
Voting Members present with Dr. Daniel Doz in the Chair were the following: Arif Ansari, Sarah Alford, Richard Brown, Bryan Cera, Allison Comrie, Quinn Covey, Dr. Christopher Frey, John Gaucher, Karl Geist, Dr. Janis Goldie, Wendy Harding, Silas Kaufman, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Mike Kerr, Suzanne Lemermeyer, Jamie Leong-Huxley, Dr. Alex Link, Dr. Lisa Lipton, Scott Powell, Paul Robert, Portia Scabar, Dr. Rob Stone, Barbara Sutherland, Justin Waddell

Regrets: Nicole Hamilton and Dr. Pablo Ortiz

GFC Resource Members: Andrea Power, Secretary to General Faculties Council; Neny Kwasisu, Coordinator of Research and Academic Affairs *recording*

Observers: Debbie Kozoroski and Leila Guo

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved / Seconded

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the January 18, 2023 agenda, as presented.

Carried

2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022

Moved / Seconded

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the draft minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting, as amended.

Carried

Quynn Covey regrets should be recorded in the Nov. 16, 2022 GFC minutes.

3. Business Arising

Support for Mosaic Software: This item was tabled to the next meeting when the Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development would be able to attend.

4. President's Report

The President shared that work is underway on some essential portfolio items and the following was noted:

Budget: There have been no indications so far from the government that there would be any significant changes, although the Minister has asked to meet with the Board Chair and President's on Monday, January 23, 2023. Updates will be shared at the next GFC meeting.

EDI: The EDI consultants made recommendations based on the survey results. The consultants still have the student presentation next week. Afterwards, the recommendations and an action plan will be released. One element has not been flagged in the EDI report though, which is accessibility. This is an important concept that will be included in the action plan.

Calgary Economic Development (CED): The City of Calgary is pushing for a stronger post-secondary presence in downtown Calgary given the huge office vacancy rates. These are expensive spaces. The New Democratic Party (NDP) is also placing this matter on its platform. For AUArts, there are numerous questions, particularly if there is a need for additional classrooms or something else.

Calgary Presidents: The City is engaged in exploring/developing an innovation district in Calgary and an American consultant has been engaged to conduct a review. This issue dovetails with the conversation around downtown office vacancy rates.

AUArts Facility: AUArts have a few proposals before the government for studio upgrades, upgrades to the main mall and its adjoining spaces and adding additional spaces in the building.

The President clarified on the following:

- With respect to the action plan for implementing the EDI recommendations, the President is currently mapping out the process for engaging an external consultant or keep the project in-house. Once this is confirmed, the report and actions will go before the general community.
- Accessibility is limited in the building and the last review was conducted in 2005; it is time for another review.

5. Report from Deans

5.1 Academic Programs

The Dean, Academic Programs provided a PowerPoint report that was included in the meeting package and the following was noted:

- With respect to the BFA curriculum and prerequisites, School Directors are aware of some of the prerequisite challenges, but students are also encouraged to reach out to School Directors if they have unique concerns to ensure we are aware of all of them.
- The curriculum changes in the BFA are still in progress and the faculty are considering cross-disciplinary concentrations and the role of minors.
- It is anticipated the core courses will be reviewed by School Councils before the end of winter semester.
- Refurnishing room 532 will take place over the reading week so as not to interrupt classes.
- Saturday, January 21, 2023 is portfolio day and registration is strong.

5.2 Students

The Dean of Students was unable to attend the meeting, but a written report was included in the meeting package. If members have questions for the Dean of Students, please send them to the directly to the Dean or to the Secretary to GFC to pass along.

5.3 Innovation, Learning and Development

The Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development could not be in attendance to provide a report.

6. AUArts Students' Association (SA) Report

6.1 2022-2023 Student Association Operating Budget

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

- The SA have a new programs manager
- Applications are invited for the vacant position of MNG Coordinator

7. GFC representative to the Board of Governors

The GFC representative to the Board of Governors provided a written report and there were no questions.

8. Update and Next Steps: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The President provided a verbal report, noting the institution is moving forward with the EDI recommendations. The President is considering bringing someone on board to head the transition process, given how busy everyone already is. There is also the potential to form a committee or a series of committees.

The following was noted in the discussion:

- It is anticipated the EDI recommendations will be released in two weeks.
- EDI concepts should be reflected in the ongoing curriculum reviews, and it will be important to consult the wider community beyond the schools.
- EDI is a culture change. There is an urgency at one end and, at the other, there really is no end to the change.
- With respect to accessibility, changes to home studios are currently at the expense of students with invisible disabilities. Therefore, it is important to undertake a review.

9. Presentation and Update: Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Policy and Procedure

The Chair of the GBSV Work Group and the President presented a PowerPoint on the phases and work that has been completed to date and what is left to be done for GBSV.

The following was noted in the discussion:

- It was clarified that the student survey can be paused or stopped at any time.

10. Update: Indigenous Framework/Strategy

The President verbally reported that the bulk of the work on this report has been completed. The key question next is how to disseminate the report. The group working on the report are exploring the idea of indigenous students providing graphics for the report. Key EDI pieces include indigenizing the curriculum. It is anticipated the report will be completed by the end of the semester.

11. Academic Planning and Oversight Committee: MFA – WIL – IMA Metric

The Dean, Academic Programs shared a written report, included in the meeting package, noting that this is an effort to meet government Investment Management Agreement (IMA) requirements.

The following was discussed:

- It was clarified that TA-ships are characterized by assisting instructors and having a mentor/mentee relationship with the instructor, which involves a lot of fluidity.
- It was agreed that the text in the document will be changed from "are to provide a number of lectures" to "can include a number of lectures."

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. School Council Reports

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

Minutes included in meeting package.

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

Minutes included in meeting package.

13.3 School of Communication Design Council (SCD)

Minutes included in meeting package.

13.4 School of Visual Art Council (SVA)

Minutes included in meeting package.

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

Minutes included in meeting package.

The Associate Dean, Research, Internationalization and Graduate Studies reported on the MFA in CM and Research Committees, noting the following:

- The MFA in CM Committee is reviewing applications to the program this week. Application numbers are up from last year with a greater diversity of practices.
- The program review is also underway, with Kurtis Lesick as the lead, arranging conversations with faculty, students, and external partners. Important questions coming out of the process include the form and role of the thesis in the program, the timing of important mid-point assessments, and the broadening of the concept of the philosophy of craft that the program explores.
- Currently in the process of adding two adjunct professors to the faculty numbers.

The following was noted in the discussion:

- It was clarified that adjunct faculty provides for an opportunity to allow faculty to have a formal relationship with the university without having to pay for their expertise and is also a way to engage the community.

14. Dean's Council

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023 centred on the centennial discussions in the context of available resources.

15. Curriculum Committee: BDes Prerequisite Course Changes

The Dean, Academic Programs presented on this and spoke to the document included in the meeting package which was provided for information.

The following was noted in the discussion:

- This is very good work, especially with how accessible these courses are.

- It should be made very clear to students that the VSCM 101 course is a prerequisite for 211 because it is necessary for successful completion of the course.

13. Adjournment

It was noted that the 97th AUArts Anniversary celebration will take place on February 1, 2023 and an invitation will be sent out soon to the community.

The January 18, 2023 General Faculties Council meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.