

Voting Members Present with Dr. Daniel Doz in the chair were the following: Dr. Sarah Alford, Richard Brown, Bryan Cera, Quynn Covey, Dr. Christopher Frey, John Gaucher, Dr. Janis Goldie, Nicole Hamilton, Dr. Lisa Lipton, Silas Kaufman, Susie Kennedy, Suzanne Lermeyer, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Mike Kerr, Dr. Alex Link, Rita McKeough, Dr. Pablo Ortiz-Hernandez, Paul Robert, Portia Scabar, Dr. Rob Stone, Barbara Sutherland, Justin Waddell

Regrets: Allison Comrie, Wendy Harding, Jamie Leong-Huxley, Scott Powell

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

Observers: Gurman Sahota

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm, confirmed quorum, welcomed new members and then read the AUArts Acknowledgement of the Land statement to members and guests.

1. Approval of the Agenda

moved / seconded

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the September 21, 2022 agenda, as presented.

Carried

2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2022

moved / seconded

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the draft minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting as presented.

Carried

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Report from the President and CEO

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

New academic year

It is a different positive energy this academic year and much appreciated. Welcome to the class of 2026 that would graduate during the centennial celebration.

AUArts Strategic Plan

The third year of the Strategic Plan has also commenced. The President reminded all GFC members present of Saturday's planned joint Board and GFC retreat. The plan is to review the progress made last year and plan for the current year.

In addition, the President noted:

- Enrolments are doing very well.
- In terms of Covid updates, he has unconfirmed information that the government plans to remove all travel restrictions.
- There will be a new Premier in a few weeks. He is not yet certain how much impact that would have on the institution.
- There is no change so far in terms of the budget plan in the provincial context but will keep watch.

5. Report from Deans

5.1 Academic Programs

The Dean, Academic Programs provided a verbal report. The following was noted:

- Thank you to all for the warm welcome.
- In terms of enrolment, there were nearly 500 additional class registrations. There are already 182 students registered for Spring term. These were unanticipated but welcome figures. Work has commenced on the Winter term waitlist with the Fall term has finally been addressed. Thank you to faculty for taking on all the extra students.
- The IKG currently has an exhibition running, "Northern Oracle". All are invited to attend the rooftop installation.
- The academic program review has commenced for the MFA in CM. The institutional self-study would also be running in the background.
- Academic programs are currently working on a new timetable and scheduling software to improve the student experience and free up faculty time.
- For the undergraduate degree programs – the BFA group is focused on the course curriculum and the BDes at the pre-requisites, etc.
- APOC is working on the academic plan and a new teaching and online learning committee has been struck.
- Calls have gone out to the school councils for participation in the working groups.
- Curriculum committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

The following was noted in discussion:

- It was clarified that the UDRW is disbanded. Going forward, course-related changes will begin from school councils. Calls have gone out to all for participation in school council working groups. These working groups can then organically decide on how to operate.
- Students would be able to take part in consultations once things have established the academic program review process. A joint group has been created, Academic and Student Leadership (ASL) made up of faculty, academic staff, and students and that is where discussions will take place to formalize opportunities for participation.

5.2 Students

The Dean of Students provided a verbal report. The following was noted:

- Last cycle's admissions and recruitment went well indeed, with the team attending a total of 173 events. International engagement reached 139 countries, although it was mainly virtual. The decision to close applications June 1 paid off, with 95% of applicants currently enrolled.
- Thank you to the Registrar for all the work done especially as the Registrar's Office was understaffed.
- A successful orientation was held with an estimated 200 students attending. Many thanks to all who supported the event.
- 92 students attended campus tours with 41.2% of student participants submitting survey responses. The last survey only had a 23% respondent rate.
- 98 students have applied for academic accommodations.
- The Lodgepole center is offering a blanket exercise September 28 from 1-3pm to 25 participants at the Chinook Center in honor of Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30. The Lodgepole is also inviting all on September 28 from 5-9pm to an exhibition at Fort Calgary. There will be an electric powwow.
- A new counsellor has been hired.

The following was noted in discussion:

- The Fort Calgary exhibition has some amazing pieces on display.

5.3 Innovation, Learning and Development

The Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development provided a verbal report. The following was noted:

- The career center is open and seeing students daily for career coaching and mentoring. Ten different workshops are planned for October. An advertisement will be posted in the coming week.
- The library is advertising an Elders' talk circle for the day after Truth and Reconciliation Day.
- A discussion would be had on the kinds of WIL the institution can create and support. This is part of the funding requirements. It will begin with APOC and then come before GFC.
- The academic meeting group for Calgary area met to talk about integrating ORBIS into their institutions to promote WIL among PSIs. There would be free licensing of the software for three years. A WIL secretariat has been set up to support the seven PSIs with technological and program support.
- Work is ongoing to conceptualize a program ideation space to find ways of diversifying programming to diversify income and facilitate new growth. The province funds such programming although the time between funding calls and the close is only three to four weeks, and so it is necessary to have something established in the pipeline. This way AUArts is positioned to take advantage of such opportunity. An example is the pilot for an internal Certificate in Animation that begun with 4 students but within a year of existence, there are twenty-five students registered for the micro-credential. Another pilot is planned for this year in the film and tv industry. A conversation with the Calgary Film Center revealed gaps in scriptwriting, narratives, and storytelling as such they are looking for micro-credentialing opportunities. Micro-credentials are also useful as an initial hook.

