



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

October 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

***Voting Members***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Joule Bergerson\*  
Olive Chapman – arrived during Item 2  
Jacqueline Jenkins  
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette\* – arrived during Item 2  
Rachel Lauer  
Satish Raj  
Bill Rosehart  
James Steele\*

***Non-Voting Member***

Kent Donlevy\*

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie\*

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair  
Aoife Mac Namara

***Guests***

John Kincaid, President's Office\*  
Janet Stein, Senior Director - Risk Management – present for Item 4  
John Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations) – present for Item 4

\*via Zoom

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair reported that the approval of the Minutes will be addressed before Item 2 to ensure that this is done while quorum is present.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 18, 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 that:

- The Vice-Chair is away today
- Representatives of the University continue to speak to provincial Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Chiefs of Staff about the value of the University, including toward improving quality of life and economic growth
- The four *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan implementation plans will be launched to the University community on November 6, 2023 and feedback is welcomed
- Because the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel is considered a terrorist act and members of the University community are impacted, it was decided that the President would issue an institutional statement. Care was taken in the October 10, 2023 statement not to take sides but to condemn the specific incident and point the University community towards supports. It was emphasised that the University campus is a safe place for all persons, with freedom for respectful thoughts and expressions. Letters about the statement sent to the President's office are being responded to directly. The painting of the Rock on the main campus by students is a longstanding activity and symbol of free expression and unless there is a case of criminal speech, the University does not intervene in the painting of the Rock.
  - Discussion included that:
    - Members of the University community have expressed appreciation for the institutional statement and the acknowledgement that people need support at this time
    - The University's webpage should have easily findable information explaining the purpose of the Rock and the parameters around what is acceptable to be painted on this, including a link to the University's Statement on Free Expression
    - Hamas is formally designated as a terrorist organization by the Government of Canada
    - It is important to connect members of the University community with supports
    - There are scholars at the University with expertise on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and this could provide educational opportunities

## 3. Approval of the August 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on August 30, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

#### 4. Institutional Enterprise Risk Management Program – Student Risk Review

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Janet Stein, Senior Director - Risk Management, and John Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reminded the Committee that the Board of Governors Audit Committee (AC) has oversight for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), that the Institutional ERM Program identifies ten institutional risks, and that one of these risks, the Student Risk (specifically: *risk arising from the inability to attract, recruit and retain high quality students to fulfil the University's mandate*), is assigned to the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC) for annual discussion. The presenters then highlighted some aspects of this year's Student Risk report, including:
  - The Student Risk is determined to remain at the 'yellow' (moderate) level
  - The new Trusted Institution Framework for Canada's student visa program may impact the arrival of international students at the University
  - The mitigation of risk relating to student retention is supported by the University's Life Design Hub and the Centre for Career and Personal Development, and a new Teaching Guide has been developed for faculty and instructors
  - In response to the rising cost of living and issues relating to affordability to students, a Campus Food Hub is opening this year and a review of the Residence Master Plan has launched
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Risks of suicide and physical harm are health, safety, and security risks
  - Discussions are ongoing with the City of Calgary regarding off-campus student housing, including about a secondary suites initiative and the potential for subsidized conversion of buildings to create affordable housing
  - The Student Risk report does not speak specifically to graduate student funding needs and the attraction of graduate student researchers to the University, but this is a priority for the University and representatives regularly speak to the federal government about this
  - Reference to online modality as a risk factor means that some students could choose competitor institutions that offer online course options. The Teaching and Learning Committee can discuss course modality options at the University.
- Discussion included that:
  - The report speaks to the attraction of high quality students but does not speak to the desire for diversity among these high quality students. The presenters indicated that this should be addressed in the Active Issues section of the report's appendices, and reported that the report was discussed with the Office of Indigenous Engagement and that the report will also in future be informed by the work of the President's Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA).
  - Most institutions have plans to expand undergraduate and graduate student enrolment and it will be necessary to make effort to positively differentiate the University. The presenters noted that the *Ahead of Tomorrow* institutional strategy speaks to the University's value proposition.

- Because there are overlaps, it might be helpful for the GFC EC to see the risk reports about the other nine institutional risks in addition to the Student Risk
- Following discussion, the presenters indicated that the Student Risk report will be finalised in consideration of the discussion by the GFC EC and then will be submitted to the AC

## **5. Review of the Draft November 2, 2023 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The committee reviewed both the draft November 2, 2023 and December 7, 2023 GFC agendas
- Discussion included:
  - The November 2, 2023 agenda is very light, and cancellation was recommended. In response to a question, it was reported that it is not uncommon for one GFC meeting to be cancelled in a semester due to lack of pressing business.
  - While the GFC will have a deep discussion of the Academic Plan and Research and Innovation Plan at the December meeting, it has consistently been heard that the December GFC meeting is a difficult one for members to attend in person and so switching this meeting from virtual modality to in-person modality was not supported. It was further noted that the published meeting schedule lists the December meeting as having virtual modality and some members will have planned accordingly for that. In response to a question, it was confirmed that having a blended in-person/virtual GFC meeting is not executable. It was suggested that engagement could be fostered by using some of the interactive features within Zoom.
- The University Secretary reported that the draft December 7, 2023 GFC agenda may evolve in the coming weeks, and the agenda will be reviewed again at the committee's November meeting

## **6. September 20, 2023 Meeting Notes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the October 18, 2023 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary