

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

Regrets: Bryan Cera, Allison Comrie, Suzanne Lemermeyer, Barbara Sutherland

GFC Resource Members: Andrea Power, Secretary to General Faculties Council; Carissa Matthews, Director, Academic Resources; Nenyo Kwasitsu, Coordinator, Research and Academic Affairs and recording secretary.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 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 FEBRUARY 15, 2023 AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.

Carried

2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023

Moved / Seconded:

THAT THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2023 MEETING, AS PRESENTED.

Carried

3. Business Arising

3.1 Support for Mosaic Software

N. Hamilton responded to this concern, noting that it was helpful as an open-source program and came in handy during the pandemic. She has addressed this matter at length in her written report, included in the meeting package, but a contractor is being hired by the end of the month to support mosaic use.

In discussion, GFC members noted the following:

- It was clarified that mosaic is not the most optimal software for the direction AUArts is headed. Therefore, there is a need to consider a longer-term Learning Management System.
- It was clarified that AUArts is still very much a studio-based, in-person learning environment. However, it cannot be denied there is a market for online learning that allows for income diversification, but that is for the longer term.

4. President's Report

D. Doz updated GFC members on the following:

- The meeting between the Ministry of Advanced Education, board chairs and presidents:
 - The intent of the meeting was to provide updates on government priorities and budget.

- In terms of budget, the government is focused on targeted enrolment for rural areas and healthcare, although an area mentioned was graphic design so there is some expectation this would be one of the areas of funding. In preparation for that possibility, the President has asked the Dean, Academic Programs to look at last year's criteria to ensure preparedness for an application. Targeted enrolment dollars will be one time only.
- The Ministry will be making specific amendments related to Freedom of Speech considering recent events at the University of Lethbridge.
- There was no mention of EDI/Indigenous by the Minister.
- **Downtown Strategy:**
 - Discussions still ongoing to deal with huge vacancy rates downtown by building or expanding post-secondary campuses. Some of the issues include small spaces in buildings, expensive food, and parking.
- **Portfolio:**
 - Cabinet will discuss the 2023-2024 draft budget at the end of the month. Given the very robust enrolment figures, as well as higher retention rates and reduced attrition rates combined with favorable interest rates, budget cuts for next year are not contemplated.
 - The government is also putting its budget together and, to that end, AUArts is submitting many proposals. For example, next week AUArts are submitting a proposal to add a new floor to the building and adding solar panels to the roof as this will reduce energy costs.
 - Good headway in terms of fundraising with \$200,000 received from RBC to support some activities like Work Integrated Learning (WIL), \$100,000 reached for student support and 100% of that going to students, including two casual positions for students in the Lodgepole Center.

4.1. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA)

4.1.1 Update: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

AUArts is in the process of hiring a consultant to help navigate the EDI transition and the recommendations. AUArts are also in the process of identifying a consultant to do a thorough accessibility review of the building. The Dean, Academic Programs has been tasked with putting together a framework to guide conversations around decolonizing and internationalizing the curriculum. In discussion, GFC members noted the following:

- It was clarified that the donation from RBC is for WIL related activities, including the creation of two casual positions for current students at the Lodgepole Centre to 2024.
- Recruitment now uses geofencing to target rural areas to recruit students.
- It is important to consider the costs of supporting international students, given the drive from the government to recruit more of them, especially as these supports may look very different for domestic students.
- Students should be encouraged to engage more internationally.
- It will be useful to tap into the knowledge of current international students to contribute to diversifying the curriculum.
- The EDI report release will happen once the consultant is hired, hopefully in a couple of weeks.

4.1.2 Update on the Indigenous Strategy

- The Elder's Council are continuing their work on the Indigenous Strategy with an anticipated completion date of June 2023. The visual components of the strategy will be prepared over the summer months.
- The Elder's Council are also working on revising the Elder protocol guidelines.

- There is also a review of the university land acknowledgement, based on the need to potentially remove mention of Treaty 7.
- The Elders in Residence schedule is now in place as well as the Lodgepole speaker's schedule.

5. Report from Deans

5.1 Academic Programs

The Dean, Academic Programs provided a PowerPoint report, and the following was noted:

- Curriculum Work
- Timetabling
- MFA: Cyclical Program Review & Recruitment
- Upcoming teaching and Learning Sessions
- External Partnerships

5.2 Students

The Dean of Students provided a written report, and, in discussion, the following was noted:

- In terms of the AUArts academic plan, priority #4, strategy #3, measure of success: "increased retention of gender and sexually diverse and BIPOC students, staff and faculty" these things are already happening, and several instructors are including more indigenous components in their courses.

5.3 Innovation, Learning and Development

The Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development provided a written report included in the meeting package, adding they have been approached by an employer who wants to hire Fine Arts students from AUArts. In discussion, the following was noted:

- In terms of the career centre, there is a move to provide programming such as bootcamps for resume building. The current model has an individual supporting a handful of students who approach them for help. With the move to programming, they would be able to accommodate more students.
- The career centre is working with HR around a design that incorporates WIL. They will make an announcement by the end of this month.

6. AUArts Students' Association (SA) Report

The Vice President, Academic of the Student Association provided a written report, included in the meeting package.

7. GFC representative to the Board of Governors

The GFC representative to the Board of Governors noted the Board has not met since the last GFC meeting but will be meeting on February 28, 2023.

8. Academic Policy Committee: Recession of the Definition of Academic Terms Procedure

The Chair, Academic Policy Committee, Arif Ansari presented the following motion:

As recommended by the Academic Policy Committee:

THAT THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL APPROVE THE RECISSION OF THE ACADEMIC TERMS PROCEDURE, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2023.

Carried

In discussion, it was noted that the double-booking practice is dealt with on a case-by-case basis and will be addressed as part of an upcoming new registration policy and procedure.

9. 2026 AUArts Centennial Update

Dr. Doz and J. Leong-Huxley presented on this item, noting the need to be careful about resources available. The focus for this year will be to identify one project for fundraising. To this end, several community consultations have been planned in March and April. The university recently celebrated the 97th anniversary and two tick tock videos were well received following the event. GFC members were encouraged to send in past faculty or student alumni coordinates to Advancement.

The Boost-A-Student campaign was a huge success securing \$100,000 for student bursaries. All members were encouraged to sign up for the external AUArts Abstract Newsletter at:

<https://www.auarts.ca/abstract-newsletter>

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. School Council Reports

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

Minutes included in meeting package.

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

Minutes included in meeting package.

- J. Goldie clarified that because of the nature of classes in SCCS, it was decided to pilot auto-enrolment in Mosaic for those classes. There are plans to expand in other schools.
- In terms of AHIS revisions, SCCS are considering different ways of approaching teaching and revising their courses. Given that ENGL courses are not just about the English language, there is discussion around changing the name to reflect its reality and this is being done in a way to ensure that transfer and articulation are considered.

11.3 School of Communication Design Council (SCD)

Minutes included in meeting package.

11.4 School of Visual Art Council (SVA)

Minutes included in meeting package.

11.5 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 recent activities of the MFA Committee in the recruitment process; reviewing applications, interviewing, ranking, and making offers to applicants. The Committee was thanked (as were

other members of faculty who shared the work) for their diligence and thoughtfulness in understanding both resources and the aims of the Craft Media degree; including who might participate in it from our faculty and the pool of potential students. The first wave of offers went out on 6th February. A second set will go out on the 22nd. The application portal will reopen for late applicants on 14th February until 14th March.

- Kanwal Baluch was thanked for her part in administrating the process.
- The MFA Program Review is ongoing under the guidance of the Coordinator, Kurtis Lesick, the Self Study portion of the process (due to report in April) is well into its consultation process. External reviewers have been identified and are being contacted.
- The Committee will next be occupied by a phase of policy review.

In discussion, GFC members noted the following:

- Application numbers are up which is very good news.
- For graduate faculty looking to get involved, please speak with the Dean.
- A process for affordable, technical options for hybrid thesis reviews is under review to reach a wider audience.

12. Dean's Council

The last meeting focused on the Centennial project and moving forward on the EDI recommendations.

13. Steering Committee: Approved 2023-2024 GFC & GFC Meeting Dates

This item is included in the meeting package for information only. Please note that since the December calendar is quite condensed, unless there is an urgent matter, there will be no GFC meeting scheduled in December. It was noted that the GFC meeting room is under review.

14. Academic Policy Committee (APC): Approved 2023-2024 Academic Calendar Revisions

A. Ansari presented this item as a companion piece to the previous rescission of the Academic Terms Procedure. APC, through GFC delegated authority, has approved several updates to the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar with new definitions and terms, as contained in the briefing note.

15. Curriculum Committee: Approved Bachelor of Design program degree requirements and planning guides

15.1 Visual Communication Design (VCD) Majors

15.2 Photography (PHTG) majors

15.3 Minor Course Name Change: ANIM 300

J. Goldie presented on this, included in the meeting package for information.

16. Adjournment

The February 15, 2023 General Faculties Council adjourned at 3:40pm.