



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #594

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 1:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	J. Dewald	M. Mansouri	R. Sigurdson
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	S. Eaton	A. Nygren	D. Sinasac
C. Adams	A. Estefan	M. O'Brien	B. Singh
J. Anderson	S. Franceschet	N. Peters	F. Smith
S. Barker	M. Fraser	Q. Pittman	J. Smits
T. Beattie	P. Gibson	S. Raj	A. Timm
B. Becker	P. Gimby	L. Reid	T. Tombe
I. Brodie	B. Halawa	M. Reid	M. Wang
A. Buret	F. Jalilehvand	J. Revington	H. Warsame
M. Cassis	B. Kahanyshyn	L. Rigg	J. Watson Hamilton
O. Chapman	S. LeBlanc	P. Rogers	P. Werthner
K. Dang	K. Lukowiak	M. Romaniuk	B. Wylant
S. Davidson	M. McDonough	A. Saweczko	R. Yates
A. dela Cruz	B. Maini	J. Sieppert	

Guests

- R. Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute – present for Items 8 and 13
- L. Boyer, Senior Institutional Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis – present for Item 8
- D. Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 9
- M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 14
- D. Johnston, member, USRI Working Group – present for Item 8
- E. Kaipainen, Senior Specialist - Experiential Learning, Taylor Institute – present for Item 7
- L. Stowe, Director - Experiential Education, Taylor Institute – present for Item 7

Observers

- A. Beaudoin, Postdoctoral Association
- M. Girard, Management and Professional Staff
- K. Hamilton, President's Office
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- S. Loo, Faculty Association
- F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost
- W. Tynan, Provost's Office

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

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

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair including the following in his remarks:

- The provincial government has not yet released the funding formula for next year's budget, but it is expected that this will include base funding and performance-related funding
- The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is about to launch its 2020 Innovation Fund call for proposals. The University is developing a number of proposals from across disciplines, including the social sciences and humanities.
- The Dinos men's football team has won the 2019 Vanier Cup, and the Dinos men's track & field/cross country team are the 2019 national champions
- Two of the University's students, Manpreet Deol, Schulich School of Engineering, and Emily Boucher, Cumming School of Medicine, have been announced as new Rhodes Scholars
- The University has been awarded eleven new Canada Research Chairs, and the names will be announced soon
- Bonnie Kaplan, Cumming School of Medicine, has been awarded the 2019 Dr. Rogers Prize for Excellence in Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and Nicole Culos-Reed, Faculty of Kinesiology, has been awarded the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Research Excellence Award
- Brock Kahanyshyn, the University's new Chief Information Officer, was welcomed to his first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair including the following in her remarks:

- Members of the Campus Alberta Quality Council are at the University today and tomorrow to learn about matters such as the University's new programs and ideas for innovation
- Due to the in-year provincial budget cuts, the University needs to reduce expenditures in order to balance this year's budget. The University's Budget Committee, Finance and Property Committee, and Board of Governors will be meeting in December and January to make decisions, including decisions on the budget planning parameters for next year's budget and 2020-2021 tuition and fees. The 2020-2021 budget will be approved by the Board of Governors in March.

4. Question Period

In response to a question, Brock Kahanyshyn reported that the University experienced an internet outage this week as a result of a firewall issue, and that Information Technologies (IT) used three methods to communicate with the University community about this: the IT call centre phone system greeting, the splash page for the IT website, and Twitter posts. It was suggested that, in future, an email broadcast to the entire University community also be used to communicate about outages.

5. Safety Moment

Documentation on the topic of “Hazard Alert: Scald by Pressure Release” was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

6. Approval of the November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on November 7, 2019 be approved.

Carried

7. Approval of the Experiential Learning Plan 2020-2025

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Erin Kaipainen, Senior Specialist (Experiential Learning), Taylor Institute, and Lisa Stowe, Director (Experiential Education), Taylor Institute, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the *Experiential Learning Plan 2020-2025*, and noted that the plan will be accompanied by a management platform and reporting dashboard
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University is investigating opportunities for student wage subsidies through industry and governmental programs
 - The Academic Plan and Research Plan drive the resource allocations at the University, and Experiential Learning (EL) will be one of the priority initiatives that will be protected. It was noted that EL is also a priority of the provincial and federal governments.
 - Once the University’s existing EL activities are mapped, it is expected that it will be found that the University is nearly at 80% of the goal set out in the plan (that “all students will participate in EL, regardless of their program of study”)
 - The proponents will report to GFC annually on the progress of the plan
- It was suggested that:
 - The links in the document be checked for functionality
 - The list of courses providing examples of EL at the University be reviewed to include better examples. It was specifically noted that LAW 706 is not a directed research course.
- Discussion included:
 - The metrics reflected in the dashboard will be useful as the University transitions to a performance-based budget
 - That the targets set out in the plan could be reviewed once the existing EL at the University has been mapped

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Experiential Learning Plan 2020-25, in the form provided to the GFC, with the requested amendments.

Carried

8. Approval of the Recommended Changes to the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Report and Survey

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Andrew Estefan, Co-Chair of the USRI Working Group, Dawn Johnston, member of the USRI Working Group, Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute, and Luc Boyer, Senior Institutional Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the initiative to review the use of the USRI at the University, and reported that the USRI Working Group is proposing some changes for immediate implementation and will start consultation to bring forward additional recommendations for broader change in the future
- The proponents reviewed the three proposed immediate changes to the USRI survey and report
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - It is expected that the use of mode in the USRI report, instead of mean, will provide more valuable information
 - Effort will be made to ensure greater student awareness of the impacts of their feedback
 - The USRI task force is considering that a better model for the USRI instrument is needed. A combination of student evaluation, peer evaluation, and instructor self-reflection is a more modern way of assessing teaching effectiveness.
 - The Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group will be considering the University's tenure and promotion processes, and it is expected that this working group will be reporting to the GFC in the near future
 - The USRI task force will not bring forward recommendations for changes to the Faculty forms that accompany the USRI survey, as the GFC does not have oversight of those
- Discussion included that:
 - The removal of Question 1 from the survey (the rating of overall quality of instruction) is a positive change
 - Bias and racism can impact how a student fills in the USRI survey
 - Units need guidance in how the USRI data can be used. It was reported that the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) sent a memo in August 2019 regarding the appropriate use of the USRI in relation to the merit process.
 - Students are supportive of developing a more meaningful tool for collecting student feedback
 - By the time USRI data is received, a course is over and it is too late to make adjustments to address students' concerns

- The USRI data is not meant to be used for the comparison of instructors

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the recommended changes to the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) report and survey, as presented to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

Paul Rogers abstained.

9. Approval of Revisions to the Graduate Student Supervision Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Interim Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies), and Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that this is the second time that the GFC has reviewed this document and provided an overview of the revisions to the Graduate Student Supervision Policy made since the GFC last saw the policy
- In response to a question, the proponents reported that:
 - The revisions focus on the policy provisions related to relationships only, and that a more fulsome review of the Graduate Student Supervision Policy will be conducted in the future
 - The University has companion policies relating to research funding

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the Graduate Student Supervision Policy, in the form provided to the GFC.

Carried**10. Approval of the Academic Schedule for 2024-2025**

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

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposed Academic Schedule for 2024-2025 and confirmed that no changes to the previously-approved academic schedules are needed
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the academic schedule for the 2024-2025 academic year, in the form provided to the GFC.

Carried

11. Statement on Free Expression

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Jackson, General Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the University's Statement on Free Expression has been approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education, and reviewed the changes made since the GFC reviewed the document at its October meeting. The proponent confirmed that the statement will be approved by the Board of Governors tomorrow, and then posted publicly by December 15, 2019.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University has experience with demonstrations like the Genocide Awareness Project, and will notify groups such as the University day-care of such events
 - When the statement is uploaded to the University's website, it will be accompanied by an FAQ section

12. Innovation@UCalgary Ecosystem Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Andre Buret, Interim Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the University's innovation ecosystem, and highlighted the University's nodes for innovation: the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Innovate Calgary, Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies, W21C Research and Innovation Centre, Integrated Management Platform to Accelerate Clinical Trials (IMPACT), and University Innovation Quarter
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University's Intellectual Property Policy applies to graduate students, and some defense examinations have non-disclosure agreements in order to protect the work of students
 - The facilities being developed in the University Innovation Quarter north of the University's main campus are meant to be available to all researchers
- Discussion included:
 - It is important to strengthen the connections between the main campus and other campuses
 - Research that leads to inventions, licensing, and spin-off companies is important, but all forms of research have value
 - Some researchers can connect themselves better to the concepts of knowledge engagement and knowledge mobilization, rather than innovation. It was reported that Research Services has a Knowledge Engagement unit, and the Chair reported that an item relating to knowledge engagement will be added to an upcoming GFC agenda, in order to allow members to talk about this.

- While effort has been made to include social innovation in documents about innovation, this important area could be highlighted more

13. 2017 National Survey of Student Engagement Unit Action Plans and 2019 Progress Updates

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Engagement), and Robin Arseneault presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) process, and emphasised that the units' reports and action plans allow for the NSSE data to be used in a meaningful way
- In response to a question, it was reported that the University relies upon the National College Health Assessment survey for data relating to student mental health, as the NSSE is not designed to gather information on this
- Discussion included:
 - It would be valuable to communicate to students the outcomes from the 2017 NSSE, in advance of the 2020 NSSE
 - Unit action plans, particularly relating to curriculum, should take student mental health into consideration. Faculties that do not participate in the NSSE could develop similar action plans during the curriculum review process.

14. Indigenous Strategy Progress Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the University's Indigenous Strategy, *ii'taa'poh'to'p*, and highlighted initiatives and accomplishments relating to the strategy's four pillars (Ways of Knowing, Ways of Doing, Ways of Connecting, and Ways of Being) and reviewed the strategy's visionary goals. The presenter reported that Indigenous student enrolment, awards disbursement, and convocation rates are steadily increasing, and Indigenous staff numbers are still small but increasing.
- Discussion included:
 - The lands acknowledgement is not just a statement, but it is a prompt for reflection and a learning opportunity
 - It is important to review the University's policies and procedures to ensure that Indigenous persons are not disadvantaged or marginalized. Similarly, curriculum reviews, campus master planning, and other initiatives should consider the Indigenous perspective.
 - Students self-identify as Indigenous, and if they have done so it is important for instructors to listen to any communicated needs

- University capital projects should incorporate the principles of connection to and acknowledgement of Indigenous heritage. It was reported that the MacKimmie complex renovation includes an Indigenous component in the quad, and that a land blessing ceremony occurs for each new building project. It was noted that it is important for the inclusion of Indigenous practices to be done in a thoughtful and sensitive way that embraces reconciliation and not as a token action.

15. Standing Reports

The following documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda, for information only:

- a) Report on the November 27, 2019 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the November 4 and 25, 2019 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the November 21, 2019 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Policy Development Update

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the December 12, 2019 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary