



General Faculties Council  
**Executive Committee**  
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting #112

A167/Zoom

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**Voting Members**

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

**Secretary**

Courtney McVie

**Scribe**

Elizabeth Sjogren

**Regrets**

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Jacqueline Jenkins

**Non-Voting Members**

Kent Donlevy\*

**Guests**

Amy Burns, Acting Dean, Werklund School of Education – present for item 3  
Sarah Louw, Senior Legal Counsel – present for item 4  
Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services – present for item 4  
Paula Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence – present for item 4

*\*Attended virtually*

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*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 Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., confirmed quorum, and presented a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

**1. Meeting Opening**

**1.1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the February 12, 2025 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

### 1.2. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Three decanal searches are well underway, for a Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, and Dean of the Faculty of Law. The search for a Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) will launch soon.
- The second annual First-Generation Networking Night, an event to empower and inspire first-in-family students, was held February 4, 2025. The event included engagement opportunities for students, alumni, staff, and faculty, and a panel discussion with panelists sharing authentically about their postsecondary learning experiences.
- The University of Alberta recently rebranded its DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) policy to ACB (access, community and belonging). There are a variety of recent publications about the shift away from DEI language in postsecondary, political, and other spheres. The University of Calgary's leadership is currently focused on the work to ensure a positive campus culture as labels such as DEI can be a source of distraction and there is a lot of misinformation that needs to be countered.

### 2. Approval of the January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on January 15, 2025 be approved.

**Carried**

### 3. Approval of Revisions to the Werklund School of Education Faculty Council Terms of Reference

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Amy Burns, Acting Dean, Werklund School of Education, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the revisions to the Werklund School of Education's Faculty Council Terms of Reference (TOR) include specifying that the Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) Council will appoint the LCR representative, setting a six-year term limit for appointed members, removing the erroneous "Faculty of" words throughout, and updating the language to the new Faculty Council TOR template.
- Discussion included:
  - In response to a question, it was explained that the Faculty Council and Faculty Council Committee model was established to support business moving forward.
  - The Committee discussed the difference between this model and simply lowering the quorum threshold for a Faculty Council that regularly struggles to achieve quorum. The Secretariat will undertake an exploration of the two different approaches.
- In response to questions, it was reported that the Werklund School of Education only occasionally does not achieve quorum at Faculty Council meetings. If quorum is not achieved, it is practice to either move an item to the next meeting or to hold an electronic vote if an item is time sensitive. Establishing a Faculty Council Committee is not wanted.

- Two amendments to the TOR were supported by the EC: that the Students' Union elected Faculty Representative for Education be added as a voting member of the Faculty Council and that a grammatical error in the document be corrected.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Werklund School of Education Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee and with the requested amendments.

**Carried****4. Recommendation of Revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sarah Louw, Senior Legal Counsel, Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services, and Paula Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents described the revisions made to the policy as a result of the feedback received during the consultation process.
- In response to a question, it was reported that supports are available to all persons in the University community, including if a case involves a visiting scholar.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the GFC recommend that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, effective July 1, 2025.

**Carried****5. Appointment of One Academic Staff Member to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee**

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 Planning and Priorities Committee, for a term to begin immediately.

*Secretary's Note: Following the meeting, Ari Pandes, Haskayne School of Business, agreed to serve and was deemed to be appointed by the Committee.*

**6. Nominations for Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- In response to a question, it was explained that the selection process will begin with a town hall to be held next week and that the process is expected to conclude by the end of May.

- The Committee directed that it is desired to produce a ballot with two males and two females and that no Faculty be duplicated on the ballot.

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 the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning). The election will be held electronically immediately following the March 6, 2025 GFC meeting.

## **7. 2025 GFC Member Survey**

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that it is proposed that the members of GFC receive a survey again in 2025, that the survey take the same form as the 2024 survey (Likert questions and comment boxes), that the survey be launched in April in order that the current student members can participate, and that time be given after the in-person April meeting of GFC for members to complete the survey. It was reported that the survey results would be synthesised and reported to GFC at the June meeting.
- In response to questions, it was stated that:
  - The GFC standing committees are regularly asked to assess their performance and satisfaction through means such as surveys and roundtable discussions.
  - In the recent past, a moderated session was used to gather feedback from GFC members rather than issuing a survey.
  - It is encouraged that some form of evaluation be conducted with Faculty Council members. The Qualtrics survey used for the GFC survey can be shared with Deans for adaptation.
- During discussion, it was suggested that:
  - Question 8, which asks if there were any barriers to a member's engagement and attendance, be a yes/no question in addition to having the space for the member to describe the nature of the barrier(s).
  - Question 10, which asks what a member would like to see done differently over the coming year, be rephrased to ask what could be done to enhance a member's experience.
- It was reported that the space that is being refurbished for GFC meetings, BI 587, should be ready for the April meeting.
- It was indicated that the finalised survey questions will be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting for approval.

## **8. Review of the Draft March 6, 2025 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft March 6, 2025 GFC agenda.
- It was reported that that the meeting will be held by virtual modality, as scheduled.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the February 12, 2025 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary