

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting #113

A167/Zoom

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**Voting Members**

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Sandra Davidson, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Ayala – arrived during Item 1  
Olive Chapman  
Jessie Dinh  
Anna-Maria Hubert  
Jacqueline Jenkins\* – arrived during Item 1  
Aoife Mac Namara\*  
Jeffrey Priest  
Satish Raj  
Saaka Sulemana Saaka\* – arrived during Item 4

**Secretary**

Courtney McVie

**Scribe**

Elizabeth Sjogren

**Regrets**

Tara Beattie

**Non-Voting Members**

Kent Donlevy\*

**Guests**

Justine Wheeler, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for item 5

*\*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 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 March 12, 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 provincial budget was announced on February 27, 2025. Representatives of the University continue to talk with the provincial government about the importance of the postsecondary sector and supporting students.
- Decisions around the implementation of the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (formerly Bill 18) are positive for the University, as the majority of the University's agreements will be exempted from the Act including for research funding, student employment, experiential learning and work experience, official languages, continuing education and instructional programming, non-instructional events such as conferences, fee-for-service contracts, and short-term rentals.
- University leadership is watching to see if/how the Real Property Governance Act, 2024 (formerly Bill 13) and the Education Amendment Act, 2024 (formerly Bill 27) will impact the institution.
- The Dinos track and field and swimming teams had successes last weekend, and the men's basketball team won the Canada West Championship. The University will be hosting the National Championship next year as part of the University's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.
- University leadership is following the potential United States/Canada tariffs and their possible impacts especially including to current and future infrastructure spending. The University is coordinated with the U15 and Universities Canada and will ensure that any federal programs related to this will be accessed.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University is currently recruiting for five Canada Excellence Research Chair positions, with a search consultancy firm helping to identify top candidates. The five areas of strategic focus selected are: Hydrogen Energy, Living Medicines - Microbes, Mountain Water Security, Neuromorphic Computing Systems, and Quantum Computer Architecture.
- The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Awards event was held March 5, 2025. It was enjoyable to celebrate a range of recipients, including awards for undergraduate and graduate students, leaders, academic and other staff, postdoctoral scholars, and institutional teams.
- As part of International Women's Day events, a panel discussion including University leaders was held March 7, 2025 at the Calgary Central Library with the theme of 'Leadership and Empowerment for All Women and Girls'.
- The annual Western Vice-Presidents Academic and Vice Presidents Research Conference was held March 5-7, 2025. Participants discussed common current matters including Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the postsecondary environment, the changing landscape of EDIA, and Indigenization and decolonization.

## 2. Approval of the February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on February 12, 2025 be approved.

**Carried**

### 3. Approval of the 2025 GFC Member Survey

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed survey incorporates the revisions suggested by the Committee at the last meeting, that it is intended to launch the survey near the end of the April 3, 2025 GFC meeting, and that a copy of the Qualtrics version of the survey will be made available to Deans so it can be adapted for use as a Faculty Council member survey if desired.
- There were no questions.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the 2025 GFC member survey and process, in the form provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

### 4. Approval of Revisions to the 2025-2026 GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedule and the 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed revisions to the 2025-2026 meeting schedule improve the flow of business from one committee to another, and that the proposed 2026-2027 meeting schedule is laid out in the same pattern.
- Discussion included:
  - Where the new GFC meeting space, BI587, is located on the main campus
  - Whether the post-pandemic model of having the GFC meetings alternate between in-person and virtual modality should continue.
    - The multi-screen display of participants makes it difficult to see all fellow GFC members during a virtual meeting.
    - Engagement appears to be higher during in-person GFC meetings, and discussions are found to be more robust in in-person meetings.
    - Holding in-person meetings is good for rebuilding the campus culture.
    - The virtual GFC meetings have been good for accessibility, as some GFC members are not from the main campus.
    - In response to a question, it was reported that BI587 does have better technology features than the current meeting space, but the same concerns about effectiveness exist and it is still not ideal to hold GFC meetings in a hybrid manner as the same concerns raised about multi-screen display of participants and other limitations still exist.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The standing committee meetings will continue to be held in hybrid modality because the bodies are

relatively small and because the meeting space, A167, is equipped to allow for effective virtual participation.

- There is no requirement that the University return to fully in-person meetings.
- It is desired to communicate the modality of GFC meetings well in advance so that members can plan, and so the suggestion to switch any meetings with lighter agendas to virtual modality, while appealing, is not feasible as the agenda sometimes does not finalise until around the time of the upload one week ahead of a meeting.
- In the event of a storm or other incident that would impact GFC members being able to safely attend an in-person meeting, the meeting could be switched to virtual modality.
- The Committee decided that the GFC meetings will return to being scheduled as in-person only, starting with the 2025-2026 meeting year, and that the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 schedules should be amended to reflect this.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee approve the revisions to the 2025-2026 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedule, and the proposed 2026-2027 GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedule, in the forms provided to the Committee and with the requested amendment.

**Carried**

### **5. Revisions to the General Faculties Council (GFC) Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Justine Wheeler, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook are lighter housekeeping revisions only this year because the Collective Agreement is currently under negotiation, and that more substantive revisions including to align with the new Collective Agreement will be made next year. The proponent then described the current proposed revisions, including updating Human Resources to People and Culture, updating people's titles, defining majority vote, revising the description of Faculty selection process record keeping practices, clarifying the Academic Appointment Selection Committee member responsibilities, describing practices relating to recording candidate interviews, removing the requirement for annual reporting of strategic hires as this reporting is done in other ways, and providing that a Dean may delegate participation in some hiring processes.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The language around "majority vote" in C.3.1.9 mirrors the language in the Collective Agreement.
  - There is usually more than one candidate interview in the academic appointment selection process, and it is intended that a selection committee member abstain from voting if they did not participate in or review the recording of all interviews.
- It was suggested that section C.3.1.9 be revised to read "*A voting member who did not attend in real time or review a recording of a candidate's interview...*". Using the words "in real time" (or similar) adds desired clarity but allows for members to participate in-person or virtually.

**6. Review of the Draft April 3, 2025 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the draft April 3, 2025 GFC agenda.
- There were no questions or suggestions for revision.
- It was reported that it is expected that the renovations will be complete, and the meeting will be held in the new GFC meeting space, BI587.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Adjournment****Moved/Seconded**

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

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary