



Meeting #601

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| E. McCauley, Chair | S. Cork | F. Jalilehvand | E. Perrault | D. Souraya |
| D. Marshall, Vice-Chair | L. Dalgetty | C. Jessel | N. Peters | D. Stewart |
| S. Abraha | S. Davidson | B. Kahanyshyn | Q. Pittman | M. Tarailo-Graovac |
| B. Adams | A. dela Cruz | J. Kortbeek | R. Plume | S. Thrift |
| S. Alexander | J. Dewald | R. Lauer | J. Poissant | A. Timm |
| A. Alase | S. Eaton | S. LeBlanc | S. Raj | B. Uppal |
| O. Alp | A. Estefan | J. Lock | R. Ramdhaney | A. Viczko |
| D. Altahsh | F. Finley | R. McCorkell | L. Reid | H. Warsame |
| K. Baral | M. Fraser | M. McDonough | M.J. Romaniuk | G. Welch |
| S. Barker | D. Gereluk | B. Maini | W. Rosehart | P. Werthner |
| T. Beattie | W. Ghali | B. Mayer | F. Samavati | J. Winter |
| S. Benseler | P. Gibson | J. Meddings | A. Samji | B. Wylant |
| J. Bergerson | P. Gimby | N. Molina | A. Saweczko | R. Yates |
| C. Bousman | D. Hodgins | E. Montes Garces | T. Shandro | M. Zhang |
| J. Brar | I. Holloway | L. Nowell | R. Sigurdson | M. Zytaruk |
| M. Cassis | C. Hornbeck | M. O'Brien | D. Sinasac | |
| O. Chapman | C. Hurrell | A. Paquette | D. Slater | |
| R. Clements | M. Husein | D. Paskevich | F. Smith | |

Guests

- M. Anholt, Manager, Office of One Health – present for Item 8
- H. Barkema, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Cumming School of Medicine – present for Item 8
- A. Bedard, Manager, Indigenous Research Support Team – present for Item 13
- J. Kubes, Director, Industry Liaison Office, Innovate Calgary – present for Item 14
- J. Perdue, Associate Vice-President (Sustainability) – present for Item 12
- J. Quin, Senior Director - Student Services – present for Item 11
- K. Wiens, Manager - Student Wellness Support – present for Item 10
- J. Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Innovate Calgary – present for Item 14

Observers

- G. Achari, Schulich School of Engineering
- J. Alho, Assoc. Vice-President (Government and Community Engagement)
- C. Gerlach, Academic Coordinator, Sustainability
- K. Hamilton, President's Office
- M. Hebert, Postdoctoral Association
- M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
- K. Jackson, General Counsel
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- J. Krygier, Faculty Association
- C. McVie, Provost's Office
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
- M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
- F. Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost
- R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)

Secretary

S. Belcher

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

J. Carter
T. Hodzic

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:29 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:

- Robert McCorkell, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and Abhijeet Alase, Postdoctoral Association representative, were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- As the number of COVID-19 cases are growing, it is important for everyone to continue to follow provincial and other guidelines in order to keep the University community safe. COVID-19 is having mental health and financial impacts, and representatives of the University are taking opportunities to communicate these to the provincial government.
- Development of the Growth Through Focus (GTF) vision is continuing, with ongoing broad consultation, analysis of feedback received, and work by groups focused on areas including transdisciplinarity, community partnerships, and future delivery. An implementation plan is being developed. A University-wide congress will be held in January via Zoom, and then specific proposals arising from GTF will move through the University's governance system as appropriate.

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Development of the University's budget is continuing. Tuition consultations are occurring, including town halls with students on November 16 and 17, 2020.
- Information regarding identified cases of COVID-19 at the University, including the location on campus, is shared with the University community. There has been no known on-campus transmission of COVID-19 to date. The Crisis Management Team now only meets when there is an emergency issue to address.
- There is a notable increase in mental health issues at this time and members of the University community are encouraged to take care of themselves and one another, and to access the University's mental health resources as needed
- Instructors are acknowledged for the tremendous work that they are doing during this time. It is noted that changes to assessment practices can increase students' work loads significantly, however, and instructors are asked to consider this.

4. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The Taylor Institute is exploring proctoring software for exams, but this is expensive and may not improve academic integrity

- Deans are consulted regarding any targets to increase the student population, as space and access to courses are important considerations. The University has established targets for growing the international student population, in part with an aim to increase diversity and cross-cultural understanding.
- Limited tuition increases are permitted at this time, and will differ across programs. The University has an obligation to commit to the tuition for individual international students for the duration of their degree.
- A cornerstone of academic freedom is that academics are able to speak freely about matters such as public policy, and academics should be protected in this regard. Any contravention of this freedom should be reported to the Executive Leadership Team so that this can be addressed.
- A student assessment model with several smaller assignments may be adopted by instructors with good intentions, but this may increase workload for students

5. **Safety Moment**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), presented on the topic of “UCalgary’s COVID-19 Response”, and specifically confirmed that, while there have been a number of University persons reported as positive cases, there has been no known on-campus transmission of COVID-19 to date.

6. **Approval of the October 8, 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 October 8, 2020 be approved.

Carried

Paul Gibson abstained.

7. **Approval of Part A of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda and tabled at the meeting. Florentine Strzelczyk, Administrative Co-Chair of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Working Group (ASCPWG), and Francine Smith, Academic Co-Chair of the ASCPWG, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the revisions made since the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook (the Handbook) was last reviewed by GFC, and presented a table document of revisions to Handbook section 3.3.2 regarding supervision made after the document was circulated to GFC
- Discussion included:

- Whether evidence-based teaching and learning approaches are applicable to all disciplines, and thus should be required as demonstration of teaching effectiveness for appointment/promotion to the rank of Professor. It was suggested that Handbook section 4.4.4 could refer to “current approaches in teaching”. The proponents noted that evidence-based teaching includes analysing one’s teaching practices, and that someone applying for promotion should be able to demonstrate that they follow good teaching practices.
- That recognizing graduate supervision as a teaching practice is an appreciated addition to the document
- That counselling could be added to section 3.3.2 as a form of teaching
- The use of the word “normally” throughout the document. The proponents reported that the use of the word was reviewed carefully, and it was determined that this is needed in order to provide necessary flexibility. It was noted that without flexibility in the Handbook to allow for judgement, any exception would have to be negotiated, and that the use of “normally” is seen to improve the quality of the Handbook, not weaken it.
- Not including section 4.2.7 from the original appointment, promotion and tenure handbook, which referenced the development, testing and application of computer-assisted learning techniques and software among teaching criteria. The proponents explained that the Handbook includes this in a broader sense.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the new Part A of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook (the Handbook) in the form provided to the GFC with immediate effect, except in respect of applications for tenure and/or promotion that are currently under consideration, which applications will continue to be governed by the existing Handbook provisions.

Carried

Elizabeth Montes Garcés and Osman Alp opposed.

8. One Health at UCalgary Strategic Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Herman Barkema, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Cumming School of Medicine, Michele Anholt, Manager, Office of One Health, and Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that One Health is the second of two emerging cross-cutting research themes selected by the Vice-President (Research) following a competitive process. The presenters gave a presentation on the One Health at UCalgary Strategic Plan, which has been developed over the past year, including its vision, mission, strategic directions, grand challenges, implementation and engagement strategies, and funding received.
- Discussion included:
 - The interconnectedness of the environment, people, plants, and animals
 - That One Health is an important theme, and that COVID-19 will increase attention to this

- That this strategic plan is a living document and that anyone interested in joining in this work is welcome to do so

9. Fall 2020 Enrolment Report

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the Fall 2020 enrolment data, specifically noting that this is the largest enrolment in the history of the University and highlighting details such as the international student statistics, retention rates, and admission averages
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Increases in the international student population are being seen across disciplines, but especially in Engineering
 - Students experiencing issues, such as with visas are referred to the University's International Student Services office for assistance, and sometimes admission can be deferred
 - Data on where graduate students originate within Canada is not currently tracked, but this can be gathered
 - A holistic admissions process considers information beyond grades, such as a portfolio and references
 - The University receives transcripts directly from other institutions or the Ministry of Education, and transcripts self-submitted by applicants are not accepted. For international students, the institution is asked to validate the information submitted by an applicant. The University has a process for when there is a discrepancy with the information provided by an applicant.
 - There is a project underway to improve the transfer of data between provinces, and the University is a pilot institution in this. The University's transcripts are currently sent in PDF form.

10. Student at Risk Annual Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), and Kevin Wiens, Manager - Student Wellness Support, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Student at Risk annual report, and specifically noted that the decline in reports correlates with the campus closure in March 2020. It was noted that demand for assistance has increased again this term.
- The presenters reported that there has been a shift to a service model that provides more expedient access to one-on-one support for students in distress
- There were no questions

11. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Annual Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), and Jennifer Quin, Senior Director - Student Services, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Student Non-Academic Misconduct annual report, and specifically noted that an increase in online misconduct has been observed. The presenters reported that more resources have been made available to provide for the informal resolution of situations when appropriate, conflict management workshops have been established, resources relating to acceptable online conduct are being developed, and reporting forms for instructors and bystanders are being developed.
- It was noted that the Taylor Institute is assisting in the creation of resources for academic staff members

12. 2020 Institutional Sustainability Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Joanne Perdue, Associate Vice-President (Sustainability), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the Institutional Sustainability annual report, specifically highlighting that the University's priorities connect to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- There were no questions

13. Indigenous Research Support Team: Overview, Mandate and Framework

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), and Amber Bedard, Manager, Indigenous Research Support Team, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the mandate, key functions, composition, and framework of the Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST), which has been established to support the Indigenous research enterprise at the University
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The IRST can assist with discipline-specific connections
 - The IRST is working to develop resources and access materials relating to the principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access, and possession)

14. Industry Liaison/Solutions Office: Overview of Industry Engagement Initiative

Jessie Kubes, Director, Industry Liaison Office, Innovate Calgary, and John Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Innovate Calgary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the role of the Industry Liaison/Solutions Office (ISO) in connecting industry and research partners, and specifically highlighted how this is done, including through a website and database of contacts and opportunities, marketing material, partnership and areas of interest maps, strategic outreach through conferences and trade shows, coordinating the development of project proposals and budget plans, and assisting with the execution of contracts
- In response to questions it was reported that:
 - The ISO steering committee does not yet have broad representation but this team is still being established
 - A playbook to assist researchers in identifying opportunities and engaging in the partnership process is being developed. The ISO intends to work with researchers in all disciplines.
 - Research is done prior to the formation of partnerships in order to protect the reputation of the University
 - A number of metrics have been identified, and the ISO will report regularly to the Board. Some funding for the ISO comes from the federal government, which has encouraged universities to establish offices like this.
- Discussion included that:
 - The four pillars of GTF are referenced as priority areas for the development of partnerships even though GTF is still in development, and it is difficult for persons in the Humanities to connect with the ISO initiative. It was noted that the goals of the ISO tie to the priorities of the University's Eyes High Strategic Direction, Academic Plan and Research Plan, and that the ISO's efforts will not be STEM focused.
 - The University can provide educational opportunities for persons in industry
 - That Mitacs has expanded its reach to include Social Sciences and the Arts in some funding areas only

15. Standing Reports

The following reports were circulated with the Agenda for information:

- a) Report on the October 21, 2020 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the October 19, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the October 22, 2020 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the October 20, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the October 22, 2020 Senate meeting
- f) Report on the October 16, 2020 Board of Governors Meeting
- g) Policy Development Update

There were no questions.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the November 5, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary