



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

Meeting #572

Thursday, April 13, 2017, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

Voting Members

E. Cannon, Chair

D. Marshall, Vice-Chair

A. Afshar

S. Alexander

S. Barker

B. Barton

T. Beattie

B. Becker

J. Bergerson

J. Bouchard

J. Cobb

D. Cramb

J. Dewald

T. Doyle-Baker

M. Drefs

R. Ellaway

Y. Fang

F. Finley

T. Gabriele

M. Ghaderi Debkordi

S. Greenway

S. Grewal

S. Guscott

W. Hartwell

T. Hickerson

S. Hoenle

I. Holloway

S. Hossack

M. Hum

C. Hurrell

M. Hynes

A. Ingelson

J. Jenkins

D. Kenyon

C. Knight

R. Kremer

P. Kusalik

J. Le

C. Lind

G. Livesey for N. Pollock-Ellwand

J. Lock

J. Lockyer

A. Lunz

E. McCauley

L. McCoy

S. McFarlane

C. Martini

E. Montes Garces

A. Offenbecker

N. Peters

Q. Pittman

L. Radtke

C. Reveen

J. Revington

L. Rigg

Z. Risdon

P. Rogers

W. Rosehart

A. Saweczko

J. Sieppert

R. Sigurdson

B. Singh

F. Smith

J. Sparling

D. Tapp

L. Taylor

R. Thompson

J. Towers

W.D. Walls

H. Warsame

S. Weaver

P. Werthner

R. Woodrow

L. Young

Guests

K. Jackson, General Counsel – present for Item 6

E. Kurz – Academic Co-Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee – present for Item 13

J. Quin, Senior Director - Student Services – present for Item 6

Observers

S. Asad, Gauntlet

M. Bogdan, Faculty Association

B. Cave, Students' Union

K. Dang, Students' Union

C. Johns, Provost's Office

W. Klumpenhouwer, Graduate Students' Association

C. McVie, Provost's Office

T. Miller, Students' Union

J. Olfert, Students' Union

D. Parthenis, University Relations

S. Strasser, Gauntlet

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Remarks of the Chair

Elizabeth Cannon, Chair, included the following in her remarks:

- The Chair thanked the outgoing student members of General Faculties Council (GFC) and welcomed the incoming Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) representatives in attendance as guests
- The Naylor report to Kirsty Duncan, federal Minister of Science, on Canada's Fundamental Science Review was published on April 10, 2017. The report has been well received for being evidence based and containing rigorous benchmarking and analysis. The report includes recommendations such as for strategic re-investments to strengthen independent research in Canada and for enhanced oversight and governance of the granting agencies.
- The Canada 150 Research Chairs program has been announced, and will provide \$117.6 million over 8 years to attract 25 top international scientists to the country
- A bill to introduce changes the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) with respect to labour relations has been tabled in the Alberta Legislature, and once passed these changes will impact, among other things, bargaining with faculty, graduate student and postdoctoral associations, and create the need to define essential services
- The provincial budget, announced on March 16, 2017, included a 2% increase to the base operating grants for post-secondary institutions, and internal budgeting is currently underway
- An event will be held on April 28, 2017 to mark the end of the celebration of the University's 50th anniversary and to launch the *Eyes High Strategy 2017-2022*

2. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks:

- In addition to the 2% increase to the University's base operating grant, factors that will influence the University's budgeting include a continued tuition freeze with no backfill funding, and the new carbon levy. The provincial government has indicated that it will continue to provide funding for mental health initiatives, although it is not yet known how this funding will be allocated to post-secondary institutions.
- The provincial government's post-secondary tuition and mandatory fees consultation committee continues to meet, and it is expected that the government will make decisions regarding tuition and fees models in the Fall
- The development of the University's Indigenous Strategy is entering its broad consultation phase, including coming to GFC for discussion in June. The Indigenous Strategy will be brought for approval in the Fall. A search is underway for a Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement), and this person will participate in the final stages of the development of the Indigenous Strategy.

3. Question Period

In response to a question, the Vice-Chair noted that the 2% increase to the University's base operating budget will be more than offset by deficits such as the carbon levy and inflationary costs. It was explained that Deans and Heads will make decisions regarding how to address the budget cuts to their units. A member of GFC remarked that their department will likely have fewer Graduate Assistants (Teaching) which will impact learning. The Vice-Chair observed that institutions in other provinces are facing even greater deficits, and noted that the University has been fortunate to strategically grow in both administrative and academic staff in recent years.

4. Safety Moment

Jackie Sieppert, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, spoke to GFC on the topic of assisting a colleague in distress. A handout on the subject was made available to the members of GFC.

5. Approval of the March 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Two revisions to the Minutes were requested.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on March 9, 2017 be approved, with the requested amendments.

Carried**6. Approval of the Sexual Violence Policy**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Jackson, University General Counsel, and Jennifer Quin, Senior Director - Student Services, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the consultation process conducted in developing the proposed Sexual Violence Policy (SVP), and highlighted some of the feedback received during the process. It was reported that the Sexual Violence Support Advocate is currently being hired.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - "Contractor" is defined in the SVP as an individual, corporation or other entity who provides materials or services to the University. If an individual, the person will be subject to the same SVP procedures as a University employee.
 - Section 4.2 of the SVP establishes that it is up to the complainant to decide what course of action to follow, such as filing a formal report
 - The University's Harassment Policy states that a complaint about harassment should be made within one year, but does not set a formal limit, which aligns with the SVP which states that there is no time limit for making a formal report

- The President of the Faculty Association reported that the Faculty Association's concerns with the SVP have been addressed

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Sexual Violence Policy, in the form provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

7. Approval of Fall Break

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko, Registrar, and Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the proposal to introduce a full week break in the Fall term was initiated by the SU Vice-President (Academic), and that the Provost and Vice-Provost (Academic) struck a committee to consider the University's options with respect to this. It is proposed to add a full week break in November, as this has been determined to be the time that would provide the most benefit to students and instructors.
- The proponents noted that all identified challenges, such as accreditation requirements, can be addressed, and that, if the proposal is approved, the GFC Principles for Setting the Academic Schedule will need to be revised
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Academic Schedules can be adjusted to better balance Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday classes, as long as there are a minimum of 62 days of instruction
 - Academic Schedules that currently schedule 63 days of instruction can be adjusted
 - The University may consider moving to a 12-week term of 60 days
 - The Leadership and Student Engagement office was consulted regarding the shortening of Orientation to two days
 - Practicum and field experience students can be excluded from the Fall break
- The proponents emphasised that GFC is being asked to approve the creation of a full week Fall term break, and authorize the Registrar to make all necessary revisions to the GFC Principles for Setting the Academic Schedule and any previously-approved Academic Schedules, which revisions will be brought to GFC for information
- With respect to moving the Fall term Block Week into August, the President of the Faculty Association noted that most academic staff cannot be required to teach in August

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the addition to the 2018-2023 Academic Schedules of a full week break in the Fall term, as set out in the documents provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and authorize the Registrar to make all required revisions to the Academic Schedules and the Principles for Setting the Annual Academic Schedule in order to give effect to this.

Carried

8. Election of One Academic Staff Member to the Board of Governors and Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

The following person was elected as the GFC's nominee to the Board of Governors (BG):

David Cramb, Faculty of Science

The following persons were elected to the Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement):

Aruna Srivastava, Faculty of Arts

Graham McCaffrey, Faculty of Nursing

9. Implementation of the Strategic Research Plan Update

An update on the implementation of the Strategic Research Plan was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Chair reported that, now that the *Eyes High Strategy 2017-2022* has been approved, it is time to renew the University's Academic Plan (AP) and Strategic Research Plan (SRP). GFC is receiving presentations on the achievements under the AP and SRP today, and at its May meeting, GFC will be advised of the process to renew the AP and SRP.
- The presenter reminded the GFC that the three priorities described in the SRP are: 1) match strengths with opportunities; 2) increase research capacity; and 3) create a dynamic environment to promote research excellence
- The presenter then reported on achievements under the SRP, including:
 - The University has established an environment to promote research excellence, including following best practices and implementing a good support system
 - The University's new practices for grant applications, including peer review of major grant applications, have resulted in greatly improved success rates for sponsored research funding
 - The University's research capacity has increased through recruiting faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars, and through awards such as Research Chairs and Banting Fellowships
 - The University has invested in the six strategic research themes identified in the SRP, and has enabled scholars to come together to address grand challenges. The SRP's six strategic research themes are at different stages of development.
 - Because of the clear goals articulated in the SRP, the University has been able to successfully apply for funding, such as to the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF) for funding to improve the University's research stations
- A member of GFC asked that the importance of unfunded research and its social value be reflected in the SRP alongside funded and revenue generating research. The presenter committed to promote the discussion across campus as to how social value can be better reflected in the

University's research priorities, and noted that the institution will need to have important discussions in developing the renewed SRP as to how to capture and describe the impact of this research.

