

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting #634

Virtual Modality

Voting Members

S. Davidson, Vice-Chair	T. Comrie	A. Karimi	S. Raj
O. Adegbayike	J. de Roaldes for A. Dambrowitz	J. Keller	E. Rezaei-Afsah
S. Al-Khaz' Aly	J. Dinh	A. Kenward for A. Morris	T. Risling
T. Anderson	P. Dominelli	R. Kim	M.-J. Romaniuk
G. Assefa	K. Donlevy	J. Kowalchuk for T. Poffenroth	S.S. Saaka
J. Ayala	P. Easton	J. Lacasse	B. Salami
A. Badescu	S. Eaton	C. Laing	F. F. Samavati
B. Barton	J. Fewell	S. LeBlanc	A. Sen
T. Beattie	K. Fitzpatrick	J. Lock	A. Shah
M. Beg	A. Franceschet	K. Lukowiak	R. Sheldon
W. Benoit	V. Gabriel	J. MacCallum for K. Baetz	F. Smith
M.-A. Bergeron	L. Gerein	A. Mac Namara	J. Spangler
K. Black	W. Ghali	L. Mazzino	C. Tepperman
C. Bousman	G. Grandy	M. Mohamad	E. Tom
B. Brennan for A. Nygren	D. Hapton	A. Musgrove	E. Trinidad
J. Brown	A. Harvey	L. Ndovi	M. Van Hee
A. Burns	C. Heggerud	H. Osthoff	W. D. Walls
F. L. Chisty	C. Hogan	E. Perrault	R. Weller
F. Clement	N. Holt	G. Petrie	C. Willness
C. Cloutier	A.-M. Hubert	R. Plume	J. Winter
E. Cobo	J. Jenkins	J. Poissant	S. Yee
	V. Jones	J. Priest	

Guests

M. Davies, Senior Director, Environment, Health and Safety – present for Item 3
M. Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 9
S. McCarty, Associate Vice President (People and Culture) – present for Item 2
K. Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research – present for Item 10
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research – present for Item 9
S. Warner, Manager, Knowledge to Impact – present for Item 10

Observers

K. Hamilton, President's Office
C. Johns, Associate Deputy Provost
S. Luthy, Provost's Office
M. Smith, Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

R. Kenny
V. Kozielec
M. Speta

The Vice-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

Steve McCardy, Associate Vice-President (People and Culture), presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then highlighted ULead, the University's leadership development program, including:

- The program aims to nurture people to excel as leaders of academic and non-academic employees.
- The program's skill-specific workshops are Fostering a Culture of Respect through Leadership, The Art of Giving Feedback, The Working Mind for Managers, and Conducting Challenging Conversations with Care.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mark Davies, Senior Director, Environment, Health and Safety, presented on the topic of field safety:

- The University has a Field Safety Standard that was developed in response to incidents in recent history at the Bamfield Field Station and other locations. The Field Safety Standard clearly describes the responsibilities and best practices for all parties involved in research and instruction that involves travel and field activities, and the standard is updated based on lessons learned from field work over time.
- Members of the University community in the field anywhere can contact the International SOS (ISOS) emergency assistance partner provider for help with a variety of issues including illness and injury, road safety, environmental threats, travel security, personal wellbeing, language barriers, and detention by authorities. International SOS provides assistance for employees, students, and volunteers while travelling on university business, outside of Canada, and within Canada to isolated, remote, and wilderness locations.
- Challenges can differ depending on the nature of the field work, and information and resources are provided on the Risk Management webpage and through the Environment, Health and Safety office.

In response to questions, it was stated that:

- The graphic in the presentation illustrating types of field issues can be shared with colleagues.
- There is a 1-800 telephone number for contacting ISOS, and this can be provided.

4. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- New Faculty and Students' Union representatives were welcomed to their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting.
- A President's Town Hall was held January 29, 2025, with approximately 375 in-person and over 800 online attendees. Sessions like this, at which members of the Executive Leadership Team will speak with the University community, will occur again in the future.
- The University exploring options to reduce risks to the supply chain considering possible tariffs that are soon be implemented by the United States administration.

- There is anticipation of a federal election this spring, and University representatives are continuing to advocate to Members of Parliament and others about the value of the University and the post-secondary sector. Conversations are also continuing about the Tri-Council capstone organization that is being developed.
- The 2025 provincial budget will be announced in February, and advocacy relating to this is continuing.
- Jack Mintz is currently leading the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness, and there is hope that this will result in a stable funding model for post-secondary institutions. The University is readying data to provide to the panel.
- A Calgary Chamber of Commerce event was held February 5, 2025, including a fireside chat with Minister of Advanced Education Rajan Sawhney relating to how post-secondary institutions support Alberta's labour needs and productivity.
- The Fall 2024 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding results have been announced and are the best the University's researchers have ever achieved, with 38 full and bridging projects granted funding totaling over \$31.5 million.
- The Faculty of Nursing is launching a new lottery-based admissions process in Fall 2026, which is designed to provide all qualified applicants an equal chance for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The traditional process with high admission averages has been a barrier to some well-qualified applicants and has prevented some from even applying, and the new process is expected to provide a way to attract potential students who want to become lifelong nurses.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Approval of the December 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on December 5, 2024 be approved.

Carried

7. Recommendation of the Dissolution of the University of Calgary in Qatar (the Qatar Faculty)

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that, after 16 years of operation, the State of Qatar has achieved capacity to deliver its own Nursing programs and so it is now time to close the University's Qatar Faculty. The agreement with the State of Qatar to deliver Nursing programs in Qatar was extended until August 31, 2025 to allow for admitted students to complete their degrees in May and for wrap-up to occur, and the agreement will not be further extended.

- The proponent described the work underway to transition records and staff, and shared that the last graduation ceremony will be held in May.
- In response to questions, it was reported that the few staff who have expressed wish to return to the University have been invited to apply for open positions, while other staff were not originally from the University and others have chosen to stay in the Qatar region. Staff are being assisted on an individual basis, as their need requires.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the dissolution of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), effective August 31, 2025, as presented to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

8. Approval of the Establishment of the 2025-2026 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that this is an annual calculation done by the Office of Institutional Analysis and that the Qatar Faculty was removed from this year’s calculation in anticipation of its winddown. The calculation results in the Schulich School of Engineering gaining one seat in 2025-2026.
- In response to a question, it was explained that there are two categories of academic staff member seats on the GFC: elected academic staff member seats mandated by the Post-Secondary Learning Act, the distribution of which is being approved today, and additional Faculty-appointed academic staff member seats assigned by the GFC.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out on the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

9. Indigenous Engagement - Research Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement), and Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on Indigenous engagement within research at the University, reporting that activities include: aligning *ii' taa'poh'to'p* (the University’s Indigenous Strategy) with the institutional Research and Innovation Plan, providing support to new Canada Excellence Research Chair holder Deborah McGregor, working with the Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship to incorporate Indigenous research into every pillar, developing a land-based research site at Barrier Lake, involvement with the One Health initiative, involvement with the Research Data Management Committee and

development of the Data Sovereignty Committee/Indigenous Data Management Committee, and coordinating research and learning opportunities through the Indigenous Research Support Team, One Child Every Child parallel paths initiative, and Office of Indigenous Engagement.

- The presenter indicated that key areas of focus for the immediate future include continued coordination of *ii' taa'poh'to'p* and Research and Innovation Plan implementation, continued efforts to increase the number of Indigenous researchers at the University, development and coordination of training materials, the strengthening of pathways to students becoming researchers, and expanding connections with Indigenous organizations to coordinate research efforts.
- Discussion included:
 - The Nature article “Two-Eyed Seeing”, which discusses approaches to incorporating Indigenous input into neuroscience research, is interesting and worth reading. The presenter observed that Two-Eyed Seeing is a well-known concept and that this is addressed similarly but more broadly in *ii' taa'poh'to'p* through Parallel Paths.
 - The work on implementing *ii' taa'poh'to'p* and recruiting more Indigenous scholars to the University is impressive and advances truth and reconciliation efforts, and Michael Hart was applauded for his leadership.

10. Declaration On Research Assessment (DORA) and Research Impact Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, and Stephanie Warner, Manager, Knowledge to Impact, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on research impact initiatives, including:
 - The DORA Declaration on Research Assessment, of which the University was the first university in Canada to become a signatory, affirms commitment to societal impact, a broader range of outputs and impact measures, focus on the content of output and not simply journal-based metrics, quantitative and qualitative indicators of research quality and impact, and transparent criteria.
 - The DORA principles have been incorporated into the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, the Faculty Guidelines, and the Academic Selection Toolkit for hiring. The DORA principles are meant to maximize pathways to recognition, and for the consideration of factors such as career stage.
 - Funding agencies are changing their practices to align with their own commitments to DORA. The Tri-Agency is developing a narrative-style curriculum vitae (CV) that will ultimately replace the Canadian Common CV.
 - The Knowledge to Impact team is developing a toolbox for the University to guide assessing and communicating about research impact, provide educational opportunities, and implement campus-wide research impact reporting.
 - Next steps also include seeking to understand the varied uptake of the DORA principles across Faculties and to understand barriers and opportunities for growth.
- Discussion included:
 - Some promotion and other committees seem unaware of the DORA principles and are still focused on measures such as publication venue. It will take time for the DORA principles to be broadly embraced.

- It will be valuable for the Knowledge to Impact team to continue to visit Faculties to talk about research impact assessment and the DORA principles and to continue to provide information online.
- Researchers applying for grants could benefit from guidance on how to effectively describe their research impact and how to prepare the new narrative-style CV.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Tri-Council grant adjudication committees should now have the DORA principles built into their guidelines.
 - The DORA principles do not eliminate measures such as traditional publication counts but add on the valuing of other research impact measures.
 - Representatives of the University testified before the federal government's Standing Committee on Science and Research and meet regularly with government representatives about matters including research funding and assessment.

11. Approved Revisions to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, Teaching and Learning Committee, and Course Feedback Implementation Working Group Terms of Reference

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

12. Approved Revisions to the Schulich School of Engineering Faculty Council Terms of Reference

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

13. Approved Revisions to the Faculty of Nursing Faculty Council Terms of Reference

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:

- 1) Report on the January 15, 2025 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- 2) Report on the December 9, 2024 and January 13, 2025 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- 3) Report on the January 16, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- 4) Report on the January 14, 2025 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- 5) Report on the December 4, 2024 Senate Meeting

15. Other Business

There was no other business raised for this meeting in accordance with the GFC agenda process.

16. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the February 6, 2025 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary