



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

### Approved Minutes

Meeting #605

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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#### ***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	O. Chapman	C. Hurrell	A. Paquette	D. Slater
S. Abraha	P. Chopra	M. Husein	E. Perrault	F. Smith
B. Adams	R. Clements	F. Jalilehvand	J. Pieper	D. Stewart
A. Alase	S. Cork	A. Jenney	Q. Pittman	M. Tarailo-Graovac
S. Alexander	L. Dalgetty	B. Kahanyshyn	R. Plume	A. Timm
O. Alp	A. dela Cruz	S. LeBlanc	J. Poissant	T. Tombe
D. Altahsh	J. Dewald	K.-Y. Lee	M. Qurishi	B. Uppal
K. Baral	S. Eaton	J. Lock	S. Raj	A. Viczko
S. Barker	S. Farheen	R. McCorkell	R. Ramdhaney	H. Warsame
M. Bauer	F. Finley	M. McDonough	L. Reid	S. Weaver
T. Beattie	M. Fraser	B. Maini	M.J. Romaniuk	G. Welch
S. Benseler	D. Gereluk	B. Mayer	W. Rosehart	P. Werthner
J. Bergerson	W. Ghali	J. Meddings	F. Samavati	D. White
C. Bousman	P. Gimby	N. Molina	A. Saweczko	J. Winter
J. Brown	D. Hodgins	E. Montes Garces	R. Sigurdson	R. Yates
M. Cassis	I. Holloway	M. O'Brien	D. Sinasac	M. Zytaruk

#### ***Guests***

R. Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Item 8

J. de Roaldes, Associate Registrar - Admissions and Recruitment – present for Item 10

B. Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation) – present for Item 9

K. Grant, Educational Development Consultant, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Item 8

S. Kelly, Assistant Registrar - Student Recruitment and Applicant Relations – present for Item 10

J. Lambert, Office of Institutional Analysis – present for Items 8 and 9

S. Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 11

M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) – present for Item 9

A. Yousif, Director - Information Technologies – present for Item 11

#### ***Observers***

M. Alam, Graduate Students' Association

J. Alho, Assoc. Vice-President (Government and Community Engagement)

K. Hamilton, President's Office

M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)

C. Johns, Provost's Office

J. Krygier, Faculty Association

M. Kularatne, Students' Union

C. McVie, Provost's Office

J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)

F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost

R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)

#### ***Secretary***

S. Belcher

#### ***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

#### ***Staff***

J. Carter  
T. Hodzic

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts were declared.

**2. Remarks of the Chair**

The Chair remarked that this is the last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting for Angelique Saweczko, Registrar, Nuvyn Peters, Vice-President (Advancement), and Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and they were acknowledged for their service. Dru Marshall was further recognized by the following motion of GFC:

**Moved/Seconded**

Whereas Dr. Dru Marshall has distinguished herself as Vice Chair of the General Faculties Council of the University of Calgary from 2011 until 2021; and

Whereas Dr. Dru Marshall has helped lead the University of Calgary through exceptional growth and transformation, and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the University, the General Faculties Council and the University community;

Be it therefore resolved that the General Faculties Council formally recognize the outstanding service of Dr. Dru Marshall as Vice Chair of the General Faculties Council from 2011-2021.

**Carried**

The Chair then remarked that:

- The search for a new Vice-President (Advancement) will begin soon
- Salma Lakhani, the new Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has offered her praise to the University's students, staff and faculty for their resilience during COVID-19 and contributions to the post-secondary system in the province
- The provincial government's post-secondary system review, Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs, will be presented to Cabinet in March and decisions will be implemented in the summer. The recommendations include transitioning to a two-sector model with colleges and polytechnical institutions in one sector and research universities in another, but the creation of a system-wide governance superboard is no longer recommended. Investment Management Agreements with one work-integrated learning metric to be negotiated with each institution, will be implemented in the Spring.
- The provincial government's recently-announced budget results in a 6% budget cut for the University and a one-time increase in Infrastructure Maintenance Program funding
- COVID-19 vaccines are rolling out, and the University's Crisis Management Team will soon announce whether the Fall 2021 semester will include a return to in-person activities

### 3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair was absent and so there were no remarks.

### 4. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The University will receive in the future two sources of revenue from the University District development; 1) rent that is payable to the University once the University District Trust's other financial obligations have been met, and 2) retained earnings from the Trust. It was noted that in November 2018 the Board of Governors approved principles for the use of West Campus (University District) revenues, and the funds can only be used to support the strategic initiatives of the University and not for general operations.
- The University has offered to serve as a site for the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations, but this will depend on Alberta Health Service's need for additional sites. If the University does become a vaccine delivery site it will be a public site and University staff and students will not have priority.

### 5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), presented on the "Health and Safety Impacts of the Pandemic", specifically noting the supports available to staff and students.

### 6. Approval of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on February 11, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

### 7. Growth Through Focus Update

Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that:
  - Feedback gathered during the Growth Through Focus (GTF) Congress is being compiled and this and other GTF feedback will be shared with the University community soon
  - The GTF Congress closing address is posted on the GTF website
  - The GTF will be revised, taking into account the feedback received

- An announcement will be made next week regarding a new partnership in social innovation, which ties to the social impact goals of GTF
- There were no questions

## **8. 2020 National Survey of Student Engagement Institutional Results**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute, Jacqueline Lambert, Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis, and Kim Grant, Educational Development Consultant, Taylor Institute, presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), noting that it is administered every 3 years to first-year and senior students, the University's results are compared year-over-year and to the U15, Top 5 and other Canadian institutions, and the data is used to reflect on the student experience at the University and develop action plans
- The presenters then presented the 2020 NSSE results, specifically noting that the University's results have remained similar or improved since 2014 in all areas except the 'Supportive Environment' indicator. The presenters observed that the lower scores for the components 'Attending campus activities and events' and 'Attending events that address social, economic, or political issues' of the 'Supportive Environment' indicator may be linked to the commuter nature of the University, and it was reported that the University scored well on the component 'Support for overall well-being' of the 'Supportive Environment' indicator.
- The presenters reported that the next steps will involve deeper analysis of the results by the NSSE team, the re-establishment of the NSSE Support Team, a campus community retreat, the preparation of Faculty NSSE reports, integration of NSSE into institutional work, and the development of a NSSE dashboard
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Participation in the NSSE was across programs and is representative of the diverse student population, however, students who do not carry a full academic load are underrepresented
  - The Faculty NSSE reports will include the same level of analysis as the University report
  - The recommendations that students could be provided with more opportunities to better prepare them for their career or further education, including improved advising, more practical coursework and work-integrated learning, will be considered by a NSSE Community of Practice group
- Discussion included:
  - The deep analysis of the NSSE data is appreciated because it allows for the identification of areas that the University can make effort to improve
  - The open-response questions are useful because the responses can provide specific information, such as dissatisfaction with certain facilities
  - There used to be a performing arts fee that gave students access to events on campus, and perhaps re-instituting this would help to engage students

- The relatively lower score for the indicator ‘Would choose to attend UCalgary again’ is concerning. The presenters observed that there is no qualitative data to help understand this, noted that the NSSE Institute has indicated that this is a peculiar score given that the scores across other areas are good, and reported that the University has begun surveying graduating students in order to obtain richer data in this area.

## **9. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Dashboard**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation), and Jacqueline Lambert, Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the University has established metrics to monitor progress toward Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), that there are many EDI initiatives underway, and that an EDI dashboard is being developed. The presenters noted that the dashboard will provide publicly transparent EDI data and will facilitate strategic analysis, benchmarking and comparisons.
- The presenters provided a demonstration of the EDI dashboard, indicating that it can be navigated to show data on students, postdoctoral scholars, academic staff, and non-academic staff, and noting that it shows institutional data only for protection of privacy
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The University conducted a pay equity study in 2018 with corrective action taken at that time, and salary data is not included in the dashboard
  - The non-academic staff data can drill down to the employee group
  - Information on whether members of the University community identify as being part of a visible minority group is gradually being gathered, such as through the University’s recent COVID-19 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Survey
  - There is a broader range of data for staff groups than for students, and data collection for students is expected to remain a challenge

## **10. Enrolment Report on International Admissions and Recruitment**

Angelique Saweczko, Registrar, Jennifer de Roaldes, Associate Registrar - Admissions & Recruitment, and Steven Kelly, Assistant Registrar - Student Recruitment and Applicant Relations, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the University’s international student admissions and recruitment, including the world regions of focus and international student admission statistics. The presenters highlighted the Fall 2021 intake recruitment tactics including; digital fairs, virtual tours, webinars and social media, and conversion activities including direct emails, welcome postcards, virtual events and virtual advising appointments.

- Discussion included:
  - The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Enrolment Services have been working collaboratively on graduate student recruitment, and processes have improved as a result
  - Some universities have had to extend their deadlines because applications have gone down during COVID-19, but the University is seeing strong interest
  - That alumni can be supportive of recruitment efforts and incoming student preparation in their region

#### **11. High Performance Computing/Secure Research Computing**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research), and Abdel Yousif, Director - Research Computing Services, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on the high performance and secure computing initiatives at the University, which serve to ensure that no research team is limited by a lack of computing resources. The presenters reported on the office of Research Computing Services, provided an overview of the nature of high performance computing, highlighted the services provided, noted that the University capitalises on national programs, and presented statistics on the number of jobs done for Faculties and examples of supported projects.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Access to high performance and secure computing services can be requested through support@hpc.ucalgary.ca
  - The University was high security standards, and the environment is regularly audited and tested
  - Data scientists and workshops are available to assist persons who have moved to a high performance computing system
- Discussion included:
  - There is increasing student interest in data science and experiential learning, and it is important to attract faculty from around the world, and so it is valuable for the University to be able to provide access to advanced computing facilities
  - Nationally, there is more demand for high performance computing than can be supplied, and so the University's success in national programs is a testament to the quality of faculty members' proposals
  - The high performance and secure computing infrastructure is impressive, and the Research Computing Services, Information Technologies, and Libraries and Cultural Resources units are applauded for their work in this area

#### **12. GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**13. Standing Reports**

The following reports were circulated with the Agenda for information only:

- a) Report on the February 24, 2021 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the February 22, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the February 18, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the February 10, 2021 Senate Meeting
- e) Policy Development Update

**14. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**15. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the March 11, 2021 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary