



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes

Meeting #573

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

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***Voting Members***

E. Cannon, Chair	M. Drefs	L. McCoy	B. Singh
T. Afyouni	R. Ellaway	S. McFarlane	F. Smith
G. Assefa	N. Farid	C. Mannion	J. Sparling
C. Ayachit	T. Gabriele	J. Meddings	E. Storey
S. Barker	S. Greenway	T. Miller	D. Sumara
B. Barton	S. Grewal	N. Mohammadi	L. Taylor
T. Beattie	W. Hartwell	E. Montes Garces	R. Thompson
J. Beaudoin	I. Holloway	B. Paris	W.D. Walls
B. Becker	M. Hynes	S. Park	S. Weaver
J. Bergerson	V. Jones	N. Peters	P. Werthner
S. Boysen	B. Key for L. Rigg	Q. Pittman	R. Woodrow
D. Bruckner	C. Knight	S. Premji	J. Yan
B. Cave	R. Kremer	L. Radtke	L. Young
S. Chalhoub	P. Kusalik	J. Revington	
J. Cobb	S. LeBlanc	W. Rosehart	
D. Cramb	C. Lind	B. Sakatch	
L. Dalgetty	J. Lock	B. Sandalack for J. Brown	
K. Dang	J. Lockyer	J. Sieppert	
	E. McCauley	R. Sigurdson	

***Guests***

N. Arthur, Academic Co-Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee – present for Item 13  
E. Kurz, Academic Co-Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee – present for Item 14  
K. McQuillan, Deputy Provost – present for Item 5  
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International) – present for Item 10  
A. Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy – present for Item 9

***Observers***

H. D'Amour, Libraries and Cultural Resources  
J. Krygier, Faculty Association  
C. McVie, Provost's Office  
J. Olfert, Students' Union

***Secretary***

S. Belcher

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

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

## 1. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is currently in Qatar attending convocation and meetings
- The new student members of the General Faculties Council (GFC) were welcomed
- David Cramb, Faculty of Science, was congratulated on his formal appointment as the GFC nominee to the Board of Governors (BG)
- An event held on April 28, 2017 concluded the University's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and launched the *Eyes High Strategy 2017-2022*
- A formal announcement will be made in the near future regarding a significant philanthropic donation to the University by the Hunter Family Foundation
- Town halls and individual unit meetings will be held soon to share the 2017 Employee Engagement Survey results
- There has been media coverage recently regarding the lack of gender balance in the awarding of research chairs. Kirsty Duncan, Federal Minister of Science, has directed that universities are to develop equity plans by November 2017.
- A variety of meetings will be held between post-secondary institutions and government representatives to discuss the recently-submitted Naylor report on federal support for fundamental science, and the report's rigorous, evidence-based recommendations will form the basis for advocacy for research support in the coming years
- The provincial government's tuition review is winding up, and it is expected that the government will present a new tuition model by the Fall
- The provincial government's post-secondary funding review continues, and the government has contracted a group to assist in reviewing the information gathered and to make recommendations. The review includes considering the roles and mandates of the twenty-six post-secondary institutions in Alberta.

## 2. Question Period

In response to a question regarding whether it is possible to open access to Desire2Learn for the Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 courses as soon as possible, it was reported that there is a meeting scheduled for later this afternoon at which this could be discussed, and that this question will be followed up at the June meeting of GFC.

## 3. Safety Moment

Robert Thompson, Academic Co-Chair of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and member of the Board of Governors nominated by the GFC, spoke briefly to the GFC on the topic of drowsy driving.

**4. Approval of the April 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. One correction to the Minutes was reported and one correction was requested.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on April 13, 2017 be approved, with the reported and requested amendments.

**Carried****5. 2017-2018 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP)**

- **Main Chapter: Accessibility, Quality, Affordability, Coordination, and Accountability**
- **CIP Appendix B: Enrolment Plan and Proposed Programming Changes**
- **CIP Appendix D: Community Outreach and Underrepresented Learners**
- **CIP Appendix E: Internationalization**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kevin McQuillan, Deputy Provost, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponent reported that all twenty-six post-secondary institutions submit an annual Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) to the provincial government. The CIP reflects on recent initiatives, and projects three years into the future. For 2017, the provincial government has set guidelines for a shorter CIP document in the form of a main chapter and a series of appendices. The GFC reviews the academic-related segments of the CIP, while the entire CIP, including the budget, capital plan, and information technology appendices, are reviewed and approved by the BG.

**Main Chapter**

- A member of GFC noted that the CIP commits to social accountability in principle, but that there could be more breadth to this content. The proponent reported that, while the CIP does note that the University makes an annual report to the community, the reference to accountability in the CIP refers to financial accountability to the provincial government. The proponent indicated that the suggestion to add content relating to social accountability will be considered.
- In response to a question, it was explained that “they” in section 4.2 refers to graduates of the University of Calgary. Because “we” and “University of Calgary” are both used to refer to the University, it was suggested that the document should be reviewed for consistency.
- In response to a suggestion, it was reported that the diagrams in the CIP are presented the way they are because they need to be readable in black and white as well as in colour, but that consideration will be given to improving the diagrams

**Appendix B**

- The proponent noted that:
  - The University reports to the provincial government on its programs in a variety of ways in addition to within Appendix B of the CIP, Enrolment Plan and Proposed Programming Changes

- The University is providing enrolment projections at the Faculty level and for expanding programs, but enrolment projection is difficult to do for smaller programs
- There were no questions

#### Appendix D

- The proponent reported that Appendix D of the CIP, Community Outreach and Underrepresented Learners, was first required last year, and that this document has been updated to demonstrate that the University has increased its outreach activities, such as through recruiting at all high schools and in indigenous communities
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - “Direct entry” from high school means that a student has not started a degree, and includes a student who takes time off between completing high school and entering university
  - The provincial government’s focus with respect to community outreach is student recruitment

#### Appendix E

- The proponent reported that Appendix E of the CIP, Internationalization, is tied to the University’s International Strategy and describes the University’s initiatives in this area and how these benefit the province
- There were no questions

The Chair asked for any additional comments to be sent directly to the proponent. The Chair reported that this item will return to the June 15, 2017 GFC meeting for recommendation. The BG will be asked to approve the entire CIP at its June 23, 2017 meeting.

### **6. CIP Appendix C: Research, Applied Research and Scholarly Activities**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

#### Highlights:

- The proponent reviewed the content of Appendix C of the CIP, Research, Applied Research and Scholarly Activities, noting that the document differentiates between pure and applied research and that the document relates the University’s research strengths to the provincial government’s research priorities
- The proponent remarked that, because this document establishes a record of the University’s local, national and global research strengths, it is useful when the University seeks research funding
- There were no questions

The Chair asked for any additional comments to be sent directly to the proponent. This item will return to the June 15 GFC meeting for recommendation. The BG will be asked to approve the entire CIP at its June 23, 2017 meeting.

**7. Revised Academic Schedules for 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and Revised GFC Principles for Setting the Academic Schedule**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented this item on behalf of Angelique Saweczko, Registrar.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that, at its April 13, 2017 meeting, the GFC approved the addition of a full week break in the Fall term to the Academic Schedules, and authorized the Registrar to make all required revisions to the Academic Schedules and the *GFC Principles for Setting the Annual Academic Schedule* in order to give effect to this. The revised Academic Schedules for 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and the revised *GFC Principles for Setting the Academic Schedule* are now provided for information.
- In response to questions about the re-combined add/drop date and the number of days between the start of term and the add/drop date, it was decided that this item should return to the June meeting of GFC when the Registrar could be present to participate in the discussion

**8. Process for the Renewal of the Academic and Research Plans**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed the process that will be followed for renewing the University's Academic Plan (AP) and Strategic Research Plan (SRP) in the coming months, noting that information collected through the *Energizing Eyes High* consultation will be reviewed as part of this consultation. He reported that a questionnaire will be sent to the campus community in June, and that drafts of the new AP and SRP will be broadly circulated for feedback in the Fall. The presenter emphasised that the renewal of the AP and SRP will be done in parallel.
- There were no questions

**9. Campus Mental Health Strategy Update**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto, Director - Campus Mental Health Strategy, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed the focus areas of the University's Mental Health Strategy (MHS), which include: raising awareness and promoting wellbeing, providing direct service and supports, aligning institutional policies, procedures, and processes, and creating and sustaining a supportive campus environment
- The presenter reported that a MHS Implementation Committee has been struck, and this committee will guide activities under the MHS. The MHS Implementation Committee has six subcommittees that will focus on: communications and events, evaluation of the MHS, teaching and learning pedagogy and curriculum, grant review, budget, and programs relating to mental health and well-being

- The presenter reported that 26 of the 28 recommendations in the MHS are currently either in progress or complete
- The presenter provided examples of recent activities, including:
  - Providing 24-hour mental health supports for students by connecting them to the Distress Centre or Wood's Homes when the SU Wellness Centre is closed
  - Student programming, such as the Mindfulness Workshop for graduate students, the Body Project, UnWind, and the Flourishing Peer Support Team
  - Faculty and staff programming, such as the Assisting Colleagues in Distress handout, various workshops, and switching to the Homewood Health Employee and Family Assistance Plan
  - Reviewing the University's policies through a mental health lens
  - Looking at the physical spaces on campus and how these influence mental health
- In response to questions, the presenter confirmed that:
  - The handouts on assisting students in distress and assisting colleagues in distress will be provided upon request
  - Representatives from a broad range of constituencies at the University are represented on the MHS Implementation Committee and its subcommittees
  - The national Healthy Workplace Standards are available on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group website
  - Distance students can speak with staff at the SU Wellness Centre by phone during business hours. Distance students will be matched to supports as appropriate.
- The Chair requested that members of GFC share this information with their units

## **10. International Strategy Update**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International), presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed the progress toward the goals of the University's International Strategy since its inception in 2013:
  - Increase Diversity: The 2013 targets of 10% international undergraduate students and 25% international graduate students have nearly been met, with the current populations at 7.3% undergraduate and 26.3% graduate. The top countries of origin are China, Iran, India, the United States, and Nigeria.
  - Improve Cross-Cultural Competencies: Progress is being made towards the 2013 target of 50% of students having international experiences (such as overseas courses), with 24% of students currently doing so. Conference attendance is no longer counted as an international experience.
  - Enhance International Research and Education Partnerships: The University has engaged in a number of global initiatives with countries of emphasis, such as Mexico and China

- Leverage Expertise to Engage in International Development: The University has succeeded in increasing the number of international scholarships and internships available to students, and has hosted successful events such as the visit by the former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to the University in August 2016.
- During the discussion it was reported that:
  - The University provides services, including English language programs, to help international students to adapt and thrive
  - International student attrition data is difficult to generate as a student's immigration status may change over time
  - The University's international students come from many areas of the globe not just the University's countries of emphasis and interest
  - The University of Alberta has more diversity than the University of Calgary, for example the University of Alberta's graduate student population is 40% international, however the University's international graduate student population is average for the U15

**11. Report on the May 2, 2017 GFC Executive Committee Meeting**

A report on the May 2, 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 April 10 and May 1, 2017 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings**

A report on the April 10 and May 1, 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 April 25, 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting**

A report on the April 25, 2017 meeting of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) was circulated with the Agenda. Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair of the RSC, was present to answer questions. There were no questions.

**14. Report on the April 27, 2017 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting**

A report on the April 27, 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.

**15. Policy Development Update**

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

**16. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary