



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY**

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes

Meeting #598

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	O. Chapman	P. Gimby	A. Murray	B. Singh
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	R. Clements	J. Gotta	M. O'Brien	D. Slater
S. Abraha	L. Dalgetty	D. Hodgins	A. Paquette	F. Smith
B. Adams	S. Davidson	I. Holloway	D. Paskevich	J. Smits
C. Adams	A. dela Cruz	F. Jalilehvand	N. Peters	D. Souraya
S. Alexander	J. Dewald	A. Jenney	J. Pieper	M. Tarailo-Graovac
O. Alp	D. Doyle-Baker	C. Jessel	Q. Pittman	S. Thrift
D. Altahsh	S. Eaton	B. Kahanyshyn	S. Raj	A. Timm
J. Anderson	J. Eiserman	J. Kortbeek	R. Ramdhaney	T. Tombe
K. Baral	R. El-Hacha	S. Kozak	M. Reid	B. Uppal
S. Barker	J. Ellis	R. Lauer	L. Rigg	A. Viczko
T. Beattie	A. Estefan	S. LeBlanc	P. Rogers	M. Wang
S. Benseler	S. Farheen	K. Lee	W. Rosehart	H. Warsame
L. Benson	J. Feng	J. Lock	A. Saweczko	S. Weaver
J. Bergerson	F. Finley	K. Lukowiak	T. Shandro	P. Werthner
C. Bousman	S. Franceschet	M. McDonough	N. Shaw	B. Wylant
J. Brar	M. Fraser	B. Maini	J. Sieppert	R. Yates
J. Brown	D. Gereluk	J. Meddings	R. Sigurdson	M. Zhang
E. Burgess	P. Gibson	E. Montes Garces	D. Sinasac	

***Guests***

- L. Boyer, Senior Institutional Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis – present for Item 8
- B. Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation) – present for Item 8
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International) – present for Items 7 and 9
- F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost – present for Item 7

***Observers***

- J. Carter, University Secretariat
- 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
- W. Tynan, Provost's Office

***Secretary***

- S. Belcher

***Scribe***

- E. Sjogren

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 student representatives were welcomed to their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting: Tanille Shandro, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, Alex Paquette, GSA Vice-President (Academic), Kabita Baral, GSA Vice-President (Finance and Services), Mary Zhang, GSA Vice-President (Student Life), Frank Finley, Students' Union (SU) President, Semhar Abraha, SU Vice-President (Academic), and several SU Faculty representatives
- Lesley Rigg, Dean of the Faculty of Science, was acknowledged on this occasion of her last GFC meeting
- Universities Canada and representatives of the U15 Canadian universities are communicating about the impacts of COVID-19 on institutions, and advocating for supports for students and the research community from the federal government. Universities are also sharing best practices with one another.
- The University's Board of Governors (BG) passed a balanced budget in March, and the Administration will return to the BG in June with an assessment of the subsequent impacts of the provincial budget cuts and COVID-19
- Instruction will continue to occur remotely during the Spring and Summer terms. Public health and safety regulations are evolving, and the Administration is considering several scenarios for how the University will operate in the Fall. The University's operations as a whole have been impacted by COVID-19, including the residences, food services, and caretaking, and the Administration is striving to develop a sound plan for re-opening that will not need to be adjusted repeatedly.

**3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's Crisis Management Team (CMT) and Academic Crisis Management Team (ACMT) have been making plans for the University's relaunch of on-campus activities
- Other universities have already made announcements regarding the Fall 2020 term, and the plan for Fall instruction at the University of Calgary will be announced later today or tomorrow. The teams considered seven scenarios for instruction, ranging from fully online courses to fully face-to-face courses, and considered data on the variety of class sizes and the ease of travel around the campuses. Priority considerations are complying with the direction of health authorities to maintain the health and safety of the University community, and continuing to provide high quality learning experiences. It has been determined that approximately 30% of instruction will return to face-to-face delivery in the Fall, with priority on tutorial, seminar, and laboratory teaching. Discussions will continue with Faculties throughout the month of May to determine specifically what course components will be delivered face-to-face and what will be delivered online. Important factors to be addressed are the process for entry and exit from classrooms, and limiting hallway crowding.

- The CMT is also developing plans for relaunching the University's residences and food services operations, and opening buildings. Announcements regarding these will be made in the coming weeks.
- The Academic Planning and Priorities Committee has been meeting weekly to make urgent decisions, such as approving temporary changes to some Academic Regulations
- It is known that the productivity of academic staff members has been impacted by the closure of the University and the rapid switch to online instruction, and the administration and the Faculty Association are working to assess these impacts and how this will alter the normal faculty assessment process

#### **4. Question Period**

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

- If a course is being delivered online in September, it will be delivered online for the duration of the term. Instructors will not suddenly have to change from online to face-to-face delivery partway through the term. If there is direction from the authorities to close the University again, any small courses or course components being delivered face-to-face will have to be adjusted.
- The University has impressed upon Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada that the process for international students should be streamlined, as students need to be able to make travel decisions. The University will look into developing additional scholarships for international students.
- There will be a thorough cleaning of the University before people return, and the development of a cleaning system is part of the CMT's considerations for relaunch
- The ACMT is considering options for bringing undergraduate and graduate students back to laboratories, following public health guidelines for distancing. A list of critical laboratories is being developed by the offices of the Vice-President (Research) and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and these will be in the first phase of relaunch.
- The ACMT is considering the University's accommodation process, as it is known that some international, remote, and immunocompromised students will not be able to attend face-to-face delivery of instruction in the Fall. Options such as online sections and recorded lectures are being considered.
- Guidelines are being developed to help Departments address requests to remain away from campus after relaunch, such as from immunocompromised or elderly staff members or staff members with immunocompromised or elderly family at home

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

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda, Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services, spoke on the topics "Be Cyber Aware!" and "Cyber Hygiene for COVID-19".

#### **6. Approval of the April 9, 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 April 9, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

Barry Wylant abstained.

**7. Approval of the 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 development of the Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025, and noted the revisions made since the document was discussed at the April 9, 2020 meeting of GFC and a campus community town hall on May 6, 2020
- Discussion included that:
  - Group Study programs can be expensive and this can be a barrier to students
  - A Group Study program only goes ahead if a sufficient number of students enroll in the program. The provincial government no longer provides backfill funding for these programs.
  - It is seen positively that the Faculties can determine how a significant proportion of international student tuition revenue will be spent, and that the Faculty of Graduate Studies will reinvest some international student tuition revenue into competitive scholarships and other student aid
- In response to questions it was reported that:
  - The phrase “Incentivized Activities” refers to initiatives such as funding programs to develop new Group Study programs and international collaborations, and award programs to recognize faculty, staff and students engaged in international work
  - Postdoctoral scholars are not currently mentioned in the document, but this will be corrected

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025, as set out in the documents provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

**Carried**

**8. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Dashboard**

Dru Marshall, Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation), and Luc Boyer, Senior Institutional Analyst, Office of Institutional Analysis, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters reminded the GFC that, as part of the implementation of the University's Academic Plan, an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Dashboard has been developed. The dashboard will be accessible by members of the University community, and will also be used to produce reports related to the University's progress towards improving EDI.
- The presenters then gave a demonstration of the EDI Dashboard website
- The presenters reported that the EDI Dashboard can filter the data by the four federally designated EDI categories (women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and members of visible minorities), and that the University will soon add a fifth category, sexual orientation
- Discussion included:
  - The addition of a metric for "presence in a leadership role" would be valuable
  - Some data should not be made available on the EDI Dashboard if there is risk that individuals could be identified. The presenters noted that the EDI Dashboard will contain flags to indicate when data has been removed or when sample sizes are too small and information is limited.

**9. International Strategy Progress Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall and Janaka Ruwanpura presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters provided an update on the implementation of the four strategic goals in the University's International Strategy (IS), including:
  - The University has surpassed its targets for increasing the undergraduate and graduate international student populations
  - The top three countries of origin for the University's international students are China (23%), India (14%) and Iran (7%). The University attracts students from a broad range of countries, and has a more diverse international student population than many other institutions.
  - The number of students obtaining an international learning experience was lower in 2018-2019, primarily because student exchange programs are not as popular as they used to be. Research placement and work experience numbers are up, however.
  - The number of faculty members with at least one degree earned outside of Canada has risen to 49%
  - The University has earned two innovation awards for its International Partnership Assessment Rating Index tool, which tracks the nature of the University's active international partnerships. Of the University's 234 active international partnerships with 55 countries in 2018-2019, nine involved all three forms of partnership (mobility, research, and academic programs and collaborations)
  - The number of publications arising from international collaborations continues to steadily increase, as does the funding received from international research sponsoring agencies

- In the time since the IS was approved in 2013, 480 students have been involved in 11 international development projects
- Discussion included:
  - The IS Dashboard presents data on the number of faculty members who have obtained education internationally, but does not present data on the number of postdoctoral scholars with international training. The presenters reported that data on the internationality of postdoctoral scholars is collected.
  - In response to a question, the presenters reported that the University's Latin American Research Centre has been closed for budgetary reasons, but individual connections will continue and any agreements can be amended through the Dean's office

#### **10. Standing Reports**

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

- a) Report on the April 22, 2020 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the April 6 and April 20, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the April 21, 2020 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the April 23, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the April 23, 2020 Senate Meeting
- f) Policy Development Update

#### **11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **12. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the May 14, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary