

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #111

A167/Zoom

Voting Members

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

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Satish Raj

Non-Voting Members

Kent Donlevy*

Guests

Anders Nygren, Interim Dean, Schulich School of Engineering – present for item 3
Catherine Laing, Interim Dean, Faculty of Nursing – present for item 4

**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. Meeting Opening

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the January 15, 2025 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:

- The University's team has been gathering information that it is anticipated that the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness will need. The panel is led by Jack Mintz and will begin meeting soon, with a report expected in July. The report will inform the Treasury Board. The University's team hopes that a new funding model for the postsecondary system in Alberta will result from this work.
- The University's budget will be finalised in March. It is not yet known how external factors, such as possible tariffs, may impact the provincial government's budget and thus the University's funding. Representatives of the University continue to communicate the value of the University as a provincial investment.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The search processes for Deans of the Faculty of Law, Schulich School of Engineering, and Faculty of Nursing are progressing well.
- The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Mental Health, and Sustainability units have been combined into an Institutional Commitments Unit. Selection of an Executive Director for the new unit is underway.
- The Faculty of Nursing is moving to a lottery-based admission process which was approved through institutional governance culminating with the Academic and Planning Priorities Committee, with successful applicants to be randomly drawn from a pool of applicants.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness is an opportunity for the postsecondary funding formula to be examined, and the University's leadership is hopeful for an improved funding formula. The University is the most administratively efficient postsecondary institution in Alberta and compares very well to other institutions in the U15, and data will show that it would be difficult for the University to become more efficient.
- Other Faculties are not yet adopting a lottery admissions model, but there is opportunity for Faculties to consider doing this following learnings from the launch in the Faculty of Nursing.
- Lottery admission differs from other admission models, such as interview-based admission and entrance examinations, in that bias and other flaws are not factors. All students in the lottery pool will be qualified applicants. Nursing programs are capped and there is currently the situation of having many qualified applicants for each available seat, and so many qualified applicants are being turned away. The lottery system means that all qualified students have the same chance to be admitted. The students with the highest academic record are not necessarily going to be great nurses or even stay in the field as many currently use it on the path to medical school and so the lottery admissions system is considered to be better than the traditional top-down model.
- It is expected that the lottery admission pool will be diverse, and persons from equity-deserving groups will be encouraged to apply, but there will remain other pathways to admission to the Faculty of Nursing such as the Indigenous student pathway.

2. Approval of the November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on November 20, 2024 be approved.

Carried**3. Approval of Revisions to the Schulich School of Engineering Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Anders Nygren, Interim Dean, Schulich School of Engineering, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent described that the revisions to the Schulich School of Engineering's Faculty Council Terms of Reference (TOR) include having one of the Students' Union (SU) Faculty Representatives for Engineering in the membership, tidying the formatting, and updating to the new template language.
- The Committee agreed that the SU should appoint the Faculty Representative for Engineering without proceeding through the Schulich School of Engineering Striking Committee and requested this amendment be made to the TOR.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Schulich School of Engineering Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried**4. Approval of Revisions to the Faculty of Nursing Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Catherine Laing, Interim Dean, Faculty of Nursing, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent described that the revisions to the Faculty of Nursing's Faculty Council TOR update the language to the new template.
- Discussion included:
 - Identification of a typographical error in section 7.2.
 - The Committee agreed that the SU Faculty Representative for Nursing be shifted from being an invited guest to being a voting member of the Faculty Council and requested this amendment be made to the TOR. It was noted that other Faculty Councils have students as voting members and so this is not a major change. The University Secretary confirmed that the Committee can make this revision and that this can be reported back to the Faculty Council.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Faculty of Nursing Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried**5. Approval of Revisions to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and Teaching and Learning Committee Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the revisions to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) and Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) TOR include:
 - Language in both the APPC and TLC TOR is being updated to reflect the recent structural changes at the University; and
 - Reference to the Qatar Faculty is being proactively removed from the TLC TOR in anticipation of its winddown this year.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee, effective immediately, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried**6. Recommendation of the Dissolution of the University of Calgary in Qatar (the Qatar Faculty)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the State of Qatar has achieved capacity to deliver its own Nursing programs and so it is now time to close the University's Qatar Faculty. The agreement with the State of Qatar to deliver Nursing programs in Qatar was extended until August 31, 2025 to allow for admitted students to complete their degrees in May and for wrap-up to occur, and the agreement will not be renewed.
- In response to a question, it was reported that some faculty and staff will return to Calgary, some will remain in Qatar, and some will go elsewhere. The University is assisting with these transitions.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC recommend that the Board of Governors approve the dissolution of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), effective August 31, 2025, as presented to the Committee.

Carried

7. Recommendation of the Establishment of the 2025-2026 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that, in anticipation of the upcoming closure of the Qatar Faculty, the Qatar Faculty was not included in the 2025-2026 GFC elected membership distribution calculation done by the Office of Institutional Analysis. The calculation results in the Schulich School of Engineering gaining one academic staff member seat. The proponent reminded that this calculation is done annually and is done early in the year in order to allow time for Faculties to conduct their elections before new members start July 1.
- In response to a question, it was explained that the distribution of elected academic staff member seats on GFC is proportional to the Faculty populations.

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

8. Appointment of an Academic Staff Member to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee named, in rank order, academic staff members to be approached by the University Secretariat to serve on the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG).

Secretary's Note: Following the meeting, Jacob Lamb, Schulich School of Engineering, agreed to serve and was deemed to be appointed by the Committee.

9. Review of the Draft February 6, 2025 GFC Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft February 6, 2025 GFC agenda.
- It was reported that the meeting will be held in the new meeting space, BI 587, if the renovation is complete.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the January 15, 2025 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary