

**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, Sarah Alford, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Suzanne Lemermeier, Barbara Sutherland, Bryan Cera, Tyler Rock, Lisa Lipton, Richard Brown, Rita McKeough, Justin Waddell, Dr. Christopher Frey, Dr. Yoke-Sum Wong, Portia Scabar, Ian FitzGerald

**Regrets:** Graham Boyd

**GFC Resource Members:** Andrea Power, Secretary to General Faculties Council; Tammy Paul, E.A. President and CEO; Carissa Matthews, Director, Office of the Provost; Nenyio Kwasitsu, Coordinator of Research and Academic Affairs recording secretary

**Guests:** Naoko Masuda, Director, School of Communication Design; Kim Neutens, Dean of Students

**Observers:** Gurman Sahota, Student Association Executive Director; Mary Ann Forbes, Coordinator, Indigenous Student Community; Lisa Cerny, Educational Art Technician - Glass

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 February 16, 2022 agenda, as presented.*

*Carried*

### **2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2022**

moved / seconded

*THAT the General Faculties Council approve the draft minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting, as presented.*

*Carried*

### **3. Business Arising from the January 19, 2022 approved minutes**

#### **3.1 FLE Student Count**

The Director of Academic Resources provided a briefing note on this item and how the count was derived.

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

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

#### **Covid-19 Update**

The Alberta government has updated its pandemic restrictions with a plan to remove most of the restrictions including vaccine mandates by March 1, removing the mask mandate, and has lifted the work from home order. The President is planning a communique to the community by the end of week with the goal of keeping the population as safe as possible. So far, there is no case yet originating from the campus and cases usually stem

from external sources. The way the Spring term will go will be evaluated by the end of March, noting that most post-secondary institutions are lifting restrictions by next Monday.

### **Budget Assumptions**

Finalizing budget assumptions includes estimating enrolment numbers especially with pandemic restrictions lifted on travel, etc. Other points being considered are an estimated 4% increase in utilities including inflation, government grants reducing by \$910K. The Director, Academic Resources, Vice President, Finance and Operations and Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs have a meeting regarding the Investment Management Agreement (IMA) next week to discuss this further. Metrics like employed graduates, skills learned, administration expense ratio and domestic enrolment will be reported on at the next meeting.

### **Stimulating Meetings for Robust Discussions**

There is general fatigue around the numerous online meetings. Discussions have begun around raising and encouraging dialogue and exchanging ideas, which previously occurred. GFC is encouraged to think about how this can happen more post-pandemic.

### **Convocation 2022**

There will be an in-person convocation in May 2022. There will be an announcement going out soon to that effect, considering if there will be some restrictions while maintaining safety.

### **5. Report from AVP Academic Affairs**

The Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs provided a verbal report. The following was noted:

- Faculty Professional Affairs Funding applications have been extended to February 28 due to the comparatively low numbers of applicants so far and the fact that faculty may not have been aware of the original deadline.
- The process for rank promotion adjudication is ongoing, slated to take place first week in March.
- Discussions with schools on 300 level programs ongoing.
- Meetings with other independent colleges of art across Canada and the US discussing the complexity of online teaching, learning and integrity in studio-based institutions.
- Participation in meeting with the Canadian Association of Fine Arts Deans tomorrow.
- The Calgary Board of Education Fine Arts Education Council maintains a roster of artists and designers. Please let the AVP, Academic Affairs or your school director know if a GFC member wants to be involved.

### **6. AUArts Students' Association (SA) Report**

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

- The Student Association has increased fees for health and dental coverage, about 70% of the student body is using the plan.
- Updating their bylaws, policies and procedures.
- There have been a few changes in their programming such as extending the deadline for Angry Artists.
- The Association's current capacity is a little lower than usual due to members getting sick from Covid.

### **7. GFC representative to the Board Report**

There was no verbal report as the next Board meeting will follow the GFC meeting today.

### **8. Revised Program Proposal: Bachelor of Design:**

The Director, School of Communication Design verbally reported, and the following were noted:

- The Student Association had concerns around electivity (already flagged) and pathways.

- The work done so far is appreciated.
- It was clarified that subject to the rules, students who apply for Design after first year are asked about their intentions around studies after first year, these numbers were taken into consideration in putting together the program proposal. It should be noted that the language of these questions is not very clear, moreover the answers are not required. The plan is to continue to collect data with the proposed change.
- With the lifting of physical restrictions, the plan is to admit 132 students to the program. This takes into account melt between second and third years. It is necessary to overcommit in the Summer to make room for late students or those originally waitlisted.
- In terms of Transfer and Articulation Agreements, external transfer students will still need to apply with their portfolios.

#### **9. Presentation: AUArts Learner and Enrollment Demographics 2015-21**

The Director, Academic Resources shared a PowerPoint presentation which will be sent to GFC members, and the following were noted:

- The focus was on understanding student personas.
- The government uses this data to coordinate AUArts' numbers, prevent double counting of students if they transfer between institutions, note graduations rates from admit dates to actual graduation dates, study students' educational paths through the Albertan system.
- There is a meeting slated for March 3 where more information re IMA will be forthcoming.
- Student dropout rates are quite high right now. Some data may be gleaned from their grades – those who had good grades but left and those who just dropped out. In collaboration with the Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC), there should be some useful provincial data from planned first year surveys across the province and Canada.
- It was clarified that Indigenous students are reported two ways as some self-identify and others do not, making up a unique student count.
- There was a shared observation of what appeared to be an anomaly – there were higher retention rates in 2018. There will be further research into retention for 2020/21.

#### **10. Steering Committee: Revision to GFC and GFC Standing Committee Composition**

The GFC Steering Committee report was included in the meeting package, the following were noted:

- The President asked that each standing committee has been asked to review their membership composition with a vision to fully implement changes for July 1, 2022.
- EDI and Indigenous Strategy is to be taken into consideration.
- The University Secretary will send out a working spreadsheet of current memberships of other committees although some titles have changed and for now nothing is set in stone.
- Comments and feedback actively sought on composition between faculty and administration.
- There is no discussion for now about changing the GFC membership beyond 29, but this could change during the review.

#### **11. Update: Undergraduate Review Work Group (UDRW): Revised BFA Program**

The AVP, Academic Affairs, verbally reported, and the following was noted:

- Consultation ongoing for degree restructuring and the plan is for GFC to receive the proposal in the coming months and vote on or before May 2022.
- The UDRW chair met with Elder Casey who reported that the other elders were enthused about the proposal for their increased presence in classrooms and look forward to further discussion.
- The second questionnaire has been sent out and feedback collated.

- Diversity of disciplines and re-examining recruitment strategies might contribute some value to incentivising student choice of AUArts.
- The UDRW proposal is focused on a common program through 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years particularly, rather than a focus on requirements to allow for more collaboration and porosity across disciplines.
- It was clarified that the UDRW proposal will come before the GFC for discussion first before any major decisions on it are made.
- It was clarified that under enrolment refers to a significant decline over successive years due to various reasons such as fewer than expected students, higher course delivery costs than the number of students who take it to ensure viability.

### **12. Other Business**

The President requested that members send in items regularly and looked forward to more dialogue.

### **13. School Council Reports**

There were no approved meeting minutes included in the meeting package as there were no meetings of School Councils in February, it was noted that should any serious issues arise before the first school council meetings in March, a meeting could always be called.

### **14. Update: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce**

The EDI Taskforce shared that research was currently underway and asked that the GFC encourages others to participate.

### **15. Update: Indigenous Framework/Strategy**

The President verbally reported, the following was noted:

- In the Fall semester, student affairs with Troy Petanaude worked with Pe Metawe group at the last Elders Council Meeting to discuss the Strategy.
- The Elders' Council has agreed to add two Indigenous students to its meetings.
- The Council has asked to further examine the draft Strategy before the next Elders meeting mid-March.
- There was a suggestion that there should be Indigenous representation in GFC membership.
- It was clarified that Indigenous student mentors on council have access to the draft Strategy.

### **16. Dean's Council**

The President provided an update on the Dean's Council's activities, and the following was noted:

- The last Dean's Council meeting discussions were focused on the pandemic and what progress had been made with respect to the Strategic Plan to date, focusing on EDI and Curricular innovation.
- Updated terms of reference to reflect title changes.
- NASAD accreditation to continue until AUArts acquires membership in University Canada, although there is still a need for a relationship with NASAD.

### **20. Steering Committee: GFC and GFC Standing Committee Annual Feedback Survey**

The Chair, Steering Committee noted:

- The GFC Steering Committee have reviewed the 2021 feedback forms and approved revised 2022 feedback forms for distribution to all GFC and Standing Committee members.
- There is a preliminary review planned for the April Steering Committee meeting with respect to increasing participation and discussion.

### **21. Adjournment**

The February 16, 2022 General Faculties Council was adjourned at 4:00pm. The next GFC meeting will be held on March 16, 2022.