



General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

February 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Joule Bergerson
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Rachel Lauer
Satish Raj – arrived during Item 3
Bill Rosehart
James Steele
Melanee Thomas – arrived during Item 2

Non-Voting Member

David Stewart

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Observer

Cherie Tutt – present for Item 6

Regrets

Olive Chapman
Aoife Mac Namara

Guests

Sandra Davidson, Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Items 4 and 5
Francine Smith, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Items 4 and 5
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) – for Item 6

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 February 15, 2023 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:

- A meeting with representatives of the federal government was recently held in Ottawa about the

federal budget and connection to the postsecondary sector, including advocacy for potential investments in the Tri-Council, mental health initiatives, and graduate student scholarships and bursaries. Expectations about the upcoming federal budget announcement have lowered, considering impacts of the current geopolitical climate and inflation, but it is hoped that some investments positively affecting the postsecondary sector will still occur.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Haskayne School of Business is moving forward. The process is a closed process because of the candidates in the pool.
- Heads Forum recently held a good discussion about the merit process. This is a complex process, and a working group has been established to work on this topic.

3. Approval of the January 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on January 25, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson and Francine Smith, co-chairs of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reminded the Committee of the mandate and membership of its ASCPHWG, and reported that the ASCPHWG and its resource planning sub-group have each been meeting monthly and the ASCPHWG co-chairs have been conducting consultations as needed
- The proponents gave a presentation summarizing the ASCPHWG's proposed revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, noting that some of the revisions are housekeeping revisions and others are intended to provide greater clarity in the document. It was reported that revisions further incorporating the University's commitment to the principles of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) will be brought forward in the future.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The wording in the Handbook must align with the Collective Agreement between the Faculty Association and the Board of Governors, but the ASCPHWG can consider if the Handbook wording regarding hiring with tenure can be made more flexible
 - The Faculty Guidelines will provide discipline-specific details regarding "competitive and other types of funding"
 - The socialization and operationalization of the Handbook is allowing for the identification of sections that need to be refined. It is expected that ongoing periodic reviews of the Handbook will occur, and that proposed revisions will be brought forward when

necessary.

- The Chair indicated that members could provide any additional feedback directly to the proponents, and that this item will next be discussed at the March 9, 2023 GFC meeting

5. Approval of Revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group Terms of Reference

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson and Francine Smith presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the ASCPHWG Terms of Reference
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

6. Recommendation of the Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Graduate Program Governance

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposal to designate the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Faculty Council responsible for the oversight of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary graduate programs that are not within another Faculty, and reported that, as the University advances its interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship, there will be an increasing number of proposals. The proponent noted that the FGS Faculty Council has broad representation from graduate programs across the University, and that this arrangement does not remove the requirement for consultation with units involved in an interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary program or change the approval process for courses within the programs.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - There will be checks and balances in place to ensure that pieces such as the program budget and operational and teaching needs are addressed in proposals and that thorough consultation has taken place
 - It is possible that interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary programs will become part of a separate unit (i.e. the Graduate College) in the future, which will have a steering committee and established consultative and communications network
- Discussion included that:
 - This streamlined process should reduce proponents' frustration and the time needed to

achieve proposal approval as some proponents were taking proposals to each Faculty Council involved

- The persons most engaged in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work may not serve on the FGS Faculty Council, and so broad consultation on matters such as curriculum changes will be necessary

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC approve the Faculty of Graduate Studies as the Faculty Council responsible for oversight of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary graduate programs, as presented to the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried**7. Review of the Draft March 9, 2023 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the March 9, 2023 GFC meeting.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The estimated times on the agenda will be carefully reviewed before the agenda is finalised
 - The “Statutory Declaration Process” discussion item will be discussed by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee before it is discussed by the GFC, and a briefing note will be provided

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the February 15, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.