



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY**

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #597

Thursday, April 9, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	R. Clements	B. Halawa	B. Miao	R. Sigurdson
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	L. Dalgetty	D. Hodgins	E. Montes Garces	D. Sinasac
M. Abdelsamie	K. Dang	I. Holloway	G. Nelson	B. Singh
B. Adams	S. Davidson	A. Hu	M. O'Brien	D. Slater
C. Adams	A. dela Cruz	M. Iskander	D. Paskevich	F. Smith
S. Alexander	J. Dewald	F. Jalilehvand	N. Peters	J. Smits
O. Alp	G. East	A. Jenney	Q. Pittman	D. Souraya
J. Anderson	S. Eaton	B. Kahanyshyn	S. Raj	S. Thrift
S. Barker	J. Eiserman	J. Kortbeek	R. Ramdhaney	A. Timm
M. Bauer	R. El-Hacha	R. Lauer	L. Reid	T. Tombe
T. Beattie	J. Ellis	S. LeBlanc	M. Reid	A. Viczko
B. Becker	A. Estefan	J. Lee	J. Revington	M. Wang
L. Benson	S. Franceschet	K. Lee	L. Rigg	H. Warsame
J. Bergerson	M. Fraser	J. Lock	P. Rogers	S. Weaver
E. Burgess	M. Gavrilova	K. Lukowiak	M. Romaniuk	P. Werthner
E. Carr	D. Gereluk	M. McDonough	W. Rosehart	R. Yates
M. Cassis	W. Ghali	B. Maini	A. Saweczko	
O. Chapman	P. Gimby	M. Mansouri	M. Shortt	
C. Cho	J. Gotta	J. Meddings	J. Sieppert	

***Guests***

D. Bruckner, Senior Director, Student Wellness - Access and Support – present for Item 8  
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International) – present for Item 7  
F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost – present for Item 7  
A. Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy – present for Item 8

***Observers***

S. Abraha, incoming Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic)  
D. Altahsh, incoming SU student representative  
J. Brar, incoming SU student representative  
C. Cao, incoming Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Vice-President (External)  
J. Carter, University Secretariat  
F. Finley, incoming SU President  
K. Hamilton, President's Office  
M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)  
K. Jackson, General Counsel  
C. Johns, Provost's Office  
R. Kenny, University Secretariat  
J. Krygier, Faculty Association  
A. Paquette, incoming GSA Vice-President (Academic)  
J. Secreti, SU member of the Senate  
T. Shandro, incoming GSA President  
W. Tynan, Provost's Office  
M. Zhang, incoming GSA Vice-President (Student Life)

***Secretary***

S. Belcher

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:39 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:

- The following outgoing student representatives were acknowledged on this occasion of their last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting: Mohammad Mansouri, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, Mohamed Abdelsamie, GSA Vice-President (Academic), Mina Iskander, GSA Vice-President (Finance and Services), Basem Halawa, GSA Vice-President (Student Life), Jessica Revington, Students' Union (SU) President, Kevin Dang, SU Vice-President (Academic), and several of the SU Faculty representatives. The incoming student representatives were welcomed as observers to the meeting.
- The University community has been working hard to maintain teaching and research activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is not known how long these distancing measures will be needed. People are encouraged to access the University's COVID-19 informational webpage and webinars, which are updated frequently.
- Representatives of the University are interacting with the various levels of government regarding COVID-19 and other matters
  - Federally, the U-15 and Universities Canada have been coordinating with Ministries that have connections to the post-secondary sector. A summer job program for undergraduate students has been announced, and similar programs for graduate students and post-doctoral scholars are being explored. Effort is being made to improve remote learning platforms, and the Tri-Council is rolling out programs to sustain research endeavors. The CIHR is providing funds to step up COVID-19 research, including for laboratory facilities and clinical trials. It is expected that travel will be restricted into the Fall.
  - Provincially, COVID-19 issues are compounded by the oil market crash and budget cuts. The University can contribute to the province's economic recovery by helping to diversify educational opportunities and research. The provincial government has announce plans to increase infrastructure investment, but it is not yet known what this means for the University. An extension to the deadline to finalise the University's Investment Management Agreement has been given, and consultation is ongoing regarding the University's performance metrics and when performance-based funding will take effect.
  - Municipally, the University is well connected to the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and the City Council, and the University is positioned to contribute to COVID-19 initiatives, such as analytics and impact modelling, and future economic recovery
- The University's Crisis Management Team (CMT) was acknowledged for its efforts during this difficult time

### 3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's merit and promotion processes are continuing, and salary anomaly and promotion letters will be sent soon
- The name of the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Work will be announced soon
- The CMT has been meeting daily, but will shift to meeting once per week now that many key decisions have been made. The Academic Planning and Priorities Committee will meet as needed to approve things such as temporary academic regulations, and the Provost's Office will work with Deans and the Faculty Association as appropriate regarding other decisions

### 4. Question Period

In response to questions, the Chair and Vice-Chair reported that:

- Normally, the budget approved by the University's Board of Governors (BG) is not presented publicly. Because there is uncertainty about how the University's revenues and expenses will be impacted by COVID-19 and funding changes, a budget forecast and further spending authorization beyond June will come to the BG in June.
- The University is considering a variety of options regarding tuition at this time, including the possibility of deferred tuition or new scholarships
- Students can communicate with the University's administration through the SU and GSA. Communications received by administration are triaged and directed appropriately, such as to the Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee.
- Graduate students may talk to their supervisor about applying for special access in order to continue their research, but, if possible in their discipline, students are asked to work remotely. The offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Vice-President (Research) are working to ensure a balance between student safety and progression. Students may request a leave of absence if that is in their best interest, and the Tri-Council is looking into extending graduate scholarships.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies is working with Libraries and Cultural Resources to establish a process to assist comprehensive exam students who need access to physical resources. Effort is being made not to postpone exams, but it is possible that modifications will be necessary if some resources are not available.
- Decisions regarding the grading scheme for Spring/Summer courses will be announced soon
- Models project a number of scenarios, and so it is not yet known when students will be permitted back to campus. The University is following the guidelines set by health officials, and will be ready to respond quickly when re-opening is suggested. At this time, all on-campus teaching and University events are cancelled until June 30.
- The University is limited to the technology support resources currently available, and the IT help desk is being monitored to ensure that people are getting the help they need. The Taylor Institute has increased supports for online teaching, and the restriction on bringing equipment home has been lifted in order to support people working remotely. The University has some spare computers that can be loaned if needed.

- A decision regarding the cancellation of University summer camps will be made later in May
- Postponement decisions for performance-based Master of Fine Arts theses will be made on a case by case basis. In-person live performances are not permitted at this time.

#### 5. **Safety Moment**

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

#### 6. **Approval of the March 12, 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 March 12, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

Aniela Dela Cruz abstained.

#### 7. **Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Florentine Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost, and Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the history of the University’s International Strategy (IS), including a review held last Fall. The proponents reported that a Global Engagement Plan (GEP) has been developed as an update of the IS, and then highlighted the differences between the IS and GEP, including the revision of student experience targets, improving intercultural capacity by promoting internationalization at home, and tying more directly to the University’s Academic and Research Plans.
- The proponents noted that the federal government has an International Education Strategy 2019-2024, and the University will be able to apply for funding
- In response to questions, the proponents reported that:
  - The GEP is designed to facilitate individual academics in pursuing international collaborations and partnerships, and responsibility for many initiatives now lies at the Faculty level
  - The Intercultural Capacity Study will be important because it is necessary to define learning that can be credited according to duration and depth of experience and clear, tangible learning outcomes
- It was suggested that:

- On page 6, reference be made to the 'high costs of global travel', as these include monetary, environmental, health and personal safety costs
- On page 8, consideration be given to not using the word "radical" in relation to social innovation, as this would not necessarily always be positive
- Within Goal 3 (Enhance Opportunities for Global Partnerships), reference be made to the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals
- The Chair reported that it is expected that the GEP will return to the May 14, 2020 GFC meeting, for approval

## **8. Campus Mental Health Strategy Progress Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy, and Debbie Bruckner, Senior Director, Student Wellness - Access and Support, presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the history of the University's Campus Mental Health Strategy (CMHS), and the CMHS's focus areas. The presenters reported that a review will soon be undertaken as the CMHS is now five years into implementation.
- The presenters highlighted successful initiatives to date, including:
  - Training for persons who encounter students in distress
  - Peer support programs
  - Participation in events such as the Bell Let's Talk mental illness awareness campaign and Wellness Week
  - Hiring student support advisors specializing in Indigenous and distance students
  - The CMHS website, which has links to support resources and wellbeing webinars
  - The expansion of the programs and services within the Wellbeing and Work/Life portfolio
  - Creation of the Embedded Certificate in Mental Wellbeing and Resilience
- The presenters highlighted next steps, including:
  - Continuing development of the suicide awareness and prevention framework
  - Participation in the launch of the National Standard for Mental Health and Wellbeing
  - Renewal of the CMHS in 2021
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Funding from the provincial government to support student mental health initiatives has been confirmed
  - Training relating to student and staff wellness are available on demand
  - During this time of University closure, wellness supports and services are available online. Virtual appointments with physicians and counsellors are available.

**9. Standing Reports**

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

- a) Report on the March 25 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the March 16 and 30, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the March 27, 2020 Board of Governors Meeting
- d) Policy Development Update

**10. Notes from the March 12, 2020 GFC Member Evaluation Session**

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

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the April 9, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary