

**Voting Members** present with Dr. Daniel Doz in the chair were the following: Dr. Alex Link, Jamie Leong-Huxley, Scott Powell, René Martin, Nicole Hamilton, Susie Kennedy, John Gaucher, Silas Kaufman, Mitch Kern, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Bryan Cera, Tyler Rock, Lisa Lipton, Richard Brown, Rita McKeough, Justin Waddell, Dr. Christopher Frey, Dr. Yoke-Sum Wong, Portia Scabar, Graham Boyd, Ian FitzGerald

**Regrets:** Sarah Alford, Suzanne Lemermeyer, Barbara Sutherland

**GFC Resource Members:** Carissa Cameron Matthews, Director, Academic Resources; Tammy Paul, GFC Resource; Andrea Power, Secretary, General Faculties Council; Nenyó Kwasitsu, GFC Resource

**Guest:** Kurtis Lesick, School Director, SCEM

**Observers:** Gurman Sahota, SA Executive Director; Kim Neutens, Dean of Students

The Chair read the acknowledgement of the Land, called the meeting to order at 2:01pm, addressed housekeeping items and confirmed quorum. The Chair then welcomed GFC members, guests, and observers to the GFC meeting.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council approve the January 19, 2022 agenda, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2021**

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council approve the draft minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising from the December 15, 2021 GFC approved minutes**

The Chair noted one item for business arising. Dr. Alex Link spoke to this one item - mid-term grading in the Undergraduate Course Management Procedure – noting that student expectations of receiving mid-term grade and the associated format. 3.1.10, 3.2.1, 3.2.4 of the Procedure notes that mid-term grades, when given, should be in writing. The procedures are silent on requiring mid-term grades. The Procedure is not clear whether courses with multiple assignments should give mid-term grades. It was noted that there is a need for the Academic Policy Committee to clarify these provisions. Specific comments/queries on the procedure can be addressed to Susie Kennedy, Chair, Academic Policy Committee.

**4. Report from the President and CEO**

The President provided a verbal report, and the following was noted:

- **Winter 2022 and Covid-19 Update**

There were December 21, 2021 discussions with other Post-Secondary Institution Presidents and the Deputy Minister on the dangers of the Covid-19 Omicron variant. At that time, there was no change to current Covid guidelines. AUArts decided to delay the return to campus by a couple of weeks and teach online. In early January, discussion around a definition of what a full vaccination began. Nothing around the current understanding of what a full vaccination is in Alberta had changed at that time. Subsequently, the decision was made to delay return to campus especially for institutions with larger classes having to keep larger classes online until the end of February at the least.

For AUArts studio classes, for example, require students to be on campus to receive quality education. In the absence of new public health guidelines, considering the management of AUArts during the 2021 Fall semester, things look positive. The President noted that outbreaks tend to happen in more unstructured environments and not in structured settings like classrooms. A hybrid approach with some courses in SCCS, being larger, will remain online and smaller, studio-based classes, will be held in person. The President noted that the situation remains extremely fluid, and things could change quickly.

- **Updated Senior Administrative and Senior Academic Organization Chart**

A PowerPoint presentation was provided to illustrate progress. There is a need for re-structuring with the former VP Administration leaving, as well as a major retirement last year, it is important to use this opportunity to streamline things and the budget. The President noted that the new chart is built on a former model that pre-dates the VP Administrator tenure at AUArts.

- **Student Application Update**

The President noted an increase in total student applications by 12%. Overall, there is a 24% increase in international student applications. Art stream and Indigenous student applications remain unchanged. Recruitment have been doing an excellent job. There was discussion about the number of Full Load Equivalent (FLE) for the academic year and student numbers. There is a plan to bring up 900 FLEs for next Fall to reverse the downward slide of student enrolment. Information related to FLE will be provided at the next GFC meeting as a matter arising.

## 5. Report from AVP Academic Affairs

The Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs verbally reported, and the following was noted:

- The Undergraduate Degree Review Work Group (UDRW), with a focus on the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, is still in consultation with faculty over the next few weeks. Appreciation to the committee for the ongoing work.
- GFC can expect to see this item for discussion later in February or March.
- Historically, the Winter term does not have much business for School Councils, so the first school council meetings are happening in March. Informal faculty meetings or discussions will take place for smaller issues, if necessary. If an urgent meeting is required, faculty can always call one.
- Sessional faculty are invited to informal faculty meetings and their input is welcome and Sessional faculty have been meeting and discussing the UDRW proposal.

## 6. AUArts Students' Association Report

The President of the Student Association provided a written report, and the following was noted:

- The Student Association have prioritized wellness and rest over the break.
- Programming is beginning to ramp up and they have put out calls and submissions for events.

## 7. GFC representative to the Board Report

The GFC representative to the Board of Governors provided a written report and the following was noted:

- The representative read the written report and informed GFC members that the Board Annual Report has been published on the AUArts website.

