

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #108

A167/Zoom

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Sandra Davidson, Vice-Chair
Jessica Ayala
Jacqueline Jenkins*
Jeffrey Priest
Satish Raj
Aoife Mac Namara
Jessie Dinh

Non-voting Members

Kent Donlevy*

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Tara Beattie
Olive Chapman
Anna-Maria Hubert
Saaka Sulemana Saaka

**Attended virtually*

Secretary's Note: In accordance with the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws Section 8.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the August 28, 2024 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- The members of the GFC Executive Committee (the Committee) were welcomed to this first meeting of the 2024-2025 meeting year
- This is an important committee for GFC and University governance, as the Committee engages in critical discussions and conducting business on behalf of or recommending business to the GFC, and members are appreciated for their service

- Meetings of the U15 institutions have recently been held, and the local issues the Presidents are facing are interesting to hear about. Regardless of the outcome of the next federal election, the U15 institutions are well positioned and will with the government, and representatives are continuing advocacy efforts in Ottawa on the about the importance of postsecondary institutions and to position this sector in a good light and to be top of mind for elected officials.
- The Universities Canada Board of Directors is composed in part of 12 university Presidents. The University of Calgary President's term on this board is ending.
- Marc Miller, federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, is being asked to improve the student visas process
- Rajan Sawhney, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education, will be providing an update to the province's postsecondary Presidents and Board Chairs tomorrow about the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18). There remains hope that postsecondary institutions will be exempted from the requirement to obtain prior approval from the Alberta government before entering into or renewing agreements with the federal government (such as for research grants).

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- It has been an exciting summer of settling into the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) role and getting to know the University's leaders and their portfolios
- A special meeting of the GFC was held on July 10, 2024, and the Vice-Chair chaired this meeting
- Orientation for graduate students is being held today, orientation for new academic staff members is being held tomorrow, and orientation for undergraduate students will be held on Thursday and Friday this week
- The University's recruitment team hosted guidance counsellors from all over the world during Stampede in July. This initiative was successful and applauded, and these persons will be ambassadors for the University around the world.
- The Registrar's Office has launched a new classroom search tool, and members are encouraged to share this with others
- Aleem Bharwani, Academic Director of the UCalgary Pluralism Initiative, will be spearheading a series of campus dialogue sessions aiming to bring the University community back together through unpacking recent experiences (i.e., the impacts of geopolitical issues, the encampment) in a constructive way to co-create solutions

3. Committee Orientation and Nominations Guidelines

The *General Faculties Council Executive Committee Nomination and Appointment Guide* was circulated as a table document to support Committee members with their work. It was reported that this document will be made available on the Committee's D2L site, in the August 28, 2024 meeting folder and in the Resources section.

The University Secretary and Governance Coordinator then gave a presentation orienting the members to the work of the Committee, including:

- An overview of the University's governance structure; the membership, role, and responsibilities of the Committee and the expectations of members; educational resources available to members; and the supports provided to the Committee by the University Secretariat
- Explanation of the Committee's appointments and GFC elections nominations processes

- Encouragement to attend the full GFC and GFC Standing Committees Members Orientation session being offered on Thursday, September 12, 2024

Discussion included expressions of appreciation for the *Nomination and Appointment Guide*, and the University Secretary acknowledged Jacqueline Jenkins, Committee member, Joule Bergerson, past Committee member, and the Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) who had helped to produce this.

In response to a question, it was indicated that the University Secretariat can help units with governance work and that interested persons may attend the annual GFC and GFC Standing Committees Members Orientation session in order to learn about University governance and meeting practices.

4. Naming of the Academic Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no comments or questions.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee name Getachew Assefa, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, as the Academic Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS), for a term until June 30, 2026 or until their time on the APS ends, if that is sooner.

Carried

5. Appointment of One Member of GFC as a GFC Representative on the Senate

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights

- The Committee discussed:
 - The composition of the Senate, which includes Faculty representatives, General Faculties Council (GFC) representatives, and others
 - The desired characteristics of the GFC representatives to Senate, including University experience and engagement

The Committee named, in rank order, members of GFC to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve as a GFC representative on the Senate.

Secretary's Note: Following the meeting, Satish Raj, Cumming School of Medicine, agreed to serve and is deemed to be appointed by the Committee.

6. Appointment of Appeal Review Administrators

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve as Appeal Review Administrators.

Secretary's Note: Following the meeting, Mohammad Keyhani, Haskayne School of Business, Zack Marshall, Cumming School of Medicine, Ryan Peters, Faculty of Kinesiology, Terry Poucette, Faculty of Social Work, Cameron Semper, Cumming School of Medicine, and Caroline Tait, Faculty of Social Work, agreed to serve and were deemed to be appointed by the Committee.

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

Documentation 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 Nursing. The election will be held electronically following the October 10, 2024 GFC meeting.

8. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering

Documentation 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 Schulich School of Engineering. The election will be held electronically following the October 10, 2024 GFC meeting.

9. Review of the Draft October 10, 2024 GFC Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft October 10, 2024 GFC agenda
- There were no comments or questions

10. Revision to the 2024-2025 Academic Schedule (Spring 2025 Convocation Schedule)

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

Highlights:

- The Committee heard that an administrative change to the Spring 2025 Convocation Schedule has been made to accommodate an operational need for the Jack Simpson Gymnasium
- There were no comments or questions

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the August 28, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary