



General Faculties Council
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 75
February 24, 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
April Viczko
Hussein Warsame

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

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 February 24, 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 Graduate Students' Association's Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium launched today
- The provincial government's budget will be announced tomorrow and various representatives of the University have been explaining the value proposition of the University and post-secondary institutions in Alberta in general in a coordinated approach to several Ministries. Information will be relayed to the University community as soon as possible.
- A search for a Dean of the Faculty of Science has launched

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's budget will be presented to the Finance and Property Committee next week and then to the Board of Governors in March for approval. The University has prepared for a range of possible budget cuts in developing its proposed budget.
- The searches for a Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and for a Registrar are proceeding well

In response to a question, the Vice-Chair reported that she has received more positive than negative feedback on yesterday's announcement that the 2021 merit and promotion process has been revised such that all academic staff members will receive a 1.2 increment. The Vice-Chair confirmed that any academic staff members who have had an outstanding year will be able to present this and be recognized in the next normal merit and promotion cycle (hopefully 2022), and that the dismissal process will be triggered for any academic staff member who received a 0 in 2020 and receives a 0 in the next cycle. The Committee shared positive reactions to the announcement and expressed that this decision is appreciated for a number of reasons, including mental health, and noted that it was good that the communication was from both the President and Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

3. Approval of the January 27, 2021 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 January 27, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

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

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the meeting schedules are set for two years to allow people to plan and that the meetings follow a similar pattern as in previous years
- The Committee discussed that there has been a tendency for General Faculties Council (GFC) and Faculty of Graduate Studies Council meetings to coincide, and it was requested that the Secretariat send the meeting schedules to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies with a request that effort be made to avoid this overlap in the future

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedules, in the forms provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. 2020-2021 GFC Evaluation

The Co-Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that it is proposed that the GFC evaluation not be conducted for 2020-2021 and return for the 2021-2022 meeting year in light of COVID-19 and the shift to virtual meetings and alternative processes to accommodate the environment. The Committee was reminded that the GFC member evaluation has been skipped from time to time in the past and it was noted that most of the feedback received last year related to the format of in-person meetings and this will be considered and addressed once in-person meetings are resumed.
- The proponents reported that all GFC members are invited to provide feedback to the Chair and Secretariat at any time and that this will be communicated to members this year
- Discussion included:
 - Gathering feedback on the virtual meetings, and it was observed that attendance has been higher for virtual meetings and there might be an appetite for a hybrid of in-person and virtual meetings once the University returns to on-campus activities. The University Secretary reported that spaces are being reviewed in order to identify a location suitable for such a hybrid model for meetings, if possible.
 - In response to feedback, during this year presenters have been asked to limit their presentations to five slides and ten minutes to allow more time for engagement of GFC members in discussions
 - GFC evaluations are welcomed and useful for soliciting feedback, and when evaluations resume the format of holding an evaluation session at a meeting was encouraged
- The Committee determined that a formal 2020-2021 GFC member evaluation will not be held. Any members who wish to provide feedback on the operations of GFC can communicate this to the Chair, Vice-Chair or University Secretariat.

6. Review of the Draft March 11, 2021 GFC Agenda

The Committee reviewed the draft March 11, 2021 GFC Agenda, and determined that:

- A presentation of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Dashboard should be added as an information item
- An update on Growth Through Focus (GTF) should be added as an information item. As an aside, the Chair noted that a special GFC meeting will likely be scheduled in the near future to allow for a focused and thorough discussion of GTF by the members of GFC.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair will speak about the provincial budget and the University's forward plans during their remarks and not as a standalone item

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

The February 24, 2021 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary