other institution to ensure a fair process consistent with this policy, and that a student may be responsible to pay for the repair of any damage.
- The proponents reported that consultation will continue, and then it is expected that this item will return to the Committee in March for recommendation to GFC in April

## **7. Review of the Draft February 11, 2021 GFC Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the draft February 11, 2021 GFC Agenda. There were no questions or changes requested.

## **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the January 27, 2021 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary