



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (GNC)**

Minutes of the Public Session of the Meeting of June 20, 2023
2:30-2:45 p.m., Videoconference

Attendees:

Steven Murphy (Chair)
Wendy Barber
Toba Bryant
Mike Eklund
Lori Livingston
Patricia MacMillan
MaryCae Serote
Lauren Turner

Regrets:

Robert Bailey
Ferdinand Jones
Carol Rodgers

Staff:

Krista Hester
Kimberley McCartney

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. T. Bryant acknowledged the lands on which the University is situated and where she lives, noting her research and teaching focuses on the impact of racism and displacement on health.

2. Agenda

The Chair requested to change the order of items in section 8 (Nominations) to allow the Research Committee renewal to be reviewed first, due to L. Jacobs' availability. Additionally, a question was asked about having the Meeting Practices in item 9 moved to the public portion of the agenda, as the materials and discussion would be helpful context for Academic Council the following week. These items have traditionally appeared on the non-public portion to allow the Committee the opportunity to have a free and open discussion. It was agreed that the items would be discussed in the current order to allow L. Jacobs to depart, however, the discussion in item 9 would be public and recorded in the public minutes. It was noted that while the minutes would not be available to Academic Council within the week, Committee members should feel free to provide information discussed at GNC as public material.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by M. Eklund, the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Minutes of the Public Session of the Meeting of April 18, 2023

Upon a motion duly made by T. Bryant and seconded by P. McMillan, the Minutes were approved as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began by recognizing National Indigenous Peoples Day and stated that he was honoured to be a part of the event which took place on campus in Polonsky Commons. He thanked Indigenous and Cultural Services for putting the celebration together. The Chair then noted that this was the last GNC meeting of the academic year and wished everyone an enjoyable summer, encouraging all to observe some downtime with family and friends. He thanked members for their service on the Committee.

6. Inquiries & Communications

None.

7. Governance

(a) Meeting Practices – Meeting Format for Academic Council 2023 - 2024

The Chair noted that the discussion of meeting formats would be for Academic Council only, and Committee meetings will remain virtual. L. Turner then provided an overview of the items for consideration and asked members to comment on the three possible options: online, in-person, and hybrid, noting the various pros and cons of each format. In response to a question, she indicated that there is no motion being presented; this item will be for discussion at both GNC and Academic Council.

Members expressed the view that hybrid meetings, with both full in-person and virtual video participation, pose challenges and there was general agreement that hybrid meetings should not be considered. There are advantages to online meetings in terms of accessibility and convenience for managing workload and other responsibilities, but there are also advantages to meeting in-person on occasion in order to form deeper connections with colleagues. A member noted that prior to the pandemic, meeting attendees had the option to call-in to in-person meetings. An option for this may need to be considered to ensure full participation during the in-person meetings. In response to a question, it was noted that the cycle of in-person and virtual meetings would be clearly communicated well in advance to allow members to plan for their attendance. The Committee was in favour of having the first and last Academic Council meetings of the year held in-person. In response to a further question, it was clarified that Academic Council meets nine times per academic year, with no meeting in December due the 4th Tuesday normally falling within the winter closure period. It was also noted that GNC does not meet every month of the academic year, and additional meetings could be considered, if there is a need.

(b) Meeting Practices – Incorporating Strategic Discussions/Education into Academic Council Meetings

L. Turner began by noting that observing the ebb and flow of what's coming through Committees, and the impact on each AC agenda, is helpful to inform this discussion. She indicated that if strategic discussion topics are important enough to ask AC members to participate then this indicates they should be on the regular meeting agenda. She noted that the Steering Committee had also discussed this topic and there was general support as well as anecdotally, an unfortunate story where a Committee member, without fail, was unavailable for all of the scheduled strategic discussions. This inability to participate is a loss for that member and a loss for everyone to not have their voice in the discussion. She then indicated if there is a particularly full agenda with a lot coming through the Committees, there would need to be flexibility in scheduling the discussions. Having the strategic discussions on the regular agenda allows for those topics to be presented at a time where all AC members already have the time held in their respective calendars. A member expressed support, noting that AC used to have colleagues exchange scheduled just before the regular meeting, which then evolved into strategic discussions and then began to be scheduled exclusive of the regular agenda. He expressed further support for including time to have open discussion when a specific strategic topic was not planned. L. Turner advised that a regular call for discussion topics is being considered. She also noted that resuming in-person meetings may allow for informal discussions to resume, with members and guests remaining after the end of the meeting socialize and have conversations about topics of interest.

Kimberley McCartney, Assistant University Secretary