10. Report on the Academic Plan 2012-2017

A report on the Academic Plan 2012-2017 was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that she and the Vice-President (Research) co-lead the AP and SRP, and that in 2012 the AP was developed first and then the SRP was developed. Between the AP and SRP, the University has identified 10 priorities (7 in the AP and 3 in the SRP) to guide resource allocations.
- The presenter referred the GFC to the Provost's website for in-depth information on each of the 7 priorities described in the AP: 1) talent attraction, development and retention; 2) teaching and research integration; 3) interdisciplinarity; 4) leadership; 5) internationalization; 6) connection with community, and 7) sustainability
- The presenter then reported on achievements under the AP, including:
 - The University has developed a sustainable model for enrolment growth
 - The University sends acceptance letters to students earlier now, and allows students to register in March rather than June, which results in students having access to supports while on campus. This also results in better management of student numbers and enables the University to compete with other institutions for excellent students.
 - The University's My Grad Skills initiative, which provides graduate students with information about a wide range of valuable resources, workshops, courses and activities, is very successful and has been copied across the country
 - In 2015, the University launched an Academic Renewal Program to hire 100 new professors over two years, whose positions are bridge funded and will transition once tenured positions become vacant through retirement or attrition. In 2013-2014, 50 new assistant professors were hired under the Rising Stars Recruitment Program. These programs serve to revitalize and broaden teaching, research and scholarship across the institution.
 - The University's Mental Health Strategy emphasises the supports and services for student and employee work-life balance, and promotes the understanding of mental illness
 - Ucalgary Strong is an initiative that integrates elements of student personal wellness, leadership and engagement, and serves to provide students with a sense of community, reduce loneliness and isolation, and foster resiliency. Ucalgary Strong delivers through online tools, workshops and an annual festival.
 - The University received SIF funding that has allowed for classroom renovations and upgrades
 - Investment in the Wayfinding initiative has improved campus navigation through a consistent system of signage and mapping

- The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (TI), through its facility, programs, and initiatives, provides mentorship and professional development opportunities for instructors as well as opportunities for students through the College of Discovery, Creativity and Innovation. The University has invested in the Teaching and Learning Grants Program, and the TI also supports the Teaching Scholars Program and the Teaching Awards Program.
- The University now requires regular quality assurance reviews which critically examine each undergraduate and course-based master's program under a Curriculum Review Program
- The International Strategy has helped to diversify the University's communities, and has helped to broaden the University's global connections and partnerships
- The University has developed a Long Range Development Plan, which sets out the intended land use and main campus development for the next 30-40 years
- The Sustainability Strategy commits the University to excellence and leadership in the sustainability of teaching, research, campus operations, and community service

11. Report on the March 28, 2017 GFC Executive Committee Meeting

A report on the March 28, 2017 meeting of the GFC Executive Committee (EC) was circulated with the Agenda. Elizabeth Cannon, Chair of the EC, was present to answer questions. There were no questions.

12. Report on the March 6 and 27, 2017 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings

A report on the March 6 and 27, 2017 meetings of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Academic Co-Chair of the APPC, was present to answer questions. There were no questions.

13. Report on the March 23, 2017 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

A report on the March 23, 2017 meeting of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) was circulated with the Agenda. Ebba Kurz, Academic Co-Chair of the TLC, was present to answer questions. There were no questions.

14. Report on the March 17, 2017 Board of Governors Meeting

A report on the March 17, 2017 meeting of the BG was circulated with the Agenda. Rob Thompson, member of the BG nominated by the GFC, was present to answer questions. There were no questions.

15. Report on the February 28, 2017 Senate Meeting

A report on the February 28, 2017 meeting of the Senate was circulated with the Agenda. There were no questions.

16. Policy Development Update

A report on the policies and procedures moving through the development process was circulated with the Agenda. There were no questions.

17. Other Business

There was no other business.

18. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the April 13, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary