



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #608

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	L. Dalgetty	D. Joshi	E. Perrault	L. Stoffregen
T. Balsler, Vice-Chair	A. Dambrowitz	C. Knight	Q. Pittman	M. Tarailo-Graovac
B. Adams	S. Davidson	J. Kortbeek	R. Plume	S. Thrift
T. Akhtar	J. Dewald	R. Lauer	T. Poffenroth	A. Timm
A. Alase	S. Eaton	S. LeBlanc	J. Poissant	T. Tombe
A. Alcantara	M. Fraser	K.Y. Lee	A. Qayyum	A. Viczko
O. Alp	D. Gereluk	J. Lock	S. Raj	H. Warsame
K. Baral	W. Ghali	R. McCorkell	L. Reid	G. Welch
S. Barker	P. Gimby	M. McDonough	M.J. Romaniuk	P. Werthner
T. Beattie	S. Haq	B. Maini	W. Rosehart	D. White
J. Bergerson	M. Herring	B. Mayer	F. Samavati	J. Winter
C. Bousman	C. Hogan	N. Molina	R. Sanguinetti	B. Wylant
J. Brown	C. Hurrell	E. Montes Garces	N. Schmidt	R. Yates
M. Cassis	M. Husein	L. Nowell	R. Sigurdson	D. Zamanpour
O. Chapman	F. Jalilehvand	M. O'Brien	D. Sinasac	M. Zhang
R. Clements	A. Jenney	A. Paquette	F. Smith	M. Zytaruk
S. Cork	C. Jessel	R. Pereyra	D. Stewart	

Guests

M. Morrison, Student Appeals Officer – present for Item 9

F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost – present for Item 10

Observers

M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
K. Jackson, University General Counsel
C. Johns, Provost's Office
S. McKenzie, Faculty Association
M. Kularatne, Students' Union
C. McVie, Provost's Office
A. Morris, Co-Interim Vice-President (Advancement)
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

T. Hodzic
C. Tutt

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Ellen Perrault, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, delivered a Territorial Acknowledgment, remarked that the discovery last week of children's bodies buried at the Kamloops residential school is saddening and has brought to light that insufficient action is being taken on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, reported that the implementation of the University's Indigenous Engagement Action Plan is a priority for the Faculty, and shared that the Faculty has employed Elder Kerrie Moore, Integrative Healing Therapist, to provide Indigenous and wellness leadership, and that the Faculty is currently in the process of hiring a Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Social Work Circle.

3. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Robert McCorkell, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Peter Gimby, AUPE representative, Florentine Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost, and several retiring academic staff Faculty representatives were acknowledged on this occasion of their last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- The community has been stunned and saddened by the discovery of 215 Indigenous children buried at the Kamloops residential school and the vehicular killing of a Muslim family in London, Ontario. Part of the role of a university is to foster the development of citizens who will speak against such actions to prevent similar events from happening again.
- Convocation celebrations are being held today. The resilience of the University's students during this difficult year is remarkable, and members are thanked for supporting these students on their academic journey.
- The Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs (AB 2030) strategy is now being implemented. The University is exploring the AB 2030 components, and it is noted that many of the goals of the University align with this.
- The University's Investment Management Agreement 2021-2022 will be presented for approval at the June 18, 2021 Board of Governors meeting. Under performance-based budgeting, 5% of the University's Campus Alberta funding is at risk and Work Integrated Learning is the metric during this pilot year. Additional metrics will be identified after the performance-based budgeting pilot period.

4. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University has committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and equality, and the statement in reaction to the discovery of the 215 Indigenous children reiterated the University's commitment to Indigenous engagement, reconciliation, and truth, and to take action to end all forms of hate. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) was acknowledged for the Sharing Circle event held on June 3, 2021.
- Planning continues for a phased return to on-campus operations over the summer. It is known that there remain concerns and questions regarding the Fall 2021 semester, and FAQs will be updated and clarifying messages will be sent.

5. Question Period

In response to a question, it was reported that it is expected that distancing requirements will be lifted by the Fall 2021 semester and so the use of the University's smaller classrooms will not be in contravention of any regulations.

6. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), presented on the Biosafety Program, specifically noting that biosafety is a complex area and acknowledging the advisory UCalgary Biosafety Committee for its work.

7. Approval of the May 13, 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 May 13, 2021 be approved.

Carried

Deborah White abstained.

8. Approval of the Growth Through Focus – Framework for Growth

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the development of the Framework for Growth, specifically remarking that the framework reflects the University's values, will inform future initiatives in deepening community engagement and developing programs, and now includes a fifth scholarship area of focus
- The proponent reported point 8 will be amended to read "*The University will expand resources available to support the faculty in developing programming for new modalities and new programs*"
- The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) reported that working groups are being established, and the working group to develop the fifth area of focus will be considering the name of the area, which is currently 'Democracy and Social Change'
- Discussion included that:
 - The President of the Faculty Association reported that some concerns remain, including about the lack of transparency in who discussed the Growth Through Focus feedback received and then drafted the framework document, if resource allocation will consider current program sustainability as a priority, if participation in transdisciplinary projects will be credited to all participants or just to Principal Investigators, that the fifth area of

focus can be perceived as an add-on and lesser category, whether the time it will take to develop relationships with Indigenous persons will be recognized, if merit and tenure could be impacted by lack of participation, and whether it would be appropriate to postpone approval of the framework until the Fall in order that more consultation can occur

