

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes

Meeting #575

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

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***Voting Members***

E. Cannon, Chair  
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair  
T. Afyouni  
G. Armstrong  
J. Baker for S. Hoenle  
S. Barker  
T. Beattie  
M. Bennett  
J. Brown  
D. Bruckner  
E. Carr  
B. Cave  
D. Cramb  
K. Dang  
A. dela Cruz  
M. Deol

M. Drefs  
S. Eaton  
R. El-Hacha  
J. Ellis  
F. Finley  
S. Franceschet  
N. Golob  
S. Grewal  
W. Hartwell  
T. Hickerson  
C. Hurrell  
M. Hynes  
J. Jenkins  
D. Kenyon  
M. Konnert  
M. Leung  
K. Lukowiak

L. McCoy  
S. McFarlane  
B. Maini  
C. Manzocco  
J. Meddings  
T. Miller  
N. Mohammadi  
S. Park  
D. Paskevich  
D. Pattison  
Q. Pittman  
S. Premji  
J. Priest  
L. Reid  
M. Reid  
P. Rogers  
W. Rosehart

B. Saifeddine  
A. Saweczko  
J. Sieppert  
F. Smith  
F. Strzelczyk for R. Sigurdson  
D. Sumara  
D. Tapp  
T. Tombe  
J. Towers  
H. Warsame  
J. Watson-Hamilton  
S. Weaver  
R. Woodrow  
D. Wulff  
L. Young

***Guests***

N. Arthur, Academic Co-Chair, Research and Scholarship Committee  
S. Cunningham, Director of the Native Centre and member, Indigenous Strategy Task Force Steering Committee – present for Item 7  
C. Gerlach, Academic Coordinator, Sustainability – present for Item 12  
E. Goodstriker, Elder – present for Item 7  
E. Kurz, Academic Co-Chair, Teaching and Learning Committee  
J. Perdue, Chief Sustainability Officer – present for Item 12  
R. Weaselfat, Elder – present for Item 7

***Observers***

K. Jackson, General Counsel  
D. Jamont, Major, Royal Canadian Air Force, and Military Fellow  
C. Johns, Senior Director, Academic and International Strategies  
J. Krygier, Faculty Association  
C. McVie, Provost's Office  
J. Olfert, Students' Union  
P. Reicher, Associate Vice-President (Communications)  
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)  
T. Shawlinski, Provost's Office  
H. Smith-Watkins, Provost's Office

***Secretary***

S. Belcher

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

## 1. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair welcomed the members of the General Faculties Council (GFC) to the first GFC meeting of 2017-2018, and specifically welcomed Leslie Reid, Interim Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), to her first GFC meeting.

The Chair then gave her annual address to the GFC.

Highlights:

- The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University, celebrated in 2016, was an opportunity to hold numerous celebratory events and to reflect on the achievements of the University
- The *Eyes High* strategic vision, which was renewed in 2017, contains three foundational commitments (sharpen focus on research and scholarship, enrich the quality and breadth of learning, and integrate the University with the community). Implementation of the *Eyes High* strategic vision is detailed in the Academic Plan, Research Plan, Comprehensive Institutional Plan, foundational unit plans, committee work plans, and Executive Leadership Team performance plans.
- The Academic Plan and Research Plan will be renewed this year, and the Comprehensive Institutional Plan is prepared annually. The GFC will provide feedback on all of these documents.
- Examples of the University's successes during 2016-2017 include:
  - Its ranking as the #1 Young University in Canada and in North America, and among the top 200 of all institutions
  - Being named as one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers, and as a top performer in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System program
  - Implementation of the Mental Health Strategy
  - Creation of a Certificate in Sustainability Studies
  - Launching of the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking
  - Growth of the College of Discovery, Creativity and Innovation
- The University tracks its performance in 42 measures, and the University ranks among Canada's Top 5 research-intensive universities in 25 of these measures
- During the 2017-2018 academic year, the University will:
  - Renew the Academic Plan and the Research Plan
  - Approve the Indigenous Strategy
  - Focus on the development of the University Research Park
  - Develop a new Residence Strategy, and continue to develop University policies, such as a cannabis policy
  - Continue to work on alumni engagement
  - Begin the redevelopment of the MacKimmie Tower and Block complex
- The members of the GFC are encouraged to review the [2017 Community Report](#), which includes detailed information on the University's performance measures and examples of successes

In response to a question, the Chair reported that the University falls short on some Top 5 performance measures due to our smaller size. For example, the University will not be able to catch up to some universities in the measures of total citations or total sponsored research funding.

The Chair then made the following additional remarks:

- The University was involved in the City of Calgary's bid to be Amazon's second headquarters
- Federal Minister Kent Hehr, on behalf of Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan, announced on October 12, 2017 that the University will receive funding for six projects totalling more than \$20 million through the Canada Foundation for Innovation
- The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has released the report of its Ad Hoc Investigatory Committee to look into alleged violations of academic freedom and conflict of interest surrounding the former Enbridge Centre for Corporate Sustainability, and other matters. The University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA) subsequently issued a statement endorsing and encouraging the University's academic community to review the CAUT report and to take action on its recommendations with respect to the University's governance processes. The University's Board of Governors maintains that the independent review conducted by Justice Terrence McMahon produced the definitive report on these issues, and considers the matter closed.

The President then commented that she disagrees with TUCFA's remarks that the University is poorly led, lacks transparency, and exhibits poor governance processes. She stated that she holds herself and her team to high standards and encourages an environment of collaboration and transparency. She noted that the federal and provincial governments have invested in our infrastructure, and the Auditor General has looked at all of the province's post-secondary institutions and has issued the University a clean audit report with no recommendations. The University has had many outstanding achievements and awards, and fundraising efforts have been successful which shows confidence from the community. She commented that management is always open to feedback, as demonstrated by the GFC member surveys, in order to continuously improve. There are numerous ways in which the faculty and staff can provide feedback including the biannual employee engagement survey which are above private and public sector norms. In these, as well as in unit reviews and other surveys, there has been no feedback on academic freedom issues at the University of Calgary. With respect to the Enbridge Centre for Corporate Sustainability which was formed in 2011, there have been a number of policy enhancements since that time and the President is confident that the University of Calgary operates within best practice expectations. Regarding the charge of conflict of interest, the President commented that she has been held to the highest levels of disclosure and she commits to maintaining these high standards.

In response to a questions, the Chair reported that:

- University representatives did not participate in the CAUT investigation. The Board does not believe that CAUT has the standing to conduct an investigation on the University's campus, and as such, management and the Board of Governors did not think it would be appropriate to participate in their review. Also, there were significant concerns about the independence and fairness of the CAUT process as documented in several communications to the campus community. She also noted that the President of TUCFA was invited to speak to Justice McMahon and declined to do so.
- The University will not be changing its practices in specific response to the CAUT report, but noted that the University is always improving its processes and policies

The Acting President of TUCFA remarked that the CAUT report stands for itself, and encouraged the GFC members to review the report and read the TUCFA President's statement setting out TUCFA's stance. The Acting President of TUCFA noted that he has led CAUT investigations in the past in which the senior

administration has cooperated with the investigating committee, and disputed the notion that CAUT does not have a mandate to conduct investigations.

The President encouraged members of GFC to read the McMahon Report.

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

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

- The Office of Sustainability hosted the release of the 2017 Sustainability Report and announcement of the new Certificate in Sustainability Studies on October 19, 2017. Alan Atkisson, author and senior consultant on sustainability, gave the keynote address.
- The questionnaire relating to the renewal of the Academic Plan and Research Plan was released in June, and has yielded rich data. This, along with the *Energizing Eyes High* data, a review of the current literature, and consultation with stakeholders including students and Faculty Councils, will be used to inform the new documents. It is anticipated that the renewed Academic Plan and Research Plan will be ready to come forward for approval in December.
- The University has been an opt-out institution with respect to Access Copyright since 2012. The University's Copyright Office carefully manages the University's use of copyright materials, but many instructors are not working with the Copyright Office regarding course materials which is a concern. A recent judicial decision went against York University, which is now appealing and Universities Canada is seeking to be an intervenor. The University is watching these proceedings closely. The federal government has initiated a review of the Copyright Act, and decisions relating to the 2018-2020 Access Copyright tariff, and the retroactivity of previous Access Copyright tariffs, are expected soon.
- The provincial government's tuition review and post-secondary funding model review are continuing. The University is preparing for a potential budget cut of -2%, but the results of these reviews may impact the provincial budget.

## **3. Question Period**

In response to questions, the Vice-Chair reported that any concerns about lights on campus being left on overnight, or the watering of landscaping, should be directed to the Vice-President (Facilities). The Chair noted that the University has a government-funded Utilities Reduction Program, which in part includes the retrofitting of buildings with occupancy sensors to automatically switch off lights.

## **4. Safety Moment**

David Cramb, elected academic staff member of GFC from the Faculty of Science, spoke briefly to GFC on the topic of "Flu Prevention".

## **5. Approval of the June 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on June 15, 2017 be approved, with the requested amendment.

**Carried**

**6. Elections****a. Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Haskayne School of Business**

The following two persons were elected to serve:

**Raj Mehta**, Engineering  
**Kathryn King-Shier**, Nursing

**b. Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (International)**

The following two persons were elected to serve:

**Colleen Kawalilak**, Education  
**Jennifer Hatfield**, Medicine

**c. Advisory Search Committee for a Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources)**

The following two persons were elected to serve:

**Murray McGillivray**, Arts  
**Dianne Gereluk**, Education

**7. Approval of the Indigenous Strategy**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Jackie Sieppert, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work and member of the Indigenous Strategy Task Force Steering Committee, and Shawna Cunningham, Director of the Native Centre and member of the Indigenous Strategy Task Force Steering Committee, presented this item. Elders Evelyn Goodstriker and Roy Weaselfat were in attendance.

Highlights:

- Elder Roy Weaselfat introduced the strategy, and conducted a blessing in Blackfoot
- The proponents reported on the development of the Indigenous Strategy, focusing on the guiding principles and the consultation process. The proponents emphasised that:
  - This strategy is about resetting the relationship with indigenous community and creating an ethical space for understanding, and not about assimilation
  - The Indigenous Strategy will be a living document
  - The Blackfoot name *li' taa' poh' to' p* (which signifies "a place to rejuvenate and re-energize during a journey") was bestowed on the Indigenous Strategy by Elder Andy Blackwater

- The proponents reviewed the model for the Indigenous Strategy, which includes four key components; 1) Transforming Ways of Being, 2) Transforming Ways of Connecting, 3) Transforming Ways of Doing, and 4) Transforming Ways of Knowing
- The proponents described the concept of shared space, and noted that two different world views will require open dialogue and a commitment to work together
- The proponents reported on the ceremonial events that happened during the development process, and then presented the Indigenous Strategy's conceptual and cultural models, explained the symbols that were gifted to the University, and noted that there are twenty-seven recommendations in the strategy
- Discussion included:
  - That TUCFA should be consulted as the Indigenous Strategy is implemented, because some of the recommendations may be impacted by the Collective Agreement
  - Indigenous children and youth are grossly overrepresented in provincial care, and we have a responsibility to respond to that
  - That a welcoming space, a new space for the Native Centre, and creative classrooms will be developed in dialogue with Elders
- In response questions, it was reported that
  - The University has not yet set a target for Indigenous student enrolment. Current enrolment is on par with population demographics, but a measurable increase would be good.
  - The University has allocated funding to employ four persons to spearhead the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy, including a Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
- In closing, Elders Roy Weaselfat and Evelyn Goodstriker shared their thoughts about the Indigenous Strategy and its development, the concept of sharing of knowledge through stories and the process of transferring knowledge to storytellers, and their hopes to educate, build relationships and increase understanding in the future
- The President expressed commitment to the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy
- It was reported that the Board of Governors will be asked to approve the Indigenous Strategy at its October 20, 2017 meeting

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Indigenous Strategy, as set out in the document provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee and the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

**Carried**

*Secretary's note: The following four items were addressed together under one motion.*

#### **8. Approval of the GFC Executive Committee 2017-2018 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no questions.

**9. Approval of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee 2017-2018 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no questions.

**10. Approval of the Research and Scholarship Committee 2017-2018 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no questions.

**11. Approval of the Teaching and Learning Committee 2017-2018 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no questions.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the 2017-2018 Work Plans for each of the GFC Executive Committee (EC), Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC), Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), and Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), in the forms provided to the GFC and as recommended respectively by the EC, APPC, RSC, and TLC, respectively.

**Carried**

**12. Institutional Sustainability Strategy 2016-2017 Year-End Progress Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Joanne Perdue, Chief Sustainability Officer, and Craig Gerlach, Academic Coordinator, Sustainability, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reviewed the progress toward the goals set out in the Sustainability Strategy, including the approval of the undergraduate embedded Certificate in Sustainability Studies and the engagement of the community in the Global Challenges course
- The presenters reviewed the Integrated Practice Model for Sustainability, which brings sustainable concepts to education and research, the University's operations, and local to global community engagement
- Copies of the 2017 Sustainability Report and the Certificate in Sustainable Studies FAQ sheet were made available to the GFC members
- In response to a comment about the complexities of integrating the University's international goals with its sustainability values, the presenters agreed that the impact on the climate by international travel is a fair concern, but that the benefits such as experiential learning are significant

### **13. Enrolment Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko, Registrar, presented this item.

#### Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed the Fall 2017 enrolment data, reporting that:
  - Total enrolment is currently at 32,702 comprised of 26,475 undergraduate students and 6,227 graduate students
  - The international undergraduate student population is now at 8.1% of the total undergraduate population, which is nearing the target of 10%
  - 742 students identify themselves as Indigenous, which represents 2.3 % of the University's student population
  - New undergraduate students continue to be predominantly local, with 68.4% of the 2017 undergraduates coming from the Calgary area, 11.4% coming from elsewhere in Alberta, 10.3% coming from elsewhere in Canada, and 8.4% originating internationally
  - Exchange students will be tracked by Faculty, rather than as Open Studies students
  - A lower target for Qatar enrolment was set this year due to the uncertainties in the region
  - The retention rates for new high school students and international students have increased
- The presenter noted that enrolment in some Faculties, such as Veterinary Medicine, is regulated by the government
- There were no questions

### **14. Libraries and Cultural Resources Journal Subscriptions**

Tom Hickerson, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR)), presented this item.

#### Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed:
  - How the University's collections budget has changed in the last five years
  - The pressures on the collections budget, such as annual publisher price increases and currency fluctuations
- The presenter reported on:
  - Recent journal subscription cancellation decisions, and noted that while subscription bundles are more economical they do come with significant cost
  - That LCR monitors journal usage by members of the campus community, citations of journal articles, and in which journals members of the campus community are publishing their work
  - The results of the LCR January-February 2017 survey of faculty about their journal subscription needs
  - The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) Journal Usage Project, which in part has determined that academics' sense of which journals are important does not always align with



the actual usage data. The project will produce a database of the journals being used in Canadian institutions, and will analyse this by discipline.

- Working with other U15 institutions to discuss sustainable publishing principles, alternative acquisitions strategies, and approaches to negotiations with publishers
- That some overseas institutions, including in Germany, Finland, and Taiwan, are boycotting the publisher Elsevier by cancelling subscriptions and refusing to publish
- The potential for development by the University of an Open Access resolution
- In response to questions, the presenter reported that:
  - Open Access means that there is no cost to obtain a work
  - The University has an Open Access Authors Fund to aid with publication fees, and the Tri-Council includes funding to cover publication fees in its grants
- The GFC discussed that:
  - It will be necessary to have conversations about the allocation of University resources into journal subscriptions and open access materials
  - Considering the boycotting of publishers such as Elsevier is complicated, as academics are currently judged in part based on publishing in these journals

**15. Report on the September 5 and 26, 2017 GFC Executive Committee (EC) Meetings, including a Report on Recent Appointments Made**

A report on the September 5 and 26, 2017 meetings of the EC, including a report on recent appointments made by the EC, was circulated with the Agenda. Elizabeth Cannon, Chair of the EC, and Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair of the EC, were present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**16. Report on the September 11 and October 2, 2017 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) Meetings**

A report on the September 11 and October 2, 2017 meetings of the APPC was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Co-Chair of the APPC, was present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**17. Report on the September 19, 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) Meeting**

A report on the September 19, 2017 meeting of the RSC was circulated with the Agenda. Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair of the RSC, was present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**18. Report on the September 21, 2017 Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) Meeting**

A report on the September 21, 2017 meeting of the TLC was circulated with the Agenda. Ebba Kurz, Academic Co-Chair of the TLC, was present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**19. Annual Report of the GFC Student Academic Appeals Committee**

The Annual Report of the GFC Student Academic Appeals Committee was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Belcher, University Secretary, was present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**20. Reports on the September 7 and October 5, 2017 Senate Meetings**

Reports on the September 7 and October 5, 2017 meetings of the Senate were circulated with the Agenda. Jacqueline Jenkins, a GFC member on the Senate, was present to answer questions.

There were no questions.

**21. Policy Development Update**

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

There were no questions.

**22. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**23. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:09 p.m.