



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

Meeting #609

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	O. Chapman	F. Jalilehvand	Q. Pittman	D. Stewart
F. Abdi	P. Chopra	A. Jenney	R. Plume	T. Tombe
B. Adams	R. Clements	J. Koo	T. Poffenroth	P. Toohey
T. Akhtar	R. Cockett	R. Lauer	J. Poissant	M. Van Hee
O. Alp	A. Dambrowitz	J-R. Leblanc	J. Priest	T. Vashchilko
G. Assefa	S. Davidson	S. LeBlanc	A. Qayyum	A. Viczko
J. Ayala	A. Dela Cruz	K.Y. Lee	L. Reid	R. Weller
K. Baral	J. Dewald	M. MacKenzie	M.J. Romaniuk	P. Werthner
S. Barker	V. Fast	B. Maini	W. Rosehart	J. Winter
M. Bauer	M. Fraser	B. Mayer	F. Saleem	B. Wylant
T. Beattie	D. Gereluk	J. Meddings	J. Seidel	R. Yates
S. Benseler	W. Ghali	N. Molina	C. Seneviratne	M. Zhang
C. Bousman	K. Hecker	A. Musgrove	T. Shandro	M. Zytaruk
W. Bridel	C. Hogan	G. Nelson	R. Sigurdson	
I. Brodie	M. Hogan	L. Nowell	D. Sinasac	
J. Brown	C. Hurrell	R. Pereyra	D. Slater	
A. Burns	M. Husein	E. Perrault	F. Smith	

Guests

N. Campbell, Senior Legal Counsel – present for Item 13
M. Kallos, Director, Biomedical Engineering Calgary Initiative, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 7
G. Summers, Senior Legal Counsel – present for Item 13

Observers

J. Alho, Associate Vice-President - Government and Community Engagement
M. Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)
J. Huseby, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, Local 52
C. Johns, Provost's Office
J. Krygier, Faculty Association
M. Kularatne, Students' Union
J. Lacasse, incoming University General Counsel
C. McVie, Provost's Office
A. Morris, Co-Interim Vice-President (Advancement)
T. Risling, Faculty of Nursing
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
W. Therrien, President's Office
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)
C. Tutt, Secretariat Office

Secretary

L. Houle

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

S. Faisal
T. Hodzic

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Bill Rosehart, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE), delivered a Territorial Acknowledgment and shared some current inclusivity initiatives in the SSE, including that: the SSE's leadership now includes two persons in the role of Associate Dean - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), an Associate NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, and two Indigenous Chairs in Engineering; the SSE is opening an Indigenous Pathways Program in 2022 to increase Indigenous student numbers; a gathering and working space for Indigenous students and an Indigenous meeting room are being constructed; the course ENGG 418 (Technology and Society) now includes Indigenous content; there are many supports for students including the Indigenous and Black Engineering and Technology (IBET) Momentum Fellowships and the Diversity Champions in Engineering Scholarships; and there is EDI training for research teams and faculty search committees.

3. Remarks of the Chair/Annual Address of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his opening remarks:

- Lise Houle, Interim University Secretary, Renate Weller, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mike Van Hee, Co-Interim Vice-President (Finance and Services), Alison Schmal, AUPE representative, Michelle MacKenzie, Student Enrolment Services representative, Jennifer Koo, Alumni Association representative, and several of the elected/appointed academic staff Faculty representatives and several of the undergraduate student representatives were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- The 2021 United Way campaign launched yesterday, and members of the University community are encouraged to help as possible

The Chair included the following in his annual address to GFC:

- Members were thanked for all their contributions during this difficult time
- There are some dire predictions in the press about the future of universities, due to crises such as Covid-19 and ongoing job losses, but many universities have emerged stronger and more relevant after past challenges and it is believed that the University can emerge from the current situation with improved work practices and contributing to the creation of prosperity
- The University has vibrant main, Foothills, downtown, Spy Hills, and Qatar campuses and a \$1.4 billion annual budget. The University was small in 1966 but is now counted among the top 200 universities in the world, as the #4 rated school of its age in North America, and as the #1 sports school in North America, and is positioned well to manage the pressures of a changing world. The University is ranked the #1 university in the country for creating new companies, many of which involve social enterprise, and the University is one of the city's biggest employers and a major economic driver.
- The University has National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and other data indicating student successes and positive student experiences, and strong research-related data including

number of publications, disclosures, new inventions and innovations, and increased sponsored and Tri-Council research funding. Involving students in research projects enhances student experiences.

- The University values sustainability, and construction of new facilities reflects this commitment. The University is ranked #2 in Canada in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS).
- The Framework for Growth sets out how the University will continue to achieve these successes, through future-focused program delivery, transdisciplinary scholarship and deeper community partnerships

4. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- This semester 86% of undergraduate students are in class either entirely in-person or in a mix of modalities and 14% of our undergraduate students are in class online only. How this compares to other U-15 institutions is not fully known at this time. We are focused on making the best possible decisions for the University's staff and students, given the Covid-19 conditions at this time.
- Following the most recent provincial restrictions announcement, the Chief Medical Officer of Health provided guidance specifically for post-secondary institutions (PSIs) in late September. This guidance provided a sector exemption from current provincial restrictions for PSIs who establish and implement their own proof of vaccination and testing program. The University's CovidSafe Campus program was implemented initially September 1, 2021 and has been modified/enhanced several times since then. This program meets or exceeds the current guidelines provided by the province.

5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Mike Van Hee, Co-Interim Vice-President (Finance and Services), provided an overview of the updates to the Occupational Health and Safety Act that are being implemented this Fall, and reported that the University's procedures will be revised to match the legislation.

6. Approval of the June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on June 10, 2021 be approved.

Carried

Amanda Musgrove and Robin Cockett abstained.

7. Recommendation of the Creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Rosehart, Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE), and Michael Kallos, Director of the Biomedical Engineering Calgary Initiative, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to create the Department of Biomedical Engineering, specifically highlighting the transdisciplinarity of Biomedical Engineering (BME), that the current BME programs are highly regarded and attract many students, that the SSE is taking a holistic approach to training, research and translation, and that the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering will provide a formal home and anchor for BME at the University
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - It is anticipated that 80-100 students per year will enrol in the BME major program. This will not increase SSE student numbers but will bring equilibrium across the SSE majors. It is not expected that decreases in student enrolment in other SSE majors will introduce problems, but the SSE department heads will monitor student enrolment and will manage any challenges together.
 - Current faculty will be asked if they wish to transfer to the Department of Biomedical Engineering, and it is anticipated that 9-14 persons will want to move. It is expected that the Department of Biomedical Engineering faculty population will grow over time, perhaps to 20-25 faculty members in five years.
 - Because the SSE has seen increases in first-year undergraduate student enrolment, the University's tuition formula has resulted in more funding for the SSE. The SSE uses a collaborative approach to the provision of technology and administrative services, and the existing Centre for Bioengineering Research and Education (CBRE) is supported through this model. If the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering is approved, the CBRE will be dissolved and its leadership and supports will be shifted to the new department.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering within the Schulich School of Engineering, as set out in the documents provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

8. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Chair reported that this and the following two elections will be held by an electronic vote immediately following the meeting, to ensure accurate vote count and proper participation, and that the results of the elections will be posted on the GFC D2L by end of day on October 8

- There were no nominations from the floor

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Alice de Koning, Haskayne School of Business
Christine Walsh, Faculty of Social Work

9. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- There were no nominations from the floor

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Michael Kallos, Schulich School of Engineering
Ebba Kurz, Cumming School of Medicine

10. Election of One Academic Staff Member as the Member of the Board of Governors Nominated by GFC

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- There were no nominations from the floor

Secretary's Note: The following person was elected:

Joule Bergerson, Schulich School of Engineering

11. Framework for Growth Update

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the Growth Through Focus (GTF) Framework for Growth, including:
 - The goals of the University as a research university are the education of students, supporting the community, and producing life-changing research, and these are interconnected. GTF identifies qualitative and quantitative measures of these goals, including student population data, expressions of student satisfaction, number and depth of partnerships, public perception, donations, amount of sponsored research funding and number of research chairs, and number of papers and high-impact citations. The University has shown improvement in all these measures.

- The University's vision is driven by its foundational initiatives, Academic Plan, Research Plan, and Eyes High Strategy. The Framework for Growth is consistent with these, sets out how the University can continue to work towards achieving the goals articulated, and establishes a consensus on priorities.
- The original Eyes High Strategy was launched in 2011, at a time of fiscal growth for the University. Huge cuts to the Campus Alberta Grant began in 2019 and another cut is anticipated for 2022, and some of the University's funding is now performance based. The Chair of the Board of Governors negotiated a performance-based budgeting metric for the University relating to Work-Integrated Learning, and this is welcomed because this is seen as an achievable goal.
- The University's values inform the Framework for Growth, and articulating these values establishes a University brand and can set us apart from other universities
- The pillars of the Framework for Growth that will help towards achieving the University's goals are: 1) future-focused program delivery, 2) deeper community partnerships, and 3) transdisciplinary scholarship. The pillars enable each other, and collectively tell the story of an entrepreneurial and community-conscious university.
 - Future-focused program delivery includes personalised and flexible learning plans and pathways to credentials, experiential learning and professional practice skills, expanded modality choices and scheduling options, and recognition that some students are on a lifelong learning trajectory
 - Deeper community partnerships includes establishing a signature partnership within each of the five GTF areas of focus of transdisciplinary research: cities and communities, democracy and social change, digital worlds, energy transformation, and health and life, and also includes the physical integration of the University and the broader community
 - Transdisciplinary scholarship is a strength of the University. An initiative, Institutes for Transdisciplinary Studies, is in development and will support and enable transdisciplinary scholarship.
- Discussion included:
 - The University is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and one of the principles of DORA is that research excellence should be measured in ways broader than number of citations
 - The 'Future Focused Programming' piece does not speak to the importance of Continuing Education, and it should be considered that students are not just undergraduate and graduate students but of all ages and stages of education
 - Restrictions during Covid-19 have limited advocacy to virtual means
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Provincial funding cuts have hurt the University, but some institutions in the province have faced even deeper cuts. Representatives of the University will continue to advocate to the provincial government, Calgary Caucus and others about the value of a research university to the province and City.
 - GTF speaks to growing revenue in ways beyond the Campus Alberta grant
 - There will be broad consultation during the development of the University's next budget. The Board's Finance and Property Committee has set nine principles to be followed in the development of the budget.

- Administration can provide key messaging for members of the University community to deliver when engaging with others

12. Fall 2021 Enrolment Report

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the University's Fall 2021 enrolment, including:
 - We are on target, or above, where we wanted to be for enrolment this year. Enrolment dipped slightly for international graduate students in 2020, but in 2021 enrolment has increased in all categories: undergraduate, graduate, international undergraduate, international graduate, and self-identified Indigenous students. For 2021, the most significant growths are seen in international undergraduate and graduate students.
 - There are some shifts in location of student origin, likely due to the impacts of Covid-19, and it has become more challenging to gain admission to some programs
 - The student population is 35,664 students this year, with 28,254 undergraduate students (79%) and 7,410 graduate students (21%). Overall high school retention sits at 87%, with 77% for Indigenous students and 82% for international students, which is down 4-6% overall, but could have been worse without the strong mental health supports and innovative teaching during the pandemic. Overall, the enrolment is at or above target.
 - Demographically, 62% of undergraduate students are from the Calgary area, 13% are from elsewhere in Alberta, 11% are from elsewhere in Canada, and 14% are international
 - Students originate from 142 countries, with the top countries for graduate students being India, Iran, China, Nigeria and Pakistan, and the top countries for undergraduate students being China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nigeria. The number of students originating from China has dropped.
 - Students can now identify as non-binary (0.2%) and non-disclosed (0.1%), and the number of female students (54.1%) has increased. The male population is 45.7%.
 - The Indigenous student population is 3.2% of the student population
 - Admission averages are up significantly across all Faculties
 - The University has stepped up during the pandemic to continue to deliver quality education and the enrolment statistics indicate that the University has done well
- Discussion included:
 - Instructors and students are stressed, and classrooms and other facilities need to be upgraded to allow for teaching effectively in a variety of ways. Larger class sizes are also a challenge at this time. Administration is aware of these challenges and needs are being communicated to the government and the Calgary Caucus.
 - Calgary is Canada's third most diverse city, and the upcoming student census will be important to analysing the domestic student diversity
 - Pathways differ for minority groups, and it is important to state the University's commitment to providing pathways for equity seeking groups

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - 2.9% of graduate students are self-identified as Indigenous
 - Growth in equity-seeking areas is not as high as hoped, and effort needs to be made to ensure that students are aware of pathways and aided in accessing these
- The presenter indicated that this and other enrolment information can be provided to units

13. Research Security Guidelines

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. William Ghali, Vice-President (Research), Neil Campbell, Senior Legal Counsel, and Glenda Summers, Senior Legal Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on research security, including:
 - There has been attention recently at both the provincial and national levels on this matter
 - In May 2021 the Minister of Advanced Education asked universities to pause the establishment or renewal of partnerships with public and private sector entities in China while each university generated a report on current partnerships with entities in China
 - This summer the federal government released National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships. The University embraces the principles in the federal guidelines.
 - The University values diverse global partnerships, inclusivity, pluralism and scholarly exchanges, and does not agree with singling out one country. The University approaches all international partnerships with a high standard of risk assessment and management.
 - The Research Services Office and Legal Services provide support to researchers, and protective steps are in place such as the Linkage Application form which ensures that risk assessment and due diligence have occurred
 - The University safeguards the research enterprise as much as possible, including academic integrity; freedom of expression; institutional autonomy; equity, diversity and inclusion; research in the public interest; transparency; integrity in partnerships; and collaboration with pluralism. The office of the Vice-President (Research) has convened a working group to stay informed on any requirements from the Tri-Council on matters relating to research security.

14. Standing Reports

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information:

- a) Report on the Sept. 15, 2021 GFC Executive Committee Meeting and July 29 and September 16, 2021 e-votes
- b) Report on the Sept. 27, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the Sept. 21, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the Sept. 23, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the Sept. 22, 2021 Senate Meeting

15. Revised Terms of Reference

- **General Standing Committees**
- **Academic Planning and Priorities Committee**
- **Academic Program Subcommittee**
- **Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee**
- **Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee**
- **Research and Scholarship Committee**
- **Teaching and Learning Committee**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the October 7, 2021 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Lise Houle
Interim University Secretary