



Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	R. Clements	F. Jalilehvand	P. Rogers
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	L. Dalgetty	B. Kahanyshyn	M. Romaniuk
B. Adams	K. Dang	S. LeBlanc	W. Rosehart
C. Adams	A. dela Cruz	J. Lee	A. Saweczko
S. Alexander	G. East	K. Lee	Z. Shajani for S. Davidson
O. Alp	S. Eaton	K. Lukowiak	P. Sicotte for R. Sigurdson
J. Anderson	R. El-Hacha	M. McDonough	M. Shortt
S. Barker	S. Franceschet	J. Meddings	D. Sinasac
M. Bauer	M. Fraser	B. Miao	F. Smith
T. Beattie	D. Gereluk	A. Murray	D. Souraya
B. Becker	P. Gibson	M. O'Brien	S. Thrift
S. Benseler	P. Gimby	J. Pieper	T. Tombe
L. Benson	J. Gotta	Q. Pittman	A. Viczko
J. Bergerson	B. Halawa	R. Ramdhaney	M. Wang
A. Buret	D. Hodgins	L. Reid	S. Weaver
M. Cassis	I. Holloway	M. Reid	B. Wylant
O. Chapman	A. Hu	J. Revington	R. Yates
C. Cho	M. Iskander	L. Rigg	

Guests

- D. Book, Legal Counsel and member, Task Force on Personal Relationships – present for Item 8
- J. Koshan, member, Task Force on Personal Relationships – present for Item 8
- M. Morrison, Student Appeals Officer – present for Item 12
- P. Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 10

Observers

- K. Hamilton, President's Office
- M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
- K. Jackson, General Counsel
- S. Loo, Faculty Association
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
- W. Tynan, Provost's Office

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Robin Yates has been appointed as the Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies)
- This is the last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting for Andre Buret, Interim Vice-President (Research), and he was thanked for his service. The University's new Vice-President (Research), William Ghali, begins his term on March 1st.
- The provincial post-secondary sector is shifting to a performance-based funding model and Investment Management Agreements. It is a challenging economic environment and the University commits to maintaining its values through these changes.
- The provincial budget will be announced on February 27, 2020, and another cut to the Campus Alberta Grant is anticipated. Representatives of the University continue to position the University as part of the solution to the province's economic problems, such as through skills diversification and talent attraction.
- The Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium was held January 28-30, 2020, and is an example of successful student experience initiatives at the University
- Announcements will be made soon regarding new Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grants awarded to University researchers. The University is now ranked #3 in the country in this area.
- The Canadian Museum of Nature currently has an exhibition in collaboration with the University's International Microbiome Centre, and activities include talks given by University researchers
- Work Integrated Learning continues to be a priority for the University, and the University is well positioned to receive and leverage federal funding to grow in this area

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's budget process continues, with roll-ups from the Vice-Presidential portfolios to happen next week. The budget will be adjusted based on the provincial budget and will be approved by the Board of Governors in March.
- A panel has reviewed the University's International Strategy, and has produced a report. A renewed International Strategy is now in development, and the report and renewed strategy will be brought to the GFC for discussion in March.
- The University's Sexual Violence Policy is undergoing revision, and will be brought to the GFC for discussion later this year
- Institutions in Calgary are working with the Chamber of Commerce to grow Work Integrated Learning in Calgary. Magna and Orbis software will be used to help students connect to experiential learning opportunities.

4. Question Period

There were no questions.

5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty presented on the University's "Novel Coronavirus (nCoV 2019) Response".

6. Approval of the December 12, 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 December 12, 2019 be approved.

Carried

7. Approval of the Establishment of the 2020-2021 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and the University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The University Secretary reviewed how the GFC's elected academic staff membership distribution is calculated
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out in the document provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

8. Recommendations from the Task Force on Personal Relationships

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Lesley Rigg, Chair of the Task Force on Personal Relationships, Deborah Book, member of the Task Force, and Jennifer Koshan, member of the Task Force, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the history of the Task Force on Personal Relationships, and summarized its work to date

- The proponents reported that the University's Code of Conduct will be revised in the future, and that for now a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page will be used to clarify some components that are missing from the Code of Conduct, such as clear definitions of 'relationship' and 'supervision'
- In response to a question, the proponents reported that a team is being struck to develop the FAQ page, and that it will be posted as soon as possible
- Discussion included that:
 - The concept of 'close personal relationship' is complicated, and some scenarios, such as a professor renting an apartment to a student, are not clearly addressed. The proponents welcomed examples of scenarios in order that any gaps in the Code of Conduct or the Statement on Relationships can be identified and perhaps addressed in the FAQ.
 - It will be important to draw attention to the Code of Conduct, Statement on Relationships, and the FAQ page during orientation sessions
- It was suggested that the FAQ provide clarity regarding 'familial relationships'
- The GFC offered no suggestions for revision to the proposed Statement on Relationships, and generally supported that it be posted alongside the University's Statement on Free Expression

9. Performance-Based Funding Model

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The President and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the new provincial model for post-secondary funding, which includes performance-based funding and Investment Management Agreements. The presenters reported that 15% of the University's 2020-2021 Campus Alberta funding will be tied to performance, and that it is anticipated that this will rise to 40% by 2022-2023. The presenters explained that performance-based funding does not involve institutions competing against each other, but uses metrics to assess an institution's success against banded targets agreed to by the institution and the Ministry. If the institution is within this target range, then the institution will receive full funding.
- The presenters indicated that they are seeking feedback on the performance metrics that the University should propose to the government. The metrics should reflect the University's values, and should be metrics for which the University can forecast strong success.
- The presenters reviewed lists of the existing University metrics within the three categories of 'Skills and Labour Market Outcomes', 'Teaching and Research', and 'Institutional Performance'
- In response to questions, the presenters reported that:
 - Details of the new funding model, such as the specific audience for the metrics and the methodology for assessing performance, are still being learned
 - The budget will need to take into account any funding shortfall as a result of the University not meeting a performance target

- Discussion included that:
 - The metric “Employment in a Related Job” is not relevant to some disciplines. The presenters noted that the University currently fares well in the more general “Graduate Employment Rate” metric, with 94% of students securing a job within six months of graduation, and also fares well when the phrase ‘related job’ is interpreted broadly, with 77% of students obtaining a job in their ‘area’ of learning.
 - Students choosing to continue their education, travel at the conclusion of their education, or take employment outside the province or country might impact the statistics relating to achieving employment
 - Clarity will be needed for the definition of ‘employment’ and the parameters around this
 - There is concern that the provincial government may not understand the role of a university, such as to develop critical thinking and adaptability skills, and that the university’s goals may not match the government’s ideals
 - Some metrics, such as salary, could be difficult to measure accurately
 - The University’s *Eyes High* metrics were designed to compare the University to other institutions, but many will be applicable to this new model
 - Positive student experience is a priority for the University, including in the classroom, experiential learning, and participation in student clubs, and that a metric in this area should be proposed
 - Work integrated learning is a subset of experiential learning, and there is a concern that the government may be putting stronger emphasis on work integrated learning as it can lead to or include job training
 - Connectedness with the community in various ways, including educational initiatives and collaborative work, is also a priority for the University and should be reflected by a metric
 - Metrics are complicated, and communication with the government and the public about the impacts on metrics, such as an economic recession, will be necessary
 - The University can play an important role in helping to address the province’s challenging economic times through educating and drawing new and varied talent

10. Knowledge Engagement

Andre Buret, Interim Vice-President (Research), and Penny Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the work done by the Advisory Committee on Knowledge Engagement, how knowledge engagement is incorporated into the University’s Strategic Research Plan, and the initiatives currently being undertaken by the Knowledge Engagement Implementation Committee. The presenters reported that priority goals include increasing opportunities for networking and collaborating, providing internal support through funding and other resources, and developing ways to measure and recognize knowledge engagement.

- Discussion included that:
 - Messaging similar to that used for the Graduate College could be effective for the Knowledge Engagement Unit
 - Upcoming changes to the tenure and promotion criteria could feature knowledge engagement in a more significant way, and new guidelines relating to letters of support should set out that knowledge engagement is valued at the University
 - The general public may not understand that research can be slow to produce results, and sometimes hypotheses can be wrong
- In response to a question, it was reported that the University has a dedicated Indigenous Research Support Team

11. Standing Reports

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda, for information only:

- a) Report on the January 29, 2020 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the December 16, 2019 and January 13, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the December 19, 2019 and January 23, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Meetings
- d) Report on the December 13, 2019 and January 10, 2020 Board of Governors Meetings
- e) Report on the December 11, 2019 Senate Meeting

In response to a comment, the Vice-Provost (Student Engagement) and Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) reported that the terminology and guidelines regarding the University's Fall and Winter breaks are currently being reviewed, and noted that course outlines should clearly indicate when assignments are due and assessments will occur so that students may plan the use of their time.

12. Student Appeals Office 2019 Report (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda, for information only. Melissa Morrison, Student Appeals Officer, was present to answer questions for the item.

Highlights:

- In response to questions, the presenter reported that:
 - Effort is being made to automate the appeal submission process as much as possible, in order to reduce the stress upon students
 - Going forward, the Student Appeals Office annual report to GFC will be for the academic year and not the calendar year. It was noted that summer is the peak period for student appeals, and so future reports will indicate that some appeals have been carried forward into the next academic year

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Adjournment

The February 13, 2020 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary