

**Question from GFC Member Kyle Foster (submitted by email on January 11, 2018)**

To the sub-committees of the GFC,

Reforming and understanding policy for the GFC and its standing committees is forefront for the GFC's ad hoc committee. Inquiries on the composition of each standing committee have been asked, and while the subject has been addressed, full and clear statements on the rationale behind the composition have not been given.

What is the sub-committee's rationale for the composition? How does the current sub-committee's composition align with the ad hoc committee's recommendations? If the sub-committee has yet to discuss its composition, what recommendations will the sub-committee follow to determine composition?

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**Response from President and Chair, General Faculties Council**

In April 2017, General Faculties Council approved the following documents proposed by the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority:

- [Principles of Delegated Authority](#)
- [Principles of Committee Composition](#), and
- [Roles and Responsibilities of Members](#)

These documents continue to guide the implementation of the recommendations contained in the ad hoc committee's report endorsed by GFC in April 2017. The GFC Executive Committee established a transition committee to advise and guide the implementation of the recommendations to be completed on or before April 2019.

One set of recommendations calls for revisions to the terms of reference of the GFC standing committees. These committees are currently in various stages of this review and this process will continue over the next year.

The transition committee is currently working on a strategy to assist committees in their approach to the review of their terms of reference which will focus discussion on areas of responsibility and delegated authority to ensure that each committee is fulfilling its responsibilities to GFC. This will be followed by a review of committee composition which will reflect the Principles of Committee Composition and Roles and Responsibilities of Members approved by GFC. Depending on the nature of the committee, there may be some instances where the work of the committee dictates variations to these principles; in such cases, the committee will come forward with an explanation on the need for the proposed membership.

The transition committee is currently developing some targeted questions to assist committees with this discussion.

The questions regarding committee composition raised by a member of GFC at the October meeting highlighted the importance of ensuring there is clear rationale regarding committee composition, and this rationale will be included with the proposals for revised terms of reference which will come before GFC for discussion and approval. For the terms of reference approved by GFC in October 2017, these committees will also receive the transition committee questions on committee composition to reconsider their membership.

The transition committee will be reporting at the February 26, 2018 GFC meeting on the status of the ad hoc committee recommendations and will, at that time, provide more details about guiding questions on committee composition.