

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #109

A167/Zoom

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Sandra Davidson, Vice-Chair
Tara Beattie
Olive Chapman
Jessie Dinh
Anna-Maria Hubert
Jacqueline Jenkins
Aoife Mac Namara* – arrived during Item 1
Satish Raj
Saaka Sulemana Saaka

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Jessica Ayala
Jeffrey Priest

Non-Voting Members

Kent Donlevy*

Guests

John Alho, Associate Vice-President, Government Relations – present for Item 5
Nick Holt, Dean, Faculty of Kinesiology – present for Item 3
Janet Stein, Senior Director, Risk Management and Insurance – present for Item 5

**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 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Meeting Opening

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 16, 2024 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

1.2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Anna-Maria Hubert, academic staff member from the Faculty of Law, elected by the General Faculties Council (GFC), and Tara Beattie, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, appointed by Deans' Council, were welcomed to their first GFC Executive Committee meeting
- Meetings about the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18) have been held, including with the Premier, Minister of Advanced Education, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board, Calgary Caucus, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. The impacts of not exempting post-secondary institutions have been presented, and it has been communicated that the vast amount of federal research funding, such as from the Tri-Council and Canada Foundation for Innovation, has no political bent and that over \$200 million in funding is at stake. A compromise has been proposed, to have a threshold of \$10 million beyond which the Alberta Cabinet would need to approve a research project but research projects below this threshold would be exempt from Alberta Cabinet oversight. It should be known by January 2025 if an exemption for post-secondary institutions will be made.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The U15 Provosts recently met in Ottawa, and there was dialogue around shared challenges such as the impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on postsecondary operations and teaching and learning.
- A meeting was held with senior Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) leaders regarding how recent changes are impacting post-secondary institutions.
- The University's tuition consultation process is ongoing, and a 'What We Heard' report will be prepared.
- Three decanal searches are currently underway, for a Dean of the Faculty of Law, the Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, and the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing.
- A Circle of Advisors meeting is being held October 17, 2024.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Information about the proportional impacts of the Provincial Priorities Act on graduate student research can be provided to the Graduate Students' Association.
- There is awareness that, in addition to the IRCC changes, current diplomatic tensions with countries including China and India may impact enrolment at the University. Enrolment data shows that the University has approximately 650 fewer international students in Fall 2024. Meetings with IRCC leaders will continue, to learn about whether current students will be impacted and to express encouragement for the IRCC to adopt its Recognized Institutions Framework program. Some Faculties, such as the Schulich School of Engineering which has many students from India, have been disproportionately affected, and representatives of the University will continue to promote the University as a place for students to come.

It was discussed that there is a backlog in students getting visa approval, in part because of diplomatic office closures, and meeting the language requirement can also delay the admission process. These barriers need to be addressed.

2. Approval of the August 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on August 28, 2024 be approved.

Carried**3. Approval of Revisions to the Faculty of Kinesiology Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Nick Holt, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent explained that the Faculty of Kinesiology's Faculty Council Terms of Reference was out of date and needed updating, and then highlighted the changes being proposed, including to the membership and language.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Faculty of Kinesiology sees very good participation in its Faculty Council meetings.
 - The Faculty of Kinesiology has five operational units: Active Living, Dinos Athletics, the Olympic Oval, the Outdoor Centre, and the Sport Medicine Centre. The Faculty Council decided to make the directors of these units members of the Faculty Council because there are connections between the academic and operational work of the Faculty.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Faculty of Kinesiology Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried**4. Nominations for Election by GFC of Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-President (Research)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

It was explained that an advisory review committee typically meets twice, once to confirm the review process and once to review the feedback received, to interview the incumbent, and to make a recommendation to President. If renewal is not recommended, then the process to start a search commences.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to stand for election to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-President (Research). The election will be held electronically following the process set out in Section 8.3 of the GFC Bylaws.

Secretary's Note: Brianne Burkinshaw, Faculty of Science, and Sheri Madigan, Faculty of Arts, were elected.

5. Institutional Enterprise Risk Management Program – Student Risk Review

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

Highlights:

- The presenters reminded members of the Institutional Enterprise Risk Management Program process, reviewed the current Student Risk status and relative ranking, and described risk mitigations being undertaken such as improved health and mental health resources. The presenters noted that the recent IRCC changes are not factored into this year's report as the report is backward looking.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The 2024 institutional risk rankings will soon be conducted by the Enterprise Risk Management Committee (ERMC). The report being presented today relates to the ERMC's Fall 2023 rankings.
 - The Student Risk moved from a ranking of six in 2022 to four in 2023 in part because there is uncertainty about how recent issues, including affordability and immigration, will impact students.
 - The University is proactively identifying risks that need focused attention and planning mitigations against these risks. The yellow (moderate) status of the Student Risk means that it is considered that the program is having positive impact.
 - The Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy contains metrics and evaluative processes to assess the effectiveness of efforts to help students.
 - Several of the 10 institutional risks are interrelated, and the Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Governor's Audit Committee look at the 10 in totality.
 - The status of each of the 10 institutional risks is assessed individually. The 10 institutional risks are relatively ranked in terms of likelihood to occur and severity of impact.
- Discussion included that:
 - Risks to attracting students to the University include available and affordable housing, health and mental health supports, and funding and financial aid, and that all of these need to be considered. The presenters confirmed that the assessment of the overall risk status considers all of these factors.
 - The University's budget is impacted by factors such as reduced funding from the provincial government and decreased revenue from international students, and this should be considered when assessing the potential for negative student experiences. The presenters indicated that funding and the business environment are among the 10 institutional risks.

6. Review of the Draft November 7, 2024 GFC Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft November 7, 2024 GFC agenda, hearing that there are no action or discussion items being tracked for this meeting.
- The Committee determined that:
 - The November 7, 2024 GFC meeting should be cancelled, out of respect for members' time.
 - The December 5, 2024 GFC meeting should be held in-person

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University Secretariat will determine where the December 5, 2024 GFC meeting can be held, either in BI 587 (the room to be used for GFC meetings going forward, once a minor renovation is done) or ST 147 (the normal room used for GFC meetings).
 - The attendance at virtual GFC meetings is higher than for in-person meetings, but engagement is not as high. The 2025-2026 meeting schedule will be brought to the Committee in February, at which time the modality of the GFC meetings can be discussed.
 - It is hoped that moving to the new GFC meeting room, BI 587, will address some of the concerns expressed in member surveys, such as the acoustics.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the October 16, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary