



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes

Meeting #565

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

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***Voting Members***

E. Cannon, Chair

D. Marshall, Vice-Chair

M. Abalos

A. Abdelhafiz

A. Afshar

R. Alhajj

S. Barker

T. Beattie

J. Bergerson

B. Brar

J. Brown

D. Bruckner

E. Burow

D. Cramb

A. Cribb

L. Doepel

M. Drefs

L. Falkenberg for J. Dewald

T. Gabriele

S. Grewal

S. Guscott

L. Harder

J. Hatfield

T. Hickerson

S. Hoenle

I. Holloway

S. Hossack

B. Keay for L. Rigg

C. Knight

V. Kuriachan

P. Kusalik

A. Lunz

L. McCoy

S. McFarlane

C. Mannion

J. Meddings

M. Migotti

E. Montes Garces

A.-L. Norman

A. Offenbecker

B. O'Neill

J. Revington

W. Rosehart

J. Sieppert

R. Sigurdson

J. Sparling

E. Storey

D. Sumara

D. Tapp

Z. Tasnim

L. Taylor

R. Thompson

J. Towers

W.D. Walls

S. Weaver

I. Winchester

R. Woodrow

J. Yan

L. Young

***Guests***

F. Strzelczyk, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 8

***Observers***

Z. Abrahams, Students' Union

D. Crowell, Associate Vice-President (Strategic Communications)

H. D'Amour, Libraries and Cultural Resources

X.Y. Fang, Graduate Students' Association

C. Johns, Senior Director, Academic and International Strategies

J. Krygier, Faculty Association

T. Miller, Students' Union

J. Polivchuk, Students' Union

J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)

H. Smith-Watkins, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

C. Tutt, Governance Coordinator, University Secretariat

***Secretary***

S. Belcher

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Remarks of the Chair**

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- New student members of the General Faculties Council (GFC), including Sam Hossack, 2016-2017 President of the Graduate Students' Association, and Stephan Guscott, 2016-2017 President of the Students' Union (SU), were welcomed to GFC
- The University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on the weekend of April 29-May 1 included a Lecture of a Lifetime given by Aritha van Herk, and the kick-off of the Energizing Eyes High fundraising campaign. Anniversary-related events will continue throughout the year.
- The University is supporting the evacuees from Fort McMurray, in part by offering housing in the residences, providing food, and supporting children's attendance at nearby schools
- The University is hosting the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences from May 28-June 3. Bart Beaty, Faculty of Arts, was recognized for his leadership in organizing this event.
- Richard Sigurdson has been re-appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Penny Werthner has been re-appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology
- The University has submitted a proposal to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, in the category of clean technology
- The University has 56 Canada Research Chair (CRC) positions currently filled. When the University fills vacant and future CRC positions, improving diversity (visible minority and gender) will be a prime consideration.

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

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The province's Provosts met at the University this week. Topics of discussion included learning about the condition of the college in Fort McMurray, and the supports needed for those students.
- The University's budget letter from the province is expected next week. The University has delayed submission of the Comprehensive Institutional Plan until after this letter is received. Once the University's budget has been approved by the Board of Governors in June, an informational town hall for the campus community will be held.
- Representatives of the University are travelling to the Qatar campus this weekend for the convocation ceremony and other events
- The development of the University's Indigenous Strategy continues. The document will move through the approval process during 2016-2017.

**3. Question Period**

*Cancellation of subscription to all journals published by Oxford Publishing without consultation with faculty*

Tom Hickerson, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) and University Librarian, reported that:

- Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) currently licenses 11,556 academic journals, and almost all are bought in packages from vendors. Five vendors dominate the market, and costs are raised

annually. The recent drop in value of the Canadian dollar is also an issue, as the package costs are in American dollars. When LCR purchases journal licenses, it is normally a multi-year commitment.

- Three package purchases recently came up for renewal: Oxford, Wiley, and Cambridge publishers. Wiley is a larger package of journals, and is not available other ways. Oxford had higher rate of downloads than Cambridge, but 71% of the Oxford titles are available in other packages. LCR had very little time to decide, and opted to drop the Oxford package as it appeared that this would have the least impact to the University.
- It is possible to negotiate single journal subscriptions, and LCR intends to survey faculty in the near future, in order to identify any unmet needs.
- Vincent Larivière, Canada Research Chair on the Transformations of Scholarly Communication at the University of Montreal, will visit the University on May 27, 2016 to give a presentation of his study of the evolution of the academic journal publishing system, and this may be of interest to people concerned about this issue

The Vice-Chair remarked that, in future, any significant changes to the University's journal acquisitions will be communicated directly to faculty, rather than relying on Deans and others to relay the information.

*The names of movers/seconders are no longer identified in the GFC and GFC standing committee minutes*

The University Secretary reported that the University Secretariat monitors governance best practices, and recently adopted the current best practice of not noting the names of movers/seconders in minutes. The reasons for why it is preferred not to include the names of movers/seconders in the minutes, and why this is a best practice for the GFC and its committees in particular, were reviewed.

The Chair remarked that this was not viewed as a material change to the GFC's minuting standards, but indicated that, since the concern has been raised, this matter will be taken to the GFC Executive Committee for discussion at its next meeting.

*An update on the MacEwan Hall ownership matter*

The Vice-Chair reported that:

- The SU is suing the University over the ownership of MacEwan Hall
- The License of Occupation, Operating and Management Agreement (LOOMA) that was signed in December 1999 has expired, but the SU will continue to manage MacEwan Hall under the terms of the LOOMA while the current injunction proceedings continue
- If the University eventually takes over the management of MacEwan Hall, all student services (e.g. the Gauntlet, NUTV) will continue and the SU will continue to operate the SU businesses in the building

**4. Safety Moment**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Rosehart, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, spoke to GFC on the topic of barbeque safety.

**5. Approval of the April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. An amendment to the minutes was requested.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on April 14, 2016 be approved, with the requested amendment.

**Carried****6. Election of Four Members of GFC to the GFC Executive Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The following four members of General Faculties Council (GFC) were elected:

Lorraine Radtke, Arts  
Tara Beattie, Graduate Studies/Medicine  
Tina Gabriele, Kinesiology  
Michael Foley, Engineering

**7. Election of Three Academic Staff Members to the *Eyes High* Strategic Oversight Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The following three academic staff members were elected:

Jennifer Lock, Education  
Leslie Reid, Science  
Keith Dobson, Arts

**8. Recommendation of the Creation of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Richard Sigurdson, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Florentine Strzelczyk, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that this proposal is expected to be the last phase in the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts. The proposed languages school brings together all of the languages programs in the Faculty, and also includes the existing Language Research Centre.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It has become the norm in North America to have consolidated language departments
  - It is considered appropriate to name the merged Departments as the “School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures” because of the language training that is being offered. The offering of training is considered one of the criteria for calling a unit a school. The University already has a variety of units named as ‘schools’.
  - The school will be divided into Divisions consisting of one or more program units

- The Director of the school will have the same responsibilities as a Department Head. The Division Chairs will be responsible for tasks such as advising the Director on timetabling and the assignment of duties to faculty.
- The school brings together a critical mass of scholars, and it is expected that graduate students and researchers will also benefit from increased opportunities for collaboration and cross-cultural interactions
- It is anticipated that the school will thrive, and will grow to include other language programs over time, but there are no proposals to close or add programs at this time
- A proposal to create a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures has been submitted to the Ministry. This is an umbrella program, and will allow for language specializations. New languages of specialization can be added to these programs over time without seeking ministerial approval.
- In response to a request for an explanation of the approval process followed for this proposal, it was reported that the proposal did not pass following the vote at the Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures (LLC) meeting in January in part because abstentions were counted as “no” votes. The concerns of the persons in LLC were all addressed prior to the vote at the Faculty of Arts Council meeting in May where the program was approved.
- In response to concerns about the future of existing programs and the need to meet the province’s language needs, and a request for information about the school’s financial plan, it was reported that the current language programs are strong and the Faculty of Arts will continue to invest in these programs and the faculty to support them

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the creation of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures, resulting in the dissolution of the Department of French, Italian and Spanish and the Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and the GFC Executive Committee.

**Carried**

Elisabeth Montes Garces opposed.

**9. Report on the May 3, 2016 GFC Executive Committee (EC) Meeting**

A report on the May 3, 2016 meeting of the EC was circulated with the Agenda. There were no questions.

**10. Report on the April 4, 2016 and April 18, 2016 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) Meetings**

A report on the April 4, 2016 and April 18, 2016 meetings of the APPC was circulated with the Agenda. There were no questions.

**11. Policy Development Update**

A report on the policies and procedures moving through the development process was included with the Agenda, for information only.

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Adjournment**

The General Faculties Council adjourned the May 19, 2016 meeting by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary