

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #628

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Science Theatres 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	R. Cockett	J. Lock for D. Gereluk	R. Sheldon
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	A. Dambrowitz	A. Mac Namara	F. Smith
J. Allan	S. Davidson	R. McCorkell for R. Weller	J. Spangler
S. Amin	J. Dinh	R. Martinuzzi	E. Tadese
T. Anderson	K. Donlevy	A. Musgrove	A. Uy
G. Assefa	S. Forlini for T. Beattie	K. O’Keefe	M. Van Hee
K. Baetz	P. Galpern	T. O’Neill	C. Willness
N. Bakana	W. Ghali	E. Perrault	J. Winter
B. Barton	G. Grandy	T. Poffenroth	
W. Benoit	C. Heggerud	J. Poissant	
J. Bergerson	N. Holt	J. Priest	
J. Brown	M. Husein	S. Raj	
W. Cai	J. Jenkins	T. Risling	
O. Chapman	S. Jinnah Morsette	M.J. Romaniuk	
L.-F. Chu	V. Jones	W. Rosehart	
C. Cloutier	R. Kim	S. Ruwanpura	
E. Cobo	A. Knight	A. Schmal	
	S. LeBlanc	J. Seidel	

Guests

Justine Wheeler, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Item 9

Robin Yates, Administrative Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Item 9

Observers

E. Girma, incoming Students’ Union representative
 C. Johns, Provost’s Office
 J. Lacasse, General Counsel
 J. Kincaid, President’s Office
 D. Kozak, Faculty Association
 S. Luthy, Provost’s Office
 E. Rezaei-Afsah, incoming Students’ Union President
 M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
 E. Tom, incoming Students’ Union representative

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

H. Lywin
 M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

John Brown, Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL), presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then highlighted inclusive practices in his area, including:

- The SAPL Strategic Plan 2022-2027 establishes social justice as a key value, including inclusion and equity, and the strategic plan has four priorities: optimize location, build the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation (BDCI) program, intensify research, and enrich programs
- The SAPL's presence downtown puts it close to community partners and persons in need, and contributes to downtown rejuvenation
- The BDCI program gives students skills to make positive changes to the environment and respond to the unhoused and addiction issues in the community
- The SAPL was a contributor to the City of Calgary's Safety Expo 2024, held March 5-7, an event that promotes safe environments. A conversation was held on March 6 with stakeholders about the safety recommendations in the Calgary Downtown Safety Leadership Table report and the need to make changes with compassion.
- The SAPL's Health and Life initiatives include the Transdisciplinary Design Sprint, which will be held May 3-4, 2024 and will bring together students and mentors to develop solutions to challenges. It is anticipated that the Health and Life initiatives will grow into the establishment of a transdisciplinary community research hub for sustained action and into courses in the Spring and Summer semesters.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), presented the Safety Moment on the topic of the UCSafety mobile app, including:

- The UCSafety mobile app is a consolidated app, and the Alertus mobile app will no longer be used
- Members of the University community are encouraged to download the UCSafety app to their phone if they have not done so already. There is also a guest version of the UCSafety app, which has fewer features.
- The UCSafety app's primary purpose is to send safety alerts to phones and tablets before, during, and after an emergency. Safety alerts are also sent through desktop notifications to University-managed computers and through announcements on buildings' public address systems.
- Other features of the app include: one-touch access to emergency contacts (e.g. Campus Security, police, and fire services), a tool to report an incident or concern, links to information (e.g. Emergency Management policies and procedures, and Environment, Health and Safety standards and training), and access to campus maps. Additional features exclusive to members of the University community include: the ability to check in if working or studying alone, a tool to share the user's location when walking alone, links to additional information (e.g. IT security, research security, and Risk Management programs and services), and links to well-being resources.

4. Remarks of the Chair

Ed McCauley, Chair, included the following in his remarks:

