



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

Meeting #602

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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### ***Voting Members***

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

### ***Guests***

K. Damen, Executive Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking – present for Item 10  
A. de Koning, Academic Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking – present for Item 10  
D. Howitt, Manager - EHS Systems & Compliance – present for Item 5

### ***Observers***

J. Alho, Assoc. Vice-President (Government and Community Engagement)  
K. Hamilton, President's Office  
M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)  
K. Jackson, General Counsel  
C. Johns, Provost's Office  
J. Krygier, Faculty Association  
M. Kularatne, Students' Union  
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

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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:

- Members of the University community are acknowledged for their flexibility and cooperation during this difficult term. Regulations and recommendations relating to COVID-19 are changing in response to current conditions, and the University will maintain awareness and compliance with these.
- The town halls for the provincial government's Alberta 2030 initiative have been postponed beyond January 2021 but will still occur. The University's representatives participating in this initiative have been consistent in the messaging to the government and advocating for things such as the continuance of bicameral university governance and autonomy.
- The University's Global Engagement Plan was launched today
- The University has been ranked #6 among Canada's top research universities in ReSearch Infosource's Top 50 Research Universities list announced this week
- The Faculty of Kinesiology has been ranked #1 in North America and #11 in the world in Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments

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

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The provincial government's new COVID-19 regulations will be in effect from December 13, 2020 to January 12, 2021, which means that face-to-face classes and some final exams were able to be completed. People are directed to work from home if possible, and any persons working on campus must be named in their unit's work plan. Changes include the closure of the Fitness Centre, the closure of the libraries except for the contactless drop off and pick up of books, and the limiting of the MacEwan Hall food court and the Dining Centre to take out only. The University has applied for three exceptions: to allow by-appointment access to some library study spaces, to hold in-person defenses for some graduate students, and to provide some safe-space seating in the MacEwan Hall food court and Dining Centre.
- Members of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee are specifically acknowledged for their participation in recent special meetings dealing with emergent issues, and the University community is thanked for all efforts to make this a successful semester
- Faculty, staff and students may be experiencing new or exacerbated mental health issues during this time, and are encouraged to take advantage of the resources offered by the University and to enjoy some down time during the holiday break
- A new Tuition Reinvestment Bursary for undergraduate and graduate students in financial need has been announced, with \$3 million available now and more to come in the Winter term

**4. Question Period**

There were no questions.

**5. Safety Moment**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Denise Howitt, Manager of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Systems and Compliance, provided an overview of the new “Harassment and Violence Awareness Training Course” which must be completed by all faculty and staff. The course will be open to all in January.

In response to a question, it was reported that the 14-day limit to complete the course after receiving the instructional email can be extended if necessary.

**6. Approval of the November 5, 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 November 5, 2020 be approved.

**Carried****7. Approval of the Academic Schedule for 2025-2026**

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reminded the General Faculties Council (GFC) that the Academic Schedules are approved on a five-year cycle and provided an overview of the schedule for 2025-2026
- In response to a question, it was reported that some Faculties are currently operating under a 4-day model for scheduling classes and that this could be considered for broader application as future Academic Schedules are developed

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the academic schedule for the 2025-2026 academic year, in the form provided to the GFC.

**Carried****8. Growth Through Focus Update**

Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenter reported that valuable feedback on the Growth Through Focus vision (GTF) has been received, and the engagement and enthusiasm is appreciated. The GTF is becoming more defined, with some criticisms being addressed, and internal and external consultations are continuing. The proponent indicated that a GTF congress will be held via Zoom in the new year.
- The presenter provided an overview of four specific areas of the GTF that have been identified as needing further development: future focused program delivery, community partnerships, transdisciplinary scholarship, and equity, diversity and inclusion
- The presenter observed that the University is being applauded by the Board of Governors and the Ministry for continuing with the GTF during the economic downturn and COVID-19, and reported that a GTF update will be a standing item on upcoming GFC agendas
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The GTF development teams have cross membership, meet frequently, and present to the Senior Leadership Team and Executive Leadership Team
  - Proposals will move through the governance process in due course
  - Details about the GTF congress are being worked out. It is anticipated that the congress will take place over two weeks, will be open to faculty, staff and students, and will consist of a variety of topic-specific Zoom rooms that interested persons will be able to sign up for.
- In response to a question directed to the University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA) President, it was reported that meetings have been held with the TUCFA departmental representatives to identify concerns, such as how the GTF development teams were populated and how they are working, the need for a strong and inclusive definition of entrepreneurialism, and the possible impact on merit and promotion
- Discussion included that:
  - There can be barriers to participating in transdisciplinary work, such as workload
  - Entrepreneurialism is contained within the current Eyes High Strategy, and is more expansive than the common understanding of entrepreneurialism in a business context

**9. Student Academic Misconduct 2019-2020 Report**

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

**Highlights:**

- The presenter provided an overview of the 2019-2020 Student Academic Misconduct annual report, specifically reporting that an overall rise in reports of cheating has been observed since March. The presenter noted that cheating, particularly connected to online sharing, may be intentional or unintentional, and that it is important to make clear to students what actions are permitted.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Appeals are handled by the University's Student Appeals Office

- Some Faculties have not reported academic misconduct data and so are not included in this report
- Efforts to raise awareness about academic misconduct include the production of the Academic Integrity Student Handbook, workshops and online modules for students, workshops for instructors, and the requirement that academic integrity be referenced in course outlines

#### **10. Hunter Hub Mandate and Positioning**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Keri Damen, Executive Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Alice de Koning, Academic Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, and Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the Hunter Hub, including an overview of its vision, pillars, recent activities, and governance
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Flagship programs, such as Launchpad and the embedded certificate, have been prioritized over hosting events
  - The Hunter Hub team is being expanded and will become less STEM focused
  - The Hunter Hub can direct students to other units such as Innovate Calgary and the Office of Experiential Learning
- Discussion included:
  - The meaning of 'entrepreneurial thinking' (ET) and whether people from all disciplines can identify with this. The presenters explained ET as "being creative in finding innovative solutions" and thus inclusive. The presenters noted that the concept of ET was created by the University during the development of the Eyes High Strategy and is now embraced nationally.
  - That the Tech Fest event held by the Hunter Hub last year was well received and could be expanded to include guests from broader industry

#### **11. Research Services Office Update**

Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), and Bill Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the Research Services Office (RSO), including recent leadership and structure changes within the RSO and the launch of new support systems. The presenters noted that several University researchers have been successful in the most recent Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) competition and the RSO was instrumental in this.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The RSO does not play a role in matters such as research integrity, research espionage and predatory journals as these fall under the purview of the Vice-President (Research)

office and policies such as the Research Integrity Policy

- The RSO works with the Research Accounting office to set up research accounts, and the Research Management System is meant to facilitate the meeting of turnaround targets

## **12. Indigenous Strategy Progress Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement), and Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the history of the Indigenous Strategy (IS), highlighted recent activities in each of the IS areas (Ways of Knowing, Ways of Doing, Ways of Connecting, and Ways of Being), and reported on current priorities including student enrolment, support for researchers, and inclusivity in the workforce
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It will be a long journey to reach the goals of the IS
  - The numbers of Indigenous students and faculty have been growing, and it is expected that this will continue next year
  - Language courses are being developed, but this must be done with care because Indigenous communities are the language experts, and learning and oral traditions must be respected
  - There is funding for IS staff salaries and operations, and the priorities set out in the University's Academic Plan and Research Plan will guide the allocation of additional resources
- The presenters noted that the University uses metrics to measure its progress toward the goals of its various strategies, but this is not an Indigenous way of thinking and accomplishments like growing and continued connections will be seen as signs of success

## **13. Standing Reports**

The following reports were circulated with the Agenda for information:

- a) Report on the November 25, 2020 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the November 2, November 23, November 30 and December 1, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the November 19, 2020 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the November 17, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- e) Policy Development Update

There were no questions.

## **14. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**15. Adjournment**

The December 10, 2020 meeting of the General Faculties Council was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary