



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #631
Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

S. Davidson, Chair	K. Donlevy	R. Lauer	S. Raj
S. Al-Khaz' Aly	G. Dziegielewska	J. Law	E. Rezaei-Afsah
T. Anderson	S. Eaton	S. LeBlanc	T. Risling
J. Ayala	A. Franceschet	J. Lock	B. Salami
A. Badescu	V. Gabriel	K. Lukowiak	F. Samavati
K. Baetz	N. Ghazanfari	A. Mac Namara	A. Sen
D. Barry	E. Girma	K. MacLean	U. Singh Sandhu
B. Barton	G. Grandy	E. McCauley	C. Sowiak for M.J. Romaniuk
T. Beattie	D. Hapton	A. Morris	J. Spangler
A. Belikova	K. Hecker	A. Musgrove	S. Sulemana Saaka
W. Benoit	C. Hogan	L. Ndovi	R. Thompson for W. Ghali
J. Bergerson	N. Holt	D. Nicholas for E. Perrault	E. Tom
C. Bousman	M. Husein	A. Nygren	V. Turpin
J. Brown	J. Jenkins	T. O'Neill	M. Van Hee
C. Cloutier	B. Jones	E. Oshionebo	R. Weller
T. Comrie	V. Jones	H. Osthoff	
A. Dambrowitz	C. Joseph	G. Petrie	
J. Dinh	J. Keller	T. Poffenroth	
T. Dinh	H. Kim	A. Poppendorf	
P. Dominelli	R. Kim	J. Priest	

Observers

J. Ezeumeh, Students' Union
M. Hart, Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement
C. Johns, Associate Deputy Provost
J. Krygier, Faculty Association
J. Lacasse, General Counsel
S. Luthy, Provost's Office
E. Sjogren, University Secretariat
M. Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (EDI)
H. Yaworski, Graduate Students' Association

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

M. Speta

Staff

V. Kozielc

R. Kenny

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

Sandra Davidson, Chair of this meeting, welcomed new members to their first meeting and encouraged all to attend the new member orientation on September 12, 2024. The Chair also noted that while the President and Vice-Chancellor is not in conflict with chairing this meeting, this extra step of not having him Chair this meeting has been taken for openness.

3. GFC Motion Regarding an Independent Review Respecting the Use of Force Against Student Protestors at the University of Calgary on May 9, 2024

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ermia Rezaei-Afsah, Students' Union President, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the rationale for calling today's special meeting, noting that the Students' Union believes that the events of May 9, 2024 have negatively impacted the University's reputation and created a wound that cannot be addressed without a transparent, independent investigation
- The presenter explained that the SU does not necessarily believe there was any wrong-doing on the part of the University administration, but that an independent investigation is critical for restoring trust and will allow for learning and consideration of changes to policy
- Discussion included:
 - An overview of the steps taken to date was provided by the President and Vice-Chancellor including that:
 - The Crisis Management Team (CMT) was convened when protests started happening across North America, and the intention to adhere to existing policies regarding protests was affirmed
 - On the day of the encampment, the General Faculties Council (GFC) was informed that a notice of trespass had been issued and Calgary Police Service had been engaged
 - A third-party review of the incident was initiated shortly afterwards in alignment with existing practices and the results of the review will be presented to the Board
 - An Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) review is also already underway, which is the avenue for questions regarding appropriateness of police action
 - Concern about both the timing and process of the proposed motion given that a third-party review of the incident has already been initiated
 - That the University has set a precedent as it was the first institution to approach encampments in this way. An independent review would provide a clear understanding of what happened and would make community members more comfortable that everything was done according to our policies.
 - The differences between an independent review and a third-party review. The review that is currently underway is a third-party review initiated by the University administration. The motion being considered today is asking the Board to initiate a review.
 - That the GFC as a body has not yet communicated to the Board about this matter

- It was also noted that the University of Alberta is currently conducting an independent review of its encampment response

Secretary's Note: The vote was completed by secret ballot.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council recommends to the Board of Governors to initiate an independent review respecting the use of force against student protestors at the University of Calgary on May 9, 2024.

Carried

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:35 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary