



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting #632

Virtual Modality

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair
S. Davidson, Vice-Chair
O. Adegbayike
S. Al-Khaz' Aly
T. Anderson
G. Assefa
S. Atanda
J. Ayala
A. Badescu
K. Baetz
T. Beattie
M. Beg
W. Benoit
M.-A. Bergeron
K. Black
C. Bousman
A. Burns
F. Chisty
T. T. Chowdhury
E. Cobo
D. Dam
A. Dambrowitz

J. Dinh
T. Dinh
P. Dominelli
K. Donlevy
P. Easton
S. Eaton
J. Fewell
K. Fitzpatrick
A. Franceschet
L. Gerein
W. Ghali
G. Grandy
D. Hapton
A. Harvey
K. Hecker
C. Heggerud
C. Hogan
N. Holt
A.-M. Hubert
J. Jackson
J. Jenkins
J. Johnson for J. Brown
V. Jones

C. Joseph
J. Keller
C. Laing
R. Lauer
J. Lock
T. Lucas
A. Mac Namara
R. Martinuzzi
M. Mohamad
A. Morris
A. Musgrove
L. Ndovi
A. Nygren
K. O'Keefe
E. Oshionebo
O. Osiyevskyy
H. Osthoff
E. Perrault
G. Petrie
R. Plume
T. Poffenroth
J. Poissant
A. Poppendorf

J. Priest
S. Raj
E. Rezaei-Afsah
T. Risling
M. J. Romaniuk
S.S. Saaka
B. Salami
F. F. Samavati
A. Sen
R. Sheldon
B. Shi
F. Smith
J. Spangler
J. Stein for R. Kim
E. Tom
V. Turpin
M. Van Hee
W. D. Walls
R. Weller
C. Willness

Guests

S. Bryant, Academic Lead, Transdisciplinary Scholarship – present for Item 12
V. Burns, Faculty of Social Work and Director, University of Calgary Recovery Community – present for Item 2
B. Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation) – present for Item 9
K. Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research – present for Item 12
J. Perdue, Associate Vice-President (Sustainability) – present for Item 11
M. Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship – present for Item 12

Observers

J. Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations)
K. Hamilton, President's Office
M. Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)
C. Johns, Associate Deputy Provost
J. Lacasse, General Counsel
S. Luthy, Provost's Office
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research
R. Yates, Deputy Provost

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

V. Kozielec
M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Victoria Burns, Faculty of Social Work and Founder and Director of the UCalgary Recovery Community, presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then spoke about the UCalgary Recovery Community, including:

- There is stigma about disclosing addiction, and persons struggling with addiction can feel ashamed and isolated. The UCalgary Recovery Community was created to provide support for faculty, staff, and students.
- The UCalgary Recovery Community has programming including peer support meetings, substance-free events, education and trainings (including ally training), recovery champions, scholarships and awards, and research.
- Dialogue is needed about recovery, and inclusivity is important so that all people can get the support they need.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), presented on the topic of evacuation procedures, including:

- The University holds evacuation drills across all campuses every September. This is a regulatory requirement of both the Occupational Health and Safety Code and the Alberta Fire Code, and the drills allow emergency response teams and the University community to practice evacuations, test the equipment and procedures, and analyse for ways to improve.
- A second drill for one residence building was conducted this year to ensure that the building can be evacuated within the target time of 10 minutes.
- The University's webpage has a map and evacuation instructions for any campus location.
- It has been identified that the use of headphones and mobile devices can hamper a person's ability to observe and respond to the evacuation system's alarms and cues. Incorporating more visual cues into the system is being pursued for the future.
- In the event of an evacuation alarm, persons may take their coat, keys, identification, and other valuables if these are immediately available to them.
- Persons are encouraged to be aware of the evacuation processes for any space they are in, including hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues, etc.

4. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his general remarks:

- This is the General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting for Evaristus Oshionebo, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Law, Catherine Laing, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Anders Nygren, Interim Dean

of the Schulich School of Engineering, Amy Burns, Acting Dean of the Werklund School of Education, and several appointed representatives.

- Meetings have been held with members of Cabinet as the provincial government prepares for the implementation of the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18). Representatives of the University have been communicating about the importance of Tri-Council funding.

Ed McCauley, Chair, then presented the Annual Address of the Chair, including:

- The University has been on a positive trajectory from 1966 to the present day, and currently has five campuses, 14 Faculties, approximately 250 academic programs, more than 38,000 students (30,400 undergraduate and 7,800 graduate), and a consolidated budget of \$1.7 billion.
- The University has three core missions: teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community engagement. Highlights about each include:
 - Teaching and Learning
 - The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) indicates that the University scores higher than its peer universities in the engagement indicators ‘quantitative reasoning’, ‘collaborative learning’, ‘discussions with diverse others’, student-faculty interaction’, ‘effective teaching practices’, ‘quality of interactions’, and ‘supportive environment’.
 - The amount of scholarships and bursaries is steadily growing, at \$131 million in 2023-2024.
 - Experiential and work-integrated learning opportunities are included in 89% of the academic programs.
 - Survey outcomes indicate that 96.3% of graduates are employed after graduation.
 - Research and Innovation
 - Sponsored research revenue is also steadily growing, at \$589 million in 2023-2024.
 - ReSearch Infosource currently ranks the University of Calgary at #5 of Canada’s top research universities. It will be difficult for the University to move higher in this ranking as the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, McGill University, and Université de Montréal are all larger institutions.
 - The University has been awarded three Canada Excellence Research Chairs and 90 Canada Research Chairs.
 - Innovation, inventions, and the mobilization of knowledge for the benefit of society are important to the University. The University’s innovation ecosystem includes the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Innovate Calgary, the Ward of the 21st Century (W21C) Research and Innovation Centre, the Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies, and Alberta Innovates.
 - The University continues to be ranked #1 in Canada for creating start-ups.
 - Community
 - The University has approximately 220,000 alumni. Efforts are made to engage that base.
 - The University has impacts on the City of Calgary, including a \$16.5 billion economic impact and providing 22,493 jobs.
 - The University’s fundraising campaign raised \$1.4 billion, including the OWN.CANCER campaign which recently exceeded its goal.

- Initiatives demonstrating the University's values include *ii' taa'poh'to'p* (the Indigenous Strategy) and the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy.
- The University is developing and expanding the downtown campus, Foothills campus, Spy Hill campus, University Innovation Quarter, and main campus to provide the facilities for the University's work.
- Rankings are important to people within and external to the University. Rankings can be used to assess how the University is succeeding at advancing its goals. The University is consistently ranked as the fifth, sixth, or seventh-placed university of 223 universities in Canada, ranked #1 of institutions of its age in Canada, ranked #4 of institutions of its age in North America, and consistently ranked in the top 200 universities in the world (of 29,257 in the world).
- *Ahead of Tomorrow* is the University's 2023-2030 strategic plan, and this sets the path for the University for the coming years. The *Ahead of Tomorrow* accomplishment goals include to:
 - Be the #1 university in the U15 Canadian universities, normalized for size.
 - Grow enrolment to meet community demand.
 - Provide students with signature learning experiences.
 - Position the innovation ecosystem globally and focus on value creation.
 - Connect to the community in everything that we do.
 - Tackle societal problems.
 - Make the operations of the University quick and nimble.
 - Invest in professional development for employees.

5. **Remarks of the Vice-Chair**

Sandra Davidson, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks:

- That she has now served for 100 days in her role as Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and looks forward to working with GFC.
- Federal and provincial advocacy about the importance of postsecondary institutions continues, including in relation to the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) changes.
- Three searches are underway: for a Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, and Dean of the Faculty of Nursing
- The University's tuition and fees consultation process is underway, and issues raised include affordability and food security. A tuition and fees survey will close this afternoon.
- The equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) survey of the Presidential Task Force on EDIA closed yesterday. The survey received approximately 1,500 responses and the next step will be for the Task Force to analyse the feedback.

6. **Question Period**

There were no questions.

7. Approval of the June 13, 2024 and July 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair reminded members that it is not necessary for members to abstain if they were not present at the meetings. Voting to approve the minutes does not require a member to have been an eyewitness to the events, but rather that they have confidence in the Secretary, the other GFC members, and the process that produced the Minutes.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meetings held on June 13, 2024 and July 10, 2024 be approved.

Carried

8. Elections by GFC

- Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing
- Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for the Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair explained that the elections 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, October 11 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Advisory Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing

Fiona Clement, Cumming School of Medicine

Jennifer Lock, Werklund School of Education

Advisory Selection Committee for the Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering

Barry Sanders, Faculty of Science

Getachew Assefa, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

9. 2025-2026 University Budget Planning

Sandra Davidson, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation explaining that:
 - The University's consolidated budget is an annual spending plan based on estimated revenue and expenses. The revenues include monies from the provincial operating grant, other federal and provincial grants, tuition and fees, donations, investment income, and sales. The expenses

- include salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, scholarships and bursaries, amortization of capital, utilities, maintenance and repairs, and the costs of goods sold.
- The University's capital budget is the annual spending plan to maintain, renew, repurpose, and expand the University's facilities. Capital expenses include infrastructure, furnishings, maintenance, learning resources, and software systems. Infrastructure is by far the largest component of the capital budget, and includes the construction of buildings and long-term site improvements.
 - It is required by provincial legislation that the Board of Governors (BG) submit a budget to the Minister of Advanced Education each year, and that this budget be balanced.
 - The budget process includes:
 - The process begins in September with the development of the principles, process, and parameters for the unit, consolidated, and capital budgets. The BG Budget Committee reviews and recommends the principles, process, and parameters to the BG Finance and Property Committee in October.
 - The University community is consulted about areas of expense priority in October. This consultation can be done through a survey, town hall meetings, and other means.
 - Unit budgets are prepared in November and reviewed in December. The institutional budgets are reviewed and finalised in January and February.
 - The Board of Governors reviews and approves the budget for submission to the Minister in March, upon recommendation by the Budget Committee and Finance and Property Committee.
 - The presenters reported that challenges to budgeting that the University faces include unpredictable political, economic, social, technological, and legislative factors. Specific factors include inflation, enrolment trends, tuition changes, and regulatory requirements.
 - The presenters indicated that the University is moving to internal multi-year budgeting as forecasting the budget will allow for longer range planning so that there are resources to drive the University's priorities.
 - There were no questions or comments.

10. 2024 Enrolment Report

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the Fall 2024 undergraduate and graduate student enrolment, including:
 - As of September 18, 2024, the student population snapshot was 38,176 students, with 30,400 undergraduate students (80%) and 7,776 graduate students (20%). There has been continuous growth in the student population, meeting the University's targets, with the 2024 population up 2.1%.
 - The Indigenous student population has grown to 3.9% of the student population, with 1,247 Indigenous undergraduate students and 250 Indigenous graduate students.

- The student population is 83% domestic and 17% international overall. The undergraduate student population is 88.6% domestic and 11.4% international, and the graduate student population is 62.4% domestic and 37.6% international.
- Students come to the University from 138 different countries. The top countries of origin for undergraduate students are currently India, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and Nigeria, and the top countries of origin for graduate students are India, Iran, China, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The drops in numbers in 2024 can be attributed to factors such as the pandemic.
- 27% of undergraduate students are new and 73% are returning, and 31% of graduate students are new and 69% are returning. Of the new undergraduate students, 64.7% come from the Calgary area, 11.8% come from elsewhere in Alberta, 15.4% come from elsewhere in Canada, and 8.1% are international. The percentage of students coming to the University from outside of Alberta is growing.
- The gender split of the student population is 54.1% female, 45.3% male, 0.5% non-binary, and 0.1% undisclosed.
- The high school retention rate, which measures students who entered the University from high school and are now in their second year, remains steady at approximately 90%. There has been a slight drop in retention of Indigenous and international students.
- The applicant-to-registration ratio for undergraduate students was 3.69 in 2024. The mean Faculty admission averages remain fairly consistent, and range across Faculties from 83.4% to 93.0%. A drop in a Faculty admission average can occur, for example, if a Faculty has created more student seats which has occurred through provincial expansion grants in recent years.
- The presenter reported that:
 - The annual Open House will be held October 25, 2024. This event is for prospective students and their families, and will be attended by more than 10,000 people. Attendees will be welcomed and will attend an exhibition hall with Faculty and services information, discovery sessions with program and services information, and campus tours.
 - The University is growing with new and expanded programs.
 - The IRCC changes are impacting international students, with the University seeing a 23% reduction in applications last year. The University is faring better than many peer institutions but the drop in international student applications is significant. The University can build its domestic student population as there is demand, but there will need to be continued investment in order to grow the desired international student population. The University currently has recruiters all over the world.
 - The University hosted high school counsellors in the summer, providing information and conducting tours, and this was a well-attended and well-received event.
- Discussion included that:
 - Bringing in the high school counsellors was a valuable endeavour, as they were impressed and will now encourage their students to consider applying to the University.
 - The impacts of the IRCC changes not being as bad for the University as for other institutions can be attributed to the recruitment efforts.
 - Data such as the admission average are helpful when communicating to the government and others about the demands on the University and the need for investment

11. 2024 Institutional Sustainability Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Joanne Perdue, Associate Vice-President (Sustainability), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the content of the Institutional Sustainability Report that will be published on October 23, 2024, including:
 - The University continues to demonstrate strong sustainability performance among international research institutions. The University ranks in the top 5% globally of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for advancing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, and in the top 5% globally of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for commitment to tackling critical environmental, social, and governance challenges.
 - Metrics used to assess the University's progress in sustainability include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of water use, sustainability in course content, experiential learning for students in sustainability projects, and sustainability-related research publications.
 - Sustainability initiatives at the University include being a Fair Trade Canada certified campus and being recognized as a Bee City Canada campus.
 - The University's Institutional Sustainability Strategy (ISS) launched in 2016 and the ISS Action Plan has been updated for 2024-2027. The process to update the Action Plan followed a parallel path of consultation with both a written and oral framework, gathering data and stories, and analysis. The updated Action Plan has four key commitments: to advance sustainability education, advance sustainability research and innovation, enrich engagement in sustainability, and grow the University's sustainability achievements.
- The presenter announced that the University has been selected as the host institution for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Canada for 2024-2027. This network of institutions works together as leaders toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement in Canada.
- In response to a question, it was reported that there had been issues with the electric car chargers on the main campus and the presenter will follow up with Facilities about the status of repairs.

12. Update on Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship (ITS) and Introduction of ITS Academic Leads and Senior Specialists

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President (Research), introduced this item and then Steven Bryant, Academic Lead, Transdisciplinary Scholarship and Mariska Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship (ITS), including:
 - The ITS has been building capacity and effort continues to be made to increase awareness of the ITS and the work being done as the ITS moves ahead.
 - In 2024-2025 the ITS will continue to be involved in hiring new faculty and research chairs, hiring ITS staff, running the Connector Grants program, and hosting engagement events.

- The 16 new transdisciplinary faculty hires are in the areas of focus of Health and Life; Cities and Societies; Democracy, Justice, and Sustainability; Digital Worlds; and Energy Futures. Each of these five areas of focus have Academic Co-Leads and a Senior Specialist to support the area's work to develop a vision, build community, and engage with highly qualified personnel (HQP). Students are keen to learn and work in a transdisciplinary fashion and so engaging students will also be an important part of each area's work.
- The area of focus Academic Co-Leads and Senior Specialists are:
 - Health and Life
 - Academic Co-Leads: Elena Di Martino, Schulich School of Engineering, Jenny Godley, Faculty of Arts, and Nicole Letourneau, Faculty of Nursing
 - Senior Specialist: Jasmeen Saini-Rai
 - Cities and Societies
 - Victoria Fast, Faculty of Arts, Joshua Taron, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, and Ajwang' Warri, Faculty of Social Work
 - Senior Specialist: Rineem Saleh
 - Democracy, Justice, and Sustainability
 - Aleem Bharwani, Cumming School of Medicine, Tonya Callaghan, Werklund School of Education, Patrina Duhaney, Faculty of Social Work, and Marjan Eggermont, Schulich School of Engineering
 - Senior Specialist: Alya Jinah
 - Digital Worlds
 - Marina Gavrilova, Faculty of Science, Mohammad Keyhani, Haskayne School of Business, and Tyler Williamson, Cumming School of Medicine
 - Senior Specialist: Alanna Bartolini
 - Energy Futures
 - Sabrina Perić, Faculty of Arts, Douglas Robb, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, and Gregory Welch, Faculty of Science
 - Senior Specialist: Connie Tsang
- Connector Grants have been awarded across Faculties. Of 212 applications received, 117 grants totalling \$1,411,123 have been awarded to date. The grants enable connections within the University and to external institutions and organizations.
- Members of the GFC are encouraged to subscribe to the ITS Bulletin, and to attend focus area and other engagement opportunity events.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The ITS is talking with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning about the teaching of transdisciplinary courses and curriculum development, and is working with the Provost's office about facilitating connections to grow transdisciplinary teaching.
 - The ITS funded 10 Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) awards last summer.
- Discussion included:
 - The Faculty of Graduate Studies is developing thesis and course-based transdisciplinary programs, with learning in classroom and research environments. There will be opportunities to mentor and supervise students.

- The ITS approach and initiatives will enable the University to evolve our existing collaborative efforts. The University is recognized as a leader in transdisciplinary work, and other institutions are talking with the University about what we are doing. The openness of the University to communication and collaboration with others is one of our strengths.
- The Connector Grants help University researchers to compete in other research grant programs, such as the New Frontiers in Research Fund.

13. Revision to the 2024-2025 Academic Schedule (Spring 2025 Convocation Schedule)

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

14. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the August 28, 2024 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the June 17, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the September 19, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the September 17, 2024 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

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| <p>Moved/Seconded That the General Faculties Council adjourn the October 10, 2024 meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p> |
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The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary