



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

Meeting 79  
September 15, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Teri Balser, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Rachel Lauer  
Meghan McDonough  
Alex Paquette  
Renzo Pereyra  
Bill Rosehart  
Richard Sigurdson  
April Viczko  
Jennifer Winter

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Staff***

Tasha Hodzic

***Regrets***

Joule Bergerson

***Guests***

Michael Kallos, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 3  
Cherie Tutt, Director, University Secretariat and Student Appeals Office

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 September 15, 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:

- Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the Committee for this academic year. Jessica Ayala, Social Work, Rachel Lauer, Science, and Jennifer Winter, Arts, were acknowledged on this occasion of their first Committee meeting.

- In the late Spring it appeared that Covid-19 case numbers were dropping, and the University began to make plans for the Fall 2021 term. The case number situation changed in late July, and the University reconsidered some decisions regarding the Fall 2021 term. These dynamic conditions have been/are a challenge, as the University attempts to balance providing a safe environment with aspirations for student experiences and the research enterprise. The University has begun use of the Thrive Health Portal to have faculty, staff and students attest to their vaccine status and upload their proof of vaccination; to date more than 42,000 have submitted the attestation with approximately 37,000 indicating they intend to attend campus in-person and approximately 34,000 (91%) of these persons indicating that they are fully vaccinated.
- It was announced yesterday that citizens will be able to verify their vaccine status using the Alberta Health Services website, which will help the University in managing access to campus and verifying vaccination attestations

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Work is underway to prepare for the full roll out of the University's vaccination attestation program on January 1, 2022, including establishing a system for exemption accommodations and checking for truthfulness
- The Academic Crisis Management Team (ACMT) has been relaunched, and will provide guidance to Deans and others
- There has been good uptake of the grants program for students whose courses unexpectedly went online for the Fall 2021 term
- The University's interactive maps have been updated to help students find quiet spaces such as for study

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The Emergency Management logistics team will be asked to consider whether Covid-19 rapid tests will be offered to people who are isolating after being exposed in the classroom but not eligible for provincial testing
- The ACMT and Administration will consider that some students no longer wish to attend in-person classes after there have been positive cases in their classroom
- The few faculty, staff and students who do not complete the vaccination attestation before the deadline will be contacted by a head of their unit as they are easily identified. There are some derelict/redundant email addresses in the system and some students do not read their University email.

### **3. Recommendation of the Creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Rosehart, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, and Michael Kallos presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to create the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), specifically highlighting the transdisciplinarity of BME, that the BME programs are highly regarded and attract many students, and that the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering will provide a formal home for BME at the University

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The Schulich School of Engineering has a model of shared administrative resources, and the existing Centre for Bioengineering Research and Education (CBRE) is supported through the model. If the Department of Biomedical Engineering is approved, the CBRE will be dissolved and the administrative support will shift to the new department.
  - There will be no change to the delivery of the existing BME programs resulting from the creation of the department
  - All of the faculty members involved with the CBRE will be asked if they wish to transfer from their current department to the Department of Biomedical Engineering. It is anticipated that the Department of Biomedical Engineering will grow to have 20-25 faculty members within five years.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering within the Schulich School of Engineering, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

**Carried****4. Approval of Revisions to Terms of Reference:**

- **General Standing Committees**
- **Academic Planning and Priorities Committee**
- **Academic Program Subcommittee**
- **Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee**
- **Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee**
- **Research and Scholarship Committee**
- **Teaching and Learning Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Cherie Tutt presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents reported that every year the GFC standing committees and subcommittees are asked to review their work and Terms of Reference (TOR). The University Secretariat gathered the 2021 recommendations and also reviewed the TOR to identify any necessary changes (i.e. removal of references to the Comprehensive Institutional Plan and updates to member titles).
- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions, and reported one additional revision to the Teaching and Learning Committee's TOR that was not set out in the meeting documents: to state "One Associate Director of the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI) appointed by the Senior Director of the TI" rather than referring to a specific title
- The Committee discussed that the new members of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and Teaching and Learning Committee are being added to allow for equity, diversity and inclusion and decolonization perspectives at these meetings

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the General Faculties Council Standing Committees General Terms of Reference and the Terms of Reference for each of the bodies set out below, in the forms provided to the Committee:

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

Academic Program Subcommittee

Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee

Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

Research and Scholarship Committee

Teaching and Learning Committee

and with the reported amendment.

**Carried**

**5. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Cumming School of Medicine**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Cumming School of Medicine. Four nominees will be presented for the election of two by a GFC electronic vote to be held as soon as possible.

**6. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Four nominees will be presented for the election of two at the October 7, 2021 GFC meeting.

**7. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology. Four nominees will be presented for the election of two at the October 7, 2021 GFC meeting.

**8. Nominations for Election by GFC of One Academic Staff Member as the Member of the Board of Governors Nominated by GFC**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members [of GFC] to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election as the member of the Board of Governors nominated by GFC. Two nominees will be presented for the election of one at the October 7, 2021 GFC meeting.

**9. Appointment of Three Members of GFC to the Chancellor Search Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, members of GFC to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Chancellor Search Committee. The first three individuals to agree to serve will be deemed appointed by the Committee.

**10. Appointment of Academic Staff Members to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group. The first two individuals to agree to serve will be deemed appointed by the Committee.

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

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the October 7, 2021 GFC meeting. The Committee reordered one of the items and requested that the Chair's remarks include an update on matters relating to Covid-19.

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Adjournment**

The September 15, 2021 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.