- Other members of GFC remarked that broad and effective consultation on Growth Through Focus and the Framework for Growth has been occurring for a year, and there is appetite for an approved framework at this time
 - The statement in point 3 that the framework will be applied within the structure of the University's approved strategies, including Eyes High, ii'taa'poh'to'p (the Indigenous Strategy), the Global Engagement Plan, the Sustainability Strategy, the Mental Health Strategy, and the Academic and Research Plans, is appreciated
 - Initiatives including transdisciplinary scholarship, community partnerships, future-focused learning, and experiential learning are important for the University's future
 - The University is applauded for using the development of the framework to look ahead with positivity during these difficult times of COVID-19 and budgetary cutbacks
 - Equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization is woven throughout the framework
 - Approving the framework is one step in moving the University forward. The framework can be revised if implementation identifies any need for change, and specific proposals will move through the governance process as appropriate.
 - Some persons, including graduate students, may still struggle to identify where they fit within the framework
- It was requested that, because the areas of focus are not prioritized, the list of the five areas should be re-ordered and bulletized rather than numbered

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Framework for Growth, in the form provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, with the reported and requested amendments.

Carried

Peter Gimby opposed.

David Stewart, Elizabeth Montes Garces, Maria Zytaruk and Samantha Thrift abstained.

9. Approval of Revisions to the Student Misconduct and Academic Appeals Policy and Procedures

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Melissa Morrison, Student Appeals Officer, and Cherie Tutt, Director of the University Secretariat and Student Appeals Office, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of student misconduct and academic appeals policy suite, reported that the proposed revisions provide clarity for students and Faculties and align with recent changes to other related policies, described the consultation process, and specifically noted two of the proposed revisions: 1) that the Student Appeals Officer will now make decisions

on requests for deadline extension from students, and 2) for academic progression appeals, the ground of 'procedural fairness' will be replaced by 'error in the application of relevant regulations' because these decisions are administrative in nature

- Discussion included:
 - The clarity provided by the appeals policy suite and the assistance given by the Student Appeals Officer are appreciated
 - Whether students may request that their appeal be prioritized and if there are guidelines for prioritization. The proponents reported that, to date, appeals are processed quickly and there has been no need to prioritize files but that this would be done if there is a compelling reason to do so.
 - The definition of Graded Term Work

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the Student Misconduct and Academic Appeals Policy, the University Appeals Committee Procedure and the Faculty Appeals Committee Procedure in the forms provided to the GFC, effective July 1, 2021 and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, with the direction to the proponents to work with the Registrar on a final definition of Graded Term Work in the documents.

Carried

10. Approval of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Florentine Strzelczyk, Co-Chair of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes (ASCP) Working Group, and Francine Smith, Co-Chair of the ASCP Working Group, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the development of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes (ASCP) Handbook and acknowledged the work of the entire ASCP Working Group
- The proponents reported that the ASCP Handbook is now arranged into three parts and then highlighted its content, including definitions, authorities and general considerations, Faculty guidelines, transitional provisions, references to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and research integrity, appointment procedures, and equity, diversity and inclusion and strategic hiring procedures
- Discussion included:
 - The clarity provided by the ASCP Handbook will be helpful to Faculties and individuals
 - The broad and effective consultation process is applauded
 - Whether the DORA principles apply to all disciplines. The proponents reported that the ASCP Handbook will be revisited every year, and that the parts referencing DORA will be reviewed.
 - The explicit inclusion of creative and artistic activities as examples of appropriate research and scholarship activities is appreciated

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook dated June 02, 2021, in the form provided to the GFC and with immediate effect, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried**11. Election of Members of GFC to the GFC Executive Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Chair reported that the election will be held by an email vote immediately following the meeting, to ensure accurate vote count and proper participation
- There were no nominations from the floor

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Jessica Ayala, Faculty of Social Work
Joule Bergerson, Schulich School of Engineering
Rachel Lauer, Faculty of Science
Jennifer Winter, Faculty of Arts

12. Student Experience Report

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of 2020-2021 in relation to the Student Experience portfolio, specifically noting that:
 - The impacts of the pandemic were diverse, and differed depending on whether students were undergraduate students, graduate students or international students
 - Many normal student experiences were lost, including the sense of campus community, classroom interactions, student clubs, and convocation
 - Frequent changes in public health guidelines and uncertainties about course delivery took a toll on students
 - The move toward more flexible provision of services was accelerated during the pandemic, including the online delivery of transcripts through MyCreds, implementation of the Rex chat bot to answer online student questions, online booking of counsellors and doctors, an international SOS program for wellness support, and the growth of online resources and virtual events
 - Gains from this year that will be retained include the use of multifactor authentication login for students, online booking and delivery of some services, and enriched wellness supports such as online study groups and single-session counselling services

- The presenter noted that effort will be made to rebuild a strong in-person community in the Fall
- Discussion included:
 - The Student Experience office is applauded for all the remarkable work this year
 - That in-person learning is important educationally and socially, and that this year's first year students have not had normal formative on-campus experiences
 - That many faculty and students remain concerned about returning to in-person activities in the Fall semester, and that blended delivery may be pursued where practicable. The Registrar reported that 76% of Fall 2021 courses are scheduled to be offered in an in-person or blended format and noted that this number was 83% in Fall 2019.

13. Standing Reports

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information:

- a) Report on the May 19, 2021 GFC Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
- b) Annual Report of the EC
- c) Report on the May 17 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) Meeting
- d) Annual Report of the APPC
- e) Report on the May 18, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) Meeting
- f) Annual Report of the TLC
- g) Report on the May 20, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) Meeting
- h) Annual Report of the RSC
- i) Report on the May 28, 2021 Board of Governors Meeting
- j) Reports on the April 27 and May 13, 2021 Senate Meetings

14. Revised Faculty of Science Faculty Council Terms of Reference

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

The June 10, 2021 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.