



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

Meeting 82  
January 26, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Joule Bergerson  
Rachel Lauer  
Alex Paquette  
Renzo Pereyra  
Bill Rosehart  
Richard Sigurdson  
April Viczko  
Jennifer Winter

***Non-Voting Member***

David Stewart

***Secretary***

Lise Houle

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Meghan McDonough

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 26, 2022 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 University has been ranked fifth among Canada's top research universities in the latest ReSearch Infosource Inc. 'Top 50 Research Universities' list, which is a great achievement and reflects the University's commitments to the student experience and improving the world through research and creating new knowledge
- The University has received a \$25 million gift from the Azrieli Foundation, to establish the Azrieli Accelerator which will transform neurodevelopment research. This was not a competition; the Azrieli Foundation looked across Canada for areas of excellence in neuroscience and transdisciplinary research and chose the University to receive its support.

- There was a meeting today between the Minister of Advanced Education and the province's university Presidents and Board Chairs. The government is optimistic that the pandemic will start to wane significantly in the coming weeks. The provincial budget will be announced on February 24, and it appears that the government will proceed with cuts to the post-secondary sector but there may be some reinvestments.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Week will be held January 31 to February 4, 2022, and members were encouraged to visit the EDI Week website for information on events
- The University is a platinum sponsor of the January 30 to February 2, 2022 BE-STEMM conference, which is put on by the Canadian Black Scientists Network and facilitates research and recruitment connections in effort to remove barriers to attracting and retaining Black Canadians in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Health (STEMM). Members were encouraged to visit the BE-STEMM website for information on addresses, presentations and fairs.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The Administration is hearing that many of the University's students and staff would prefer to remain online for the remainder of the Winter 2022 semester, for reasons including that moving back and forth between delivery methods is problematic. This is balanced by the fact that others, including the Ministry, are looking at hospitalization data, what is happening in the K-12 system, and the value of in-person learning to suggest a return to in-person activities at the University. The Administration is aware that the University community needs to know as soon as possible what will be happening after the Reading Break.
- The University has raised the issue of COVID-19 vaccination booster shots with the Minister of Health, and whether these should be required, as there is awareness that continuity could be impacted if there are outbreaks of illness. The University has requested a supply of masks and testing kits, but availability is limited at this time as priority is in providing these within the K-12 sector. There is a strong relationship between the Minister of Advanced Education and the current Minister of Health, and there is confidence that they will be discussing issues that cross portfolios.
- The organisers of EDI Week will be informed that there is a desire for a post-pandemic return to having performing arts pieces among the events

### **3. Approval of the November 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on November 24, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Recommendation of the Establishment of the 2022-2023 GFC Elected Membership Distribution**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The Chair reported that the calculation of the General Faculties Council (GFC) elected academic staff membership distribution is an annual item, and that there are no changes to the distribution as a result of this year's 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 on the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**5. Appointment of One GFC Member to the Senate**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

*Secretary's Note: April Viczko left the meeting for this item.*

Following discussion of the role of the Senate, the Committee named, in rank order, members of the GFC to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve as a GFC representative on the Senate. Upon returning to the meeting April Viczko, Faculty of Arts, agreed to serve and was deemed appointed by the Committee for a term until June 30, 2025 or until her time as a GFC member ends if that is sooner.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the GFC representatives to the Senate must be members of GFC for the duration of their term on the Senate.

**6. Review of the Draft February 10, 2022 GFC Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the February 10, 2022 GFC meeting.

Discussion included:

- This is a relatively light agenda, but the members of GFC might have a number of questions about the remainder of the Winter semester and other matters and so it was decided to move ahead with the meeting
- It was determined that the Chair and Vice-Chair's Remarks would be lengthened in order to allow for reporting on, and conversation about, the University's pandemic response and a variety of other current initiatives, and that the Question Period would also be lengthened
- Some items of business are reviewed by a GFC standing committee prior to appearing on a GFC agenda, but some information items are presented only at GFC meetings. Clarity and consistency in the routing of items is needed.
- It was decided to re-order the agenda items, so that the Safety Moment is presented immediately after the Inclusive Practice Moment

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Adjournment**

The January 26, 2022 meeting of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Lise Houle  
Interim University Secretary