- Members for whom this is their last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting were thanked for their contributions: James Steele, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, Kirsten Neprily, GSA Vice-President (Academic), Shaziah Jinnah-Morsette, Students' Union (SU) President, Sandra Amin, SU Vice-President (Academic), and several of the SU Faculty representatives. Incoming student members present to observe the meeting were welcomed.
- The 2024 Night of the Dino event was held April 8, 2024. The achievements of Dinos athletes were celebrated, including recognition of 177 Dinos students who are Academic All-Canadians.
- The School of Public Policy's Simpson Centre for Food and Agricultural Policy has been granted \$1.2 million from the provincial government to fully launch the Alberta Digitization Agriculture program to increase adoption of digital technologies in Alberta agriculture
- Provincial government support for a new rural physicians training program, a collaboration between the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge, was announced on April 3, 2024
- The team that facilitated a safe last day of classes on April 9, 2024 was thanked for their efforts
- University researchers have been very successful in receiving Tri-Council grants this year, with the number of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants up, including SSHRC Insight and Partnership grants
- Bill 18 was introduced by the provincial government on April 10, 2024. The bill would make funding deals between the federal government and municipalities, health authorities, and post-secondary institutions subject to provincial government approval. It is not known at this time if this will impact Tri-Council funding. University leadership is working to understand the legislation and will continue to engage with the provincial government about grant funding agreements.
- Testimony has been given to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research, which is studying matters including the allocation of funding in Canada
- The UCalgary 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) event was held April 10, 2024. Ten finalists presented, with Darsh Tripathi, Kinesiology, winning the event and moving on to represent the University at the Western Canadian 3MT regionals event on May 8, 2024.

5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks:

- Tara Beattie has been appointed as Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies
- Christine Johns has been appointed as Associate Deputy Provost, with academic program innovation and quality assurance in her portfolio
- An Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work has been struck and will soon begin its work
- The 2024 You at UCalgary event was held April 6, 2024, with 2,100 new students and their families welcomed. Incoming students not able to attend in person are welcomed in other ways.
- Last day of classes events on April 9, 2024 included the UCalgary Strong festival, which had over 3000 student participants, and a campus neighbouring community cleanup

- On March 18, 2024, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Law professor at Columbia University and the University of California, Los Angeles, spoke on the topic of race and gender intersectionality as part of the University's Courageous Conversations speakers series
- The U15 Provosts recently met, and topics of discussion included student engagement, research security, and civility in the workplace
- The University's team has been working collaboratively with the provincial government and other post-secondary institutions to develop a process to manage the provincial attestation letters and have been delivering these to both credit and non-credit international students since March 1. Because the province was so quick to have this implemented, Alberta was one of the first provinces to be able to start delivering these letters, giving prospective students confidence they will be supported. That said, the University has seen a decline in international demand this year, a trend consistent across Canada, and this will impact how many international students will be starting in programs in Fall 2024.
- Members of the University community are encouraged to register to participate in Responding to Disclosures of Sexual and Gender Based Violence training sessions

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

7. Approval of the March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on March 7, 2024 be approved.

Carried

The *ex-officio* designates abstained from voting.

8. Election by GFC of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair explained that the election will be conducted via an electronic form and a link to this will be sent by email immediately following the meeting. Members will have until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Susan Graham, Faculty of Arts

Jennifer Lock, Werklund School of Education

9. Revisions to the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Deputy Provost and Administrative Co-Chair of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG), and Justine Wheeler, Librarian and Academic Co-Chair of the ASCPHWG, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to revise the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook (the Handbook), including noting that this will return to the May 9, 2024 GFC meeting for approval and that the revised Handbook will be used for the 2025 assessment cycle. It was noted that the ASCPHWG meets regularly, and members were welcome to provide feedback on other parts of the Handbook for the ASCPHWG to consider for next year.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Changes to criteria were bargained in the last Collective Agreement between the Board of Governors and the Faculty Association, and the Handbook is being revised to align with this. Questions regarding the criteria can be directed to the bargaining group.
 - The University is a signatory to the Declaration on Research Assessment, and its principles (such as recognising research impact) have been incorporated into the Handbook in order to more fairly assess performance
- It was reported that information is compiled after committee meetings (e.g. for appointment, promotion, assessment) to note any problems with the Handbook for the ASCPHWG to consider

10. *Item withdrawn*

Secretary's Note: The Research Security Division Update was withdrawn from the agenda due to an unexpected scheduling conflict with the presenters. This item will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

11. Approved Revisions to the 2024-2025 GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedule and the 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

The approved 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 meeting schedules were circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information.

12. Approved Revisions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council Terms of Reference

The approved Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council Terms of Reference was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information.

13. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the March 13, 2024 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the February 26, 2024 and March 11, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings

- c) Report on the March 12, 2024 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the March 22, 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

14. GFC Member Survey

Time was provided for members to complete the 2024 GFC Member Survey. The Chair reported that the survey link will remain live until April 30, 2024, and that the results of the survey will be reported to GFC members at the June 13, 2024 meeting.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded:

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the April 11, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary