



Meeting #596

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	L. Dalgetty	S. Kozak	P. Rogers
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	K. Dang	S. LeBlanc	W. Rosehart
M. Abdelsamie	S. Davidson	J. Lee	A. Saweczko
B. Adams	J. Dewald	J. Lock	J. Sieppert
C. Adams	S. Eaton	K. Lukowiak	R. Sigurdson
S. Alexander	R. El-Hacha	M. McDonough	B. Singh
O. Alp	J. Ellis	B. Maini	D. Slater
J. Anderson	A. Estefan	M. Mansouri	S. Thrift
S. Barker	S. Franceschet	J. Meddings	A. Timm
M. Bauer	M. Fraser	A. Murray	M. Wang
T. Beattie	W. Ghali	N. Peters	H. Warsame
S. Benseler	J. Gotta	J. Pieper	S. Weaver
L. Benson	B. Halawa	S. Raj	P. Werthner
J. Bergerson	D. Hodgins	R. Ramdhaney	B. Wylant
E. Carr	F. Jalilehvand	L. Reid	R. Yates
C. Cho	B. Kahanyshyn	M. Reid	
R. Clements	J. Kortbeek	J. Revington	

Guests

- C. Bertsch, Sexual Violence Support Advocate – present for Item 7
- D. Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 7

Observers

- K. Hamilton, President's Office
- M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
- C. Hogan, Senior Associate Vice-President - Strategic Communications & Marketing
- K. Jackson, General Counsel
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- J. Krygier, Faculty Association
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
- F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost
- W. Tynan, Provost's Office
- B. Uppal, Students' Union

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

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

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Bill Ghali, the University's new Vice-President (Research), and Corey Hogan, the new Senior Associate Vice-President - Strategic Communications & Marketing, were welcomed to their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- An evaluation session, giving members the opportunity to dialogue about the GFC, will be held immediately following the meeting
- During these uncertain biological, economic, and geopolitical times, the University plays an important role, including continuing student learning and faculty research projects as much as possible, and reacting thoughtfully to the provincial post-secondary budget cuts using the University's foundational documents
- Recent successes include:
 - University researchers being actively involved in COVID-19 research
 - The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape's "9 Block Initiative", which is a joint interdisciplinary project with the Urban Alliance to improve safety, vibrancy, and social inclusion in the City of Calgary's downtown area
 - Heather Jamniczky, Cumming School of Medicine, is one of 10 Canadians to be awarded a 2020 3M National Teaching Fellowship
 - Douglas Kondro, PhD student in Biomechanical Engineering, was recently named as a 2019 Compelling Calgarian and received a 2019 Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation for his leadership in STEM cell and Type 1 Diabetes research
 - 147 Dinos have been named as 2019 Academic All-Canadians, in addition to several Dinos teams winning recent national championships
 - On February 20, 2020, the Schulich School of Engineering hosted high school students at Women in Engineering Day and an Operation Minerva event brought Grade 8 girls to the University to interact with researchers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields and to engage in hands-on activities
 - Several undergraduate students have received Mitacs Global Research Awards, which will allow them to go to prestigious international universities such as Cornell and Stanford to engage in research projects

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- A town hall, with live stream option, has been scheduled for March 16, 2020 to discuss the University's budget

- With regard to COVID-19:
 - The University has a well-defined emergency management system, and groups including the Crisis Management Team (CMT) have been meeting for the past six weeks to conduct operational planning. The CMT and the Senior Leadership Team are now meeting daily, and information is being communicated to the University community on a regular basis. You are encouraged to keep informed through the University and Alberta Health Services websites.
 - Messages have been sent to all instructors and students asking them to prepare for the suspension of in-person classes and/or closure of the institution. The University is following the lead of the various health authorities and government departments, and is working in conjunction with the other Albertan and Canadian post-secondary institutions, and any decisions will be communicated in due course.
 - More countries have been added to the University's list of places to which travel is suspended, and all Study Abroad programs are now cancelled until at least August 31
 - Current direction is that, if you are sick, stay home. Wash your hands regularly, clean your offices and meeting spaces frequently, and do not touch your face as it is understood that the virus can live on surfaces for 2-3 days.
 - Instructors are asked not to send students to the Student Wellness Services office or to a commissioner of oaths for a note if they are not feeling well
 - As of this moment, no individuals on any of the University's campuses have tested positive for the virus

4. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Because persons can be asymptomatic for some time, members of the campus community who have recently travelled are asked to self-isolate for two weeks upon return. People who do not wish to risk exposure are supported if they wish to work or study from home.
- Members of the University community who are currently abroad are being asked to return home as soon as possible. The University is assisting students with this.
- It has not yet been decided to make classes online only, as there are complicated variables to be addressed such as what will happen with required labs and practicums. The Taylor Institute is currently helping instructors prepare to deliver all lectures online.
- In fairness to students, transcript notations will likely change if students are not able to complete courses as a result of the current situation
- There is an events matrix now being used to determine which on-campus events may continue or need to be cancelled
- Response will be rapid if a case is identified on one of the University's campuses
- The University has just purchased a broad Zoom site license, and this should soon be up and running
- The University's staff members in Qatar are not currently being recalled. Precautions are being taken in Qatar, such as the suspension of all classes, but staff are still working from home. It was noted that some staff members are no longer Canadian residents.

- The University has a Pandemic Plan, which sets out responsibilities and guides decision making and communication

5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), spoke on the topic of “Driving with Sun Glare”.

6. Approval of the February 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on February 13, 2020 be approved.

Carried

7. Revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, and Carla Bertsch, Sexual Violence Support Advocate, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the Sexual Violence Policy was approved in 2017 and is now being reviewed. The proponents described the consultation process underway, and reported that the revised policy will be presented to the GFC for recommendation in May and to the Board of Governors for approval in June. The proponents then provided an overview of the proposed changes.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The phrase “victim-survivor” is used in the policy as this reflects current terminology and is considered to be trauma-informed language. The term “complainant” is used in the policy in relation to formal reporting only.
 - The SVRO will support everyone who reaches out to it, however, in some cases the SVRO may need to consider if it has jurisdiction
 - The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre is a shared operation, and so it is not listed as a University field station in section 3j
 - The SVRO is currently associated with the Student Wellness Services unit, but will be moving to the new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion unit. Education and advocacy relating to sexual violence will be housed within the Provost’s portfolio.
 - The policy applies if a member of the University community commits an act of sexual violence while representing the University elsewhere or if the act has a materially negative impact on the institution or another member of the University community

- The University's existing educational materials contain information about consent in relation to sexual violence. Consideration is being given to including this education in Orientation sessions.
- Discussion included that:
 - Section 5.2a implies that a member of the University community who has been subject to, or a witness of, sexual violence is to report to the University's Sexual Violence Response Office (SVRO) as the first point of contact, before reporting to the police or a hospital. The proponents clarified that this section does not prevent anyone from reporting promptly to emergency services, but it was noted that metrics indicate that some events are not reported until weeks or months later and that the SVRO should be the first point of contact at the University.
 - Memories can fade or change over time, and that immediate reporting to authorities should be encouraged. The proponents noted that some persons are not ready to report immediately, and that the SVRO will provide advice and support as needed.
 - The proposed policy includes a requirement for a review every 5 years, but it was suggested that consideration be given to shortening this to every 2 years
 - The policy does not specifically speak to avenues for assistance for students in Residence
- The proponents invited that any additional feedback be sent directly to them

8. Changes to the Regulations K. Statement on Principles of Conduct and L. Integrity in Scholarly Activity in the University Calendar (Academic Integrity Statement)

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to sections K and L of the University Calendar, arising from the new Student Academic Misconduct Policy introduced in July 2019, and then specifically focused on the proposed Statement on Academic Integrity. The proponents reported that an Academic Integrity website will be used to provide information on the statement, the policy and related Calendar content.
- The GFC discussed the meaning of the term "*academic success*" and how this relates to student learning
- The GFC suggested that the opening sentence of the current Statement on Intellectual Honesty could introduce the new statement, so that it reads "*Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge*"
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that this content will be mirrored in the Graduate Calendar once it is approved by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC). The proponents noted that the University technically only has one Calendar, but that the graduate student-related content is separated into a standalone document for ease of use.

9. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the February 3 and February 24, 2020 APPC Meetings
- b) Report on the February 6, 2020 Senate Meeting
- c) Policy Development Update

In response to a question, it was reported that some instruction can happen on Saturdays, but not on a recurring basis. The GFC suggested that thought be given to not holding exams on Saturdays any more.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the March 12, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Susan Belcher, University Secretary