

Role of General Faculties Council (GFC)

GFC is responsible for the academic and student affairs of AUArts, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors. GFC acts as the voice of the academic community, providing vision and leadership to the academic community and bringing expertise and academic perspective to the governance of AUArts. In fulfilling this role, GFC shall promote AUArts' teaching and research consistent with its mandate. GFC makes recommendations to the Board of Governors on academic and student affairs. Furthermore, it provides a forum for the exchange of ideas that inform the development of AUArts' academic plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and practices. GFC supports the tradition established in institutions of higher learning for debate, consultation, and collegiality.

1. Meeting Dates in 2020-2021

The General Faculty Council met 9 times in 2020-2021.

2020: September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16

2021: January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26

2. Composition and Membership

Composition

Ex-Officio Members:

- The President and Chief Executive Officer
- The Vice-President Academic and Provost
- The Vice-President Administration
- The Vice-President Advancement
- The Chair, School of Craft and Emerging Media
- The Chair, School of Critical and Creative Studies
- The Chair, School of Communication Design
- The Chair, School of Visual Art
- The Director, Learning and Instructional Services
- The Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development
- The Registrar

Elected Faculty Members (by Proportional Representation):

- Twelve (12) full-time academic staff members, consisting of: four (4) members from the School of Visual Art; three (3) members from the School of Craft and Emerging Media; three (3) members from the School of Communication Design; and two (2) members from the School of Critical and Creative Studies.

Elected Faculty Members (by Degree area):

- Three (3) full-time academic staff members: one each to be elected from the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Design, and the School of Critical and Creative Studies undergraduate degree areas.

Elected GFC Board of Governor's Representative:

- One (1) full-time academic staff member from any of the schools.

Student Members:

- Two (2) students appointed by the council of the Students' Association. The Students' Association shall determine the procedure by which student members are appointed.

Other Members:

- Other voting members as may be added at the discretion of GFC

Membership

- Dr. Daniel Doz, Council Chair, President
- Dr. Andre Plante, Vice President Academic and Provost (until April 2021)
- Jill Brown, Vice President Administration
- Jamie Leong-Huxley, Vice President Advancement
- Scott Cressman, SCD Chair
- Paul Robert, SCEM Chair
- Dr. Benedict Fullalove, SCCS Chair
- Heather Huston, SVA Chair
- René Martin, Director, Learning and Instructional Services
- Nicole Hamilton, Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development
- Susie Kennedy, Registrar
- John Gaucher, SCD Academic Staff
- Mitch Kern, SCD Academic Staff
- Mike Kerr, SCD Academic Staff
- Barbara Sutherland, SCEM Academic Staff
- Bryan Cera, SCEM Academic Staff
- Tyler Rock, SCEM Academic Staff
- Lisa Lipton, SVA Academic Staff
- Richard Gorenko, SVA Academic Staff
- Sondra Meszaros, SVA Academic Staff
- Justin Waddell, SVA Academic Staff
- Dr. Christopher Frey, SCCS Academic Staff
- Dr. Yoke-Sum Wong, SCCS Academic Staff
- Sarah Alford, SCCS Representative
- Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, BFA Representative
- Suzanne Lemermeyer, BDes Representative
- Lisa Blackwell, AUA SA Representative
- Kayla Gale, AUA SA Representative (until April 2021)
- Portia Scabar, AUA SA Representative (from May 2021)
- Dr. Mark Clintberg, Board of Governors Representative

3. Items Approved by GFC

- Scholarships, Awards, Prizes and Bursaries:
 - Delegation of the strategy, planning and processes (policies and procedures) associated with Undergraduate Awards (Scholarships, Awards, Prizes and Bursaries) to Student Affairs.
 - Delegation of responsibility for the approval of the Terms of Reference for new donor-funded undergraduate awards and updates to the Terms of Reference for existing donor-funded undergraduate awards to Advancement, in consultation with Student Affairs.
 - Delegation of responsibility for the approval of the Terms of Reference for new internal undergraduate awards and updates to the Terms of Reference for existing internal awards to Student Affairs.
 - Administration of Undergraduate Awards rests with Student Affairs.
- Delegated powers for approval of course modification, substitution or creation in order to respond to restrictions as a result of the government measures as a result of the pandemic, for the 2020/21 academic year only, as follows: Faculty, in consultation with the appropriate Chair, subject to the approval of the four school chairs and in consultation with the Registrar, to:
 - a. modify the course descriptions and/or learning outcomes of their course(s),
 - b. substitute a required course with another existing course that meets degree requirements, or
 - c. create a substitute course that meets program requirements/degree progression requirements
- Extension of the use of Duolingo English Test for the 2020- 2021 undergraduate admissions cycle, to August 31, 2021.
- Revised Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Terms of Reference
- Revised Consolidated Graduate Studies Procedure to accept Duolingo as an English Language Proficiency test option beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Revised Undergraduate Final Grading Procedure, with an effective date of September 1, 2021
- Revised Registration Procedure with an effective date of September 1, 2021
- Revised Transfer Credit Procedure, to be effective September 1, 2021
- General Faculties Council Member Question Protocol
- Revisions to the Academic Calendar Year in the academic regulations section of the Academic Calendar as presented, effective September 1, 2021.
- Revised Academic Date Setting Procedure, effective September 1, 2020
- Revisions to the 300-level requirements for the BDes Photography Major, effective Fall 2021
- Revised Undergraduate Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Procedure, effective September 1, 2021
- Revised program change(s) for BFA First Year Studies, effective September 1, 2021.
- Modifications and new courses that were put in place for 2020/21 be extended through the 2021/22 academic year due to the uncertain end to the restrictions put into place by the government as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The President provide an updated Organization Chart for the new structure including Deans, Chairs and other positions impacted by this changed structure.
- Draft Student Accommodations Policy, and Procedure, as presented to be effective July 1, 2021.
- Steering Committee to have another discussion regarding MS Teams Chat at future GFC meetings.

4. Items Discussed

- The process and progress of the Strategic plan is under Deans' Council for implementation. Areas of focus for 2020-2021 are programs and credentials and creating a framework to build a plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).
- Overview of the academic administrative restructure, which will consist of three (3) Deans: Dean of Students; Dean, Academic Programs; and Dean, Innovation Learning & Development.
- Reports: President, Vice President and Provost, AUArts Students' Association, and GFC representative to the Board
- University Continuity and Recovery Management Team updates
- Presentations:
 - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - AUArts Budget Process
 - 2021-2022 Investment Management Agreement/Budget
 - Curriculum and Learning Series Supports Available for Faculty
 - Undergraduate Degree Review Workgroup
 - Potential Fall Study Break
 - Student Conduct Work Group
 - 2021 Admissions Update
 - 2021-2022 Budget and Investment Management Agreement
 - Recovery Management Team
 - Undergraduate Degree Review Workgroup (UDRW) updates
 - Pe Metawe Consultants
- GFC & GFC Standing Committee Annual Feedback

5. Items for Information

- Summary of Calendar Addendum – Covid-19 modifications for courses, as approved by the four School Chairs, as delegated by GFC in May 2020.
- Approved School Council Meeting Minutes
- Deans' Council
- Approved MFA in Craft Media Program Committee (MFA in CM) Minutes

6. Unfinished Business

GFC Standing Committee Annual Report to GFC to be presented in October 2021.

7. Annual GFC Feedback

Response was 55%. An orientation for GFC and GFC Standing Committees will continue in Fall 2021 for all members as the role of GFC and the Standing committees needs to be further explored and understood amongst all members. Members had a mixed comfort level of expressing views and asking questions, and it was felt that an appropriate amount of time is provided to GFC members with dissenting points of view. The Chair keeps meetings focused and purposeful discussion happens that stays on topic while managing conflict well at GFC meetings. There is the potential to include non-degree credentials in the work of GFC.

GFC Bylaws can be found [HERE](#).

Submitted by: Dr. Daniel Doz, Chair, General Faculties Council

Date: September 7, 2021