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**Voting Members** Present with Dr. Daniel Doz in the Chair were the following: Sarah Alford, Arif Ansari, Richard Brown, Bryan Cera, Allison Comrie, Quinn Covey, John Gaucher, Karl Geist, Dr. Janis Goldie, Nicole Hamilton, Wendy Harding, Silas Kaufman, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Mike Kerr, Suzanne Lemermeyer, Jamie Leong-Huxley, Dr. Lisa Lipton, Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Scott Powell, Paul Robert, Barbara Sutherland, Justin Waddell

**Regrets:** Dr. Christopher Frey, Dr. Alex Link, Portia Scabar, Dr. Rob Stone

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

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

### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED / SECONDED**

***THAT THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL APPROVE THE MARCH 15, 2023 AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.***

***CARRIED***

### **2. Approval of Draft GFC Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023**

**MOVED / SECONDED**

***THAT THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023 MEETING, AS PRESENTED.***

***CARRIED***

### **3. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

### **4. President's Report**

The President updated General Faculties Council members on the following with a verbal report:

- **2023-2024 AUArts Budget update** – As expected, there was no grant funding increase from the government. However, there were opportunities, such as a targeted enrolment plan, which includes graphic design, for a total of \$24m for three years. There is also funding heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades. AUArts is preparing a balanced budget, which is a difficult endeavour with no grant increase. The positives for the pending budget are the excellent returns on the Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC), increased enrolment and improved student retention.

- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility** – An announcement will be coming out in the next few days sharing news of the appointment of Alden Habacon as special advisor to the President.
- **Alberta Post-Secondary update** – The last Alberta post-secondary meeting was held in Edmonton a week ago. There was discussion around improving Alberta's external perception and cybersecurity, with the number of cyberattacks doubling in Canada (it is predicted that, in the near future, insurance will no longer cover ransoms). There was also conversation around public-private partnerships, with some post-secondary institutions partnering with private institutions in Calgary, creating tension as some rural institutions struggle to match up with the factors that draw more students to Calgary than the rural areas. For example, the University of Lethbridge plans to open a business campus in Calgary.
- **Indigenous Strategy update**– There has not been an Elders' Council meeting since the last GFC meeting and a meeting is currently being scheduled.

In the discussion, GFC members noted the following:

- It was clarified that the EDIA special advisor is a consultant conducting virtual and in-person activities.
- It was further clarified that the EDI report will not be released until the consultant, Alden Habacon, provides their expert input into the recommendations and how the report should be shared. The consultant confirmed it would not be useful to release the report without an action plan.

## **5. Report from Deans**

### **5.1 Academic Programs**

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

- Gallery Crawl stats – 1438 total attendees and an extremely successful event
- AUArts is now a member of the National Scientific and Energy Research Council (NSERC)
- 13 MFA Applicants
- SCD Industry Speakers Event
- Teaching and Learning Sessions
- New Faculty Hiring Plan

In the discussion, GFC members noted that the new IKG Curator role has a teaching component, which will be dependent on the applicant pool. All questions regarding the faculty hires should be directed to Human Resources.

### **5.2 Students**

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

- Convocation 2023 – the email with a request for faculty participation will be shared soon
- Events and Series ongoing at the Lodgepole Center
- Recruitment and Admission numbers keep rising
- More than 20 students will be participating in the outbound Academic Exchange Program

In the discussion, GFC members discussed the following:

- It was clarified that the old ArtStream is a pre-entry program for international students who do not have full language ability or have some academic credentials to make up before they can enter the university. Once they successfully complete the year, they receive a certificate and can gain full entry into first/second year studies already having completed 18 first year credits in total.
- The new ArtStream will also be a true pre-entry program where students apply in advance of first year studies. These changes are being made now with an expected completion date of June 2023. The program will be divided into two areas of foci – one in language and the other in academic upgrading. For international students, it will be language-focused and for those who require academic upgrading, emphasis on academic skill development. For international students who require language development they will work online for one-two months prior to an in-person component – delivered as an accelerated 4 week summer institute. Academic upgrading will occur as a 4 week summer institute. There will be a long-term care component to support student during their first year.

### **5.3 Innovation, Learning and Development**

The Dean of Innovation, Learning and Development provided a written report included in the meeting package, and the following was noted:

- Library update
- The MOSAIC support plan was delayed due to budget restraints
- WIL arrangements are ongoing, with a presentation to Deans' Council tomorrow
- Next steps around student career services with an announcement coming out next week
- The newly revised ArtStream/Pathway is slated for completion in April 2023

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

The President of the Student Association provided a written report, which was included in the meeting package. The Vice President Academic provided several verbal updates. One GFC member inquired into the food pantry, and it was noted that the pantry is still in the early stages.

### **7. GFC representative to the Board of Governors**

The GFC representative to the Board of Governors provided a written report in the meeting package.

In the discussion, it was noted that the Board of Governors retreat is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023 and GFC members will be invited for lunch and the afternoon meeting.

### **8. Academic Policy Committee: Draft Academic Date Setting Procedure**

The Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, Arif Ansari, presented the following motion, included in the meeting package and spoke to the proposed changes to the procedure.

- The Academic Date Setting Procedure was originally approved by GFC on October 19, 2022. However, in reviewing the schedule from an operational and policy perspective, there are a few issues to be addressed.
- The Academic Date Setting Procedure has an Appendix which encodes dates from other AUArts policies and procedures; this means that changes to those would put this procedure out of

alignment. To address this, a clause has been added to clarify the intent of the Appendix as guidelines, and to allow flexibility for updates outside of a formal approval process.

- The immediate change required in Appendix 1 is around the add/drop deadlines, fee deadlines, and payment deadlines as those have issues with these referenced in the companion motion to approve updates to the 2023-2024 Academic Schedule. Guidance reflective of these changes has been included. There is a parallel stream of work to adjust the AUArts Credit Tuition and Student Fees Procedure, which also encoded these dates – a future stream of work will include embedding more permanent guidance for add/drop dates in a Registration Procedure.
- Included is clarifying language around the first day of classes and date for Convocation.
- Removed dates set by third parties (ie Health and Dental opt-out deadline).

Recommended by the Academic Policy Committee:

**THAT THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL APPROVE THE ACADEMIC DATE SETTING PROCEDURE, AS PRESENTED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.**

**UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

### **9. Presentation: Board of Governors 2023-2024 Approved AUArts Tuition and Fees**

The Vice President, Finance and Operations presented a powerpoint on this item and noted the following:

- Government tuition cap of 5.5% for the 2023-2024 academic year
- Comparisons with other universities:
  - Alberta Universities – AUArts has the lowest tuition in the province
  - Other Art and Design Universities in Canada – AUArts is second lowest
- Cost vs tuition and fees – 69% of the direct cost is covered at this time
- Proposal for Fees – Waste disposal (cover the increased cost of this) and new fees (materials share supplemental fees)
- Undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Per Semester – Domestic and international will have a 5.3% overall tuition and fees increase
- Graduate Tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Per Semester – Domestic will have a 0.2% fee increase and international will have a 0.1% fee increase
- It was also noted that AUArts is exploring a change to the annual budget cycle (April to March from July to June) to coincide with the government fiscal year.

In the discussion, GFC members noted the following:

- It was clarified that budget planning and tuition are dictated by sound fiscal management practice (PSLA requires balanced budget), the Post-Secondary Learning Act, Tuition and Fee Regulation (definition of tuition is fees for instruction, and fees and materials to facilitate instruction) and Advanced Education's Budget Planning Guideline for new and revived programs. According to these documents, direct instructional costs are, in principle, to be covered by tuition and fees.
- It was clarified that there was no change to international Graduate tuition as AUArts are slightly above market for this one program.

### **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **11. School Council Reports**

### **11.1 School of Craft and Emerging Media Council (SC&EM)**

Minutes included in meeting package.

### **11.2. School of Critical and Creative Studies Council (SCCS)**

Minutes included in meeting package.

### **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 Dean, Academic Programs shared the following:

- SCD has recommended the revised Animation minor, and BDes work is ongoing.
- SCCS is continuing their work on decolonizing the curriculum and reviewing AHIS100 in time for next Fall semester.
- SCEM/SVA are working on concentrations as a whole. After that is done, work will continue on the common courses.

## **12. Deans' Council**

Deans' Council will meet tomorrow, March 16, 2023. Discussions will center around the following:

- International strategy for recruitment
- Faculty and research
- Student enrolment management and activities
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL)
- Transformational project for the Centennial celebrations

## **13. Academic Policy Committee: Approved Revised 2023-2024 Academic Schedule**

The Dean, Academic Programs presented this item on behalf of the Registrar. The 2023-2024 Academic Schedule was revised by the Academic Policy Committee and has been included in the meeting package for information. The revisions have tightened up the add and drop dates to match the fees deadline.

## **13. Adjournment**

The February 15, 2023 General Faculties Council was adjourned at 3:25 pm.