## 8. Steering Committee: Revised MFA in Craft Media Program Committee Terms of Reference

The GFC Chair and School Director, SCEM spoke to the motion, noting that:

- The key revision is intended to clarify committee membership, so it is consistent with the procedure for assigning faculty committee workload with a clear fixed term and clear rationale.
- The Consolidated Graduate Studies Procedure will be revised by Spring 2022.
- A notation will be placed on the Policy page indicating the Procedure is under review.
- Substantive changes are membership related, with longer and more stable terms.

As recommended by the GFC Steering Committee:

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council approve the revised MFA in Craft Media Program Committee Terms of Reference, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

In discussion of the documents, the following was noted:

- The former Terms of Reference were not aligned previously with undergraduate programs, but this current version is and there will be no change in student recruitment.
- 10 students are currently enrolled in the MFA, although the target is 24. There are some issues with the ability to fully support that number.
- The new Terms of Reference provides clarification on composition of members of the committee.

## 9. Academic Policy Committee (APC):

### 9.1 Revised Undergraduate Transfer Credit Procedure

The procedure and the corresponding section in the University Calendar will be updated to improve clarity for students and staff with a focus on how a credit course with a 'P' grade transfers into AUArts.

As recommended by the Academic Policy Committee:

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Revised Undergraduate Transfer Credit Procedure, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

In discussion of the documents, the following was noted:

- P, as a pass grade, has been a more prevalent grade during the pandemic. Implementing this change could positively impact enrolment as it will be easier for students to use transfer credits for courses they have already taken and receive the grade of 'C'.

## 9.2 Revised Undergraduate Final Grading Procedure

The Academic Policy Committee has prepared edits and updates for the undergraduate final grading procedure and the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar to improve clarity for both students, instructors, and staff. Specific updates include:

- clarify the implications of an “I” grade in terms of meeting course prerequisites and in meeting graduation eligibility.
- clarify the calculation of the GPA.
- Adding in a conferral of credential for MFA in the fall term. Awarding of the credential will show on the transcript on that date. Those ‘fall’ graduates are invited to the May ceremony where they will receive their parchment.
- Provide guidelines for the student and instructor for requests for and assessment of a request for a Coursework Extension.

As recommended by the Academic Policy Committee:

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Revised Undergraduate Final Grading Procedure, as amended.***

**CARRIED**

It was noted that convocation may not always be in May each year. There was a request for an amendment to the procedure - page 66 of the full meeting document part f. - to replace the word ‘May’ with ‘Spring’ in 3.1.f.

**Moved / Seconded**

***THAT the General Faculties Council amend the Revised Undergraduate Final Grading Procedure, section 3.1.f by replacing the two words ‘May’ with the word ‘Spring’.***

**CARRIED**

In discussion of the documents, the following was noted:

- There was a request for clarification on the use of the word ‘compassionate.’ For guidance, faculty are encouraged to contact the Registrar’s Office.

## 10. Update: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce

The Co-Chair of the Taskforce verbally provided an update on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce and the following was noted:

- Met yesterday to review progress so far and have unanimously agreed on a research methodology.
- Will communicate the agreed research methodology to the consultant, Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA), when they meet and plan strategy as they have decided on a change in ordering of research. Plan to begin with a smaller sample size for the interviews, reaching across various categories of community, students, staff, limited to internal, but externals will have the opportunity to contribute in public discussions to come.
- HESA may be able to conclude by the end of the 2022 Winter semester.
- Clarification that the interview does not follow traditional academic research means, so there is no requirement to go before the Ethics Committee.
- Provision has/will be made to ensure the Indigenous community and other diverse groups are included.
- HESA will put together a plan and share with the taskforce to ensure proper community representation.

- There will be regular updates to the GFC.

#### **11. Other Business**

The Chair noted that no other business was received in advance. He encouraged members to submit any questions in advance to the GFC Secretary. Questions regarding the Indigenous Framework included:

- The Indigenous community is continuing to be consulted about the Indigenous framework/strategy and there is an Elders Council meeting planned for tomorrow where further discussion will take place.
- Indigenous representation on HESA is something they will look at and report to GFC. There have been three focus groups with the Indigenous peer mentor and Indigenous students. Elder Casey, Indigenous instructor, Troy Patenaude, have been working on this. Elder Casey and Mary Anne Forbes, Coordinator, Indigenous Student Community, would like to re-engage students to bring in more local elements to inform classes. Three students have volunteered to help.

#### **12. School Council Report**

There were no approved meeting minutes included in meeting package for the School Councils or the MFA in Craft Media Program Committee (MFA in CM). As there were no meetings of School Councils in January, it was noted that should any serious issues crop up before the first school council meetings in March, a meeting could always be called.

#### **13. Deans' Council**

The Chair noted there will be a Dean's Council meeting next week and a report will be provided at the next meeting of the GFC.

#### **14. Adjournment**

The January 19, 2022 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm. The next GFC meeting will be held on February 16, 2022.