The following was noted in discussion:

- There is more freedom with launching micro-credentials unlike degrees and certificates that require government approval.
- It was clarified that this is a pilot, but the Dean is looking into what happens after the free

licensing lapses. The WIL Secretariat could be an option as they provide technological and program support. Micro-credentialing could also provide income to cover some costs.

- ORBIS should be relatively painless to integrate with the AUArts system.
- It was clarified that extracurricular WIL would operate like a micro-credential. Part of ideation is figuring out which products should come within or outside of the scope of the GFC.

6. AUArts Students' Association (SA) Report

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

- They are restructuring and so there are new hires as well as some expansion currently ongoing.
- They have bid farewell to the Programs Manager and so that position is open for now.

The following was noted in discussion:

- The reorganized space looks more user friendly.

7. Academic Policy Committee: Draft Academic Date Setting Procedure

The Registrar presented the motion on behalf of the Academic Policy Committee as presented in the attached briefing note:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the draft Academic Date Setting Procedure, as presented, effective immediately.

Carried

The following was noted in discussion:

- Students would be considered in the implementation.

8. Update: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce

The EDI taskforce presented a verbal report, noting the following:

The following was noted in discussion:

- They have received the findings which included 40 recommendations.
- They have asked the consultants to finetune their recommendations more towards the institution as an academic establishment. Once this is done and the taskforce receives it (October), they would make presentations to students, and staff and faculty combined (late October to early November). This would be followed by a written report several weeks later.

9. Update: Indigenous Framework/Strategy

The President presented a verbal report, noting the following:

- Student voice is now represented on the Elder's Council.
- The Indigenous Framework or pathway is before the Elder's Council for further review. They want the document to be a living one. This work is ongoing although it is slowed down now with Elders wanting to focus on other issues arising.

The following was noted in discussion:

- This would not just be a performative document; it is meant to showcase our approach to indigenous knowledge.

- It was clarified that Elders are compensated whenever they are consulted. They are gifted items such as tobacco as well as financially compensated.
- This document is meant to guide AUArts in incorporating indigenous culture into our institution as a way of recognizing its value.
- Indigenization of the institution is in line with internationalization.

10. Steering Committee: 2021-2022 GFC & GFC Standing Committee Feedback

The President presented a verbal report, noting the following:

- The Steering Committee conducted the GFC and GFC standing committees feedback survey for 2021-2022 in March 2022.
- There was – overall – a relatively low response rate. This was attributed to several factors:
 - Survey fatigue
 - Survey being too long
 - Busy time of year for faculty, students, and staff
- Steering reviewed the annual feedback of GFC and GFC standing committees and noted responses were positive, just not plentiful.
- Steering has considered how to proceed for 2022-2023. It was determined the survey should alternate years and it was felt the next GFC feedback survey should take place to provide input into the governance review that will occur in 2024-2025.

The following was noted in discussion:

- ORAA is still accepting syllabi.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12.1 School of Craft + Emerging Media Council (SC+EM)

Minutes included in meeting package.

12.2. School of Critical + Creative Studies Council (SCCS)

Minutes included in meeting package.

12.3 School of Communication Design Council (SCD)

Minutes included in meeting package.

12.4 School of Visual Art Council (SVA)

Minutes included in meeting package.

12.5 MFA in Craft Media Program Committee (MFA in CM)

Minutes included in meeting package.

13. Dean's Council

The President shared that the Deans' Council last met on April 28, 2022 and has not met since, but it is scheduled to meet in October.

14. 2022-2023 GFC and Standing Committee Composition and Memberships

The President shared that the GFC and the GFC standing committees are almost complete. The Dean, Academic Programs will reach out to academic staff to fill the remaining vacancies.

15. 2022-2023 GFC & GFC Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The Steering Committee has confirmed all GFC meetings will be held in person for 2022-2023. If there is any change to the meeting format, Steering Committee will make that decision.

16. Steering Committee: Approved Online Learning Task Force Terms of Reference

The President presented a verbal report, noting the following:

- That the Steering Committee has approved the terms of reference, as presented.
- The Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies explained that currently there are no principles or policies to guide online learning. A call for expression of interest has been put out for members to the taskforce.

The following was noted in discussion:

- The initial work would cover those courses that were originally designed for in-person instruction.
- It was noted that there is potential for a connection with micro-credentialing.
- It was clarified that any recommendations from this taskforce must necessarily abide by the faculty collective agreement.
- It was clarified that the purpose of the taskforce is to ensure all students regardless of program get real value from their education.
- Definitions and terms will be shared once established.
- This project could be linked to the indigenous framework particularly in light of space both physical and remote.
- It would be invaluable to translate for example studio-based learning to an online environment.

17. Adjournment

The September 21, 2022 General Faculties Council adjourned at 3:48pm.