



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting #635

Virtual Modality

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair
B. Adams for T. Anderson
O. Adegbayike
S. Al-Khaz' Aly
G. Assefa
J. Ayala
A. Badescu
K. Baetz
B. Barton
T. Beattie
M. Beg
W. Benoit
M.-A. Bergeron
C. Bousman
J. Brown
A. Bulloch
A. Burns
F. L. Chisty
F. Clement
C. Cloutier
T. Comrie

A. Dambrowitz
M. Davies for M. Van Hee
J. Dinh
P. Dominelli
K. Donlevy
J. Fewell
K. Fitzpatrick
A. Franceschet
P. Galpern
L. Gerein
W. Ghali
G. Grandy
D. Hapton
C. Heggerud
C. Hogan
N. Holt
A.-M. Hubert
J. Jackson
J. Jenkins
A. Jenney
V. Jones
A. Karimi

J. Keller
R. Kim
J. Lacasse
C. Laing
K. Lane for T. Poffenroth
S. LeBlanc
J. Lock
T. Lucas
K. Lukowiak
A. Mac Namara
L. Mazzino
M. Mohamad
A. Morris
A. Musgrove
L. Ndovi
A. Nygren
K. O'Keefe
T. O'Neill
H. Osthoff
E. Perrault
G. Petrie
R. Plume

J. Poissant
E. Rezaei-Afsah
T. Risling
M.-J. Romaniuk
B. Salami
F. F. Samavati
A. Sen
C. Seneviratne
A. Shah
R. Sheldon
F. Smith
J. Spangler
C. Tepperman
E. Tom
E. Trinidad
V. Turpin
R. Weller
C. Willness
J. Winter
R. Yates for S. Davidson
S. Yee

Guests

S. Louw, Senior Legal Counsel – present for Item 7
J. Quin, Senior Director, Student Services – present for Item 7
P. Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Student Services Administration – present for Item 7
B. StAmand, Senior Director, International – present for Item 9

Observers

S. Alexander, member of Board of Governors nominated by General Faculties Council
J. Alho, Associate Vice-President Government Relations
K. Hamilton, President's Office
C. Johns, Associate Deputy Provost
S. Luthy, Provost's Office

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

V. Kozielec
M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Catherine Heggerud, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Haskayne School of Business (HSB), presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then highlighted the HSB's Academic Turnaround Program (ATP):

- This is a mandatory program for students who want to continue in their program but need to return to good academic standing (a GPA of 2.0 or more). Students who do not succeed in improving their academic standing are required to withdraw.
- Some students have a difficult time adjusting to university life, and the program is designed to give them an opportunity to improve.
- The HSB ATP is rooted in four theories: acceptance and commitment, dialectic behaviour, motivational interviewing, and self-regulated learning.
- Throughout the year, students in the HSB ATP participate in workshops, group study sessions, counselling sessions, and journaling exercises to positively grow their learning skills and personal identity. The HSB has a registered social worker to support these efforts.
- To date, 414 students have completed the program, with a success rate of approximately 90%. The breakdown of participation is 71.1% Canadian, 26.7% International, and 2.2% Indigenous students. Some students who have completed the HSB ATP go on to complete additional degrees.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mark Davies, Senior Director, Environment, Health and Safety, presented on the University's annual safety performance summary:

- The University gathers safety-related statistics to support continuous improvement and to show compliance with safety commitments.
- Since 2019, the University has had positive downward trends in total recorded injuries and lost time injuries (injuries that prevent a person from completing normal daily activities).
- In 2023-2024, non-injury incidents included motor vehicle damage, property damage, indoor and outdoor spills/releases, and electrical events.
- The number of Level 1 incidents (minor incidents such as first-aid injuries and small spills/releases) and near miss incidents have steadily increased over time.
- When compared to peer universities, it appears that the University has some work to do in relation to lost time injuries, as the University of Ottawa, Queen's University, McMaster University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Waterloo all report fewer incidents. The University is focusing on hazard/risk management and incident management and on studying what programs are not working well so that improvements can be made.

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- The University's leadership is working to limit the institution's exposure to the impacts of tariffs and counter tariffs, including working closely with provincial and federal colleagues to understand the implications of the tariffs.
- It is anticipated that a federal election will be held in the Spring. Representatives of the University continue to meet with Members of Parliament on both sides of the aisle to speak about the value of the institution to Canada.
- The 2025 provincial budget was announced last week.
 - The University's operating grant remains unchanged for the fourth year in a row at \$374 million. This is not a cut, which can be seen as good news, but factors such as inflation mean that this static amount will have impacts. The University will receive \$25 million for capital maintenance and renewal funding in 2025-2026, which is up approximately 10% from 2024-2025, and this is very important for maintaining operations. The targeted enrolment expansion program will continue, with \$35 million for the University's already underway expansions, but there is no additional funding for another call for targeted enrolment expansion. The University is prepared however, should a call for new targeted enrolment expansion be made in the future. Out-years capital project funding includes continued commitment to the Multidisciplinary Science Hub and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Diagnostic Service Unit.
 - A new postsecondary funding model is needed to meet the capacity, inflation, and other challenges that universities face. It is hoped that the *Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness*, currently being chaired by Jack Mintz, will recommend a sustainable operating funding model for the system going forward and representatives of the University are advocating for this.
- Representatives of the University met with the Premier and Minister of Advanced Education about the potential impacts of the implementation of the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18), which comes into force on April 1, 2025. It has been decided that the majority of our agreements will be exempted from the Act, including for research funding, student employment, experiential learning and work experience, official languages, continuing education and instructional programming, non-instructional events such as conferences, fee-for-service contracts, and short-term rentals. Some contracts above \$100,000 might be subject to review.
- The University of Calgary Teaching Awards celebration was held February 25, 2025. There were 19 recipients from nine Faculties and units across the University.
- EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Week 2025 is being held March 3-7, 2025. Events include the EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) Awards ceremony held March 5, and the WISE (Women in Science and Engineering, Prairie Region) Planet sustainable development goals and EDI session held March 6.
- An International Women's Day event recognising women in leadership will be held at the Calgary Public Library downtown location on March 7, 2025.
- Andrew Szeto has been appointed the Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Commitments, effective March 1, 2025, Catherine Heggerud has been appointed Executive Director of the Office of Signature Learning Experiences, effective July 1, 2025, and Laura Spitz has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Law, effective July 1, 2025.

- This weekend, the men’s Dinos basketball team will play for the conference title, and the men’s and women’s swimming and men’s and women’s track and field teams are all off to championship events.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Approval of the February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Chair, presented this item and reminded members that 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.

<p>Moved/Seconded</p> <p>That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on February 6, 2025 be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
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Abstained: Ellen Perrault

7. Recommendation of Revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sarah Louw, Senior Legal Counsel, Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services, and Paula Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Student Services Administration, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the fulsome consultation process in developing the proposed revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy (Policy) has been completed, reviewed the recent amendments to the proposed revisions, described the supports available to students, and indicated that the complexities relating to experiential learning will continue to be considered.
- Discussion included suggestion that the definition of experiential learning could be strengthened.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - An increase in reporting does not necessarily mean that there has been a rise in violence. It is probable that educational efforts have resulted in greater awareness of the Policy and its reporting mechanisms and trust in the reporting system and process.
 - The number of reports received in a year will be compared to previous years, but it can be challenging to assess in what ways the Policy is or is not working. It is desired to help students, and to constantly improve processes and services.
 - The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office will study data to look for trends in violence.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee and the Human Resources and Governance Committee.

Carried**8. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)**

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, March 7 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Jessica Ayala, Faculty of Social Work
Estacio Pereira, Schulich School of Engineering

9. International Research Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Buffy St-Amand, Senior Director, International, and Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on international research, including:
 - UCalgary International was restructured in April 2024, and includes the Strategic Global Partnerships, International Relations, and International Research units. The International Research unit cross-reports to the President's Office and Vice-President (Research) Office.
 - The International Research unit supports faculty researchers through services including partnership brokering, identifying funding opportunities, and connecting to other researchers.
 - Tools have been developed to enable the establishment of strategic relationships and researcher matching: International Funding and Researcher Matching (IFARM) and the UCalgary Research Ecosystem Dashboard (UCRED).
 - Horizon Europe (HE) is the world's largest research and innovation funding program, and the University is now an associate country with this program and is working to pursue HE funding by hiring dedicated staff in UCalgary International and the Research Services Office, attending HE information and exchange events, and learning from successful institutions such as the University of Waikato and the University of Canterbury.
 - Total international research revenue and internationally co-authored publications have increased steadily since 2017.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Effort is made to include all University researchers in the international research revenue and internationally co-authored publications data. If a researcher is unsure if their work is included in the statistics, the International Research unit can look into this.
 - The UCRED dashboard is currently an internal tool only. Researcher profiles are publicly available on the University’s website.
- Discussion included:
 - Suggestion that the researcher expertise search tool developed by the U15 and Tri-Council could be linked to from the University’s website.
 - In addition to the valuable HE opportunities, the University’s Connector Grants program and Visiting Scholars program are also ways for researchers to make and grow connections.

10. Approved Revisions to the Werklund School of Education Faculty Council Terms of Reference

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

11. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the February 12, 2025 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the February 3, 2025 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the February 13, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the December 13, 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

<p>Moved/Seconded</p> <p>That the General Faculties Council adjourn the March 6, 2025 meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
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The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary