



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #611

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	A. Burns	I. Holloway	J. Pablo	T. Shandro
Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair	M. Cassis	C. Hurrell	A. Paquette	R. Sigurdson
F. Abdi	O. Chapman	M. Husein	R. Pereyra	D. Sinasac
B. Adams	R. Clements	F. Jalilehvand	E. Perrault	D. Stewart
T. Akhtar	A. Dambrowitz	N. Jarvis	Q. Pittman	T. Tombe
J. Anderson	S. Davidson	A. Jenney	T. Poffenroth	P. Toohey
D. Ashby	A. Dela Cruz	J. Kortbeek	J. Poissant	M. Van Hee
G. Assefa	J. Dewald	R. Lauer	J. Priest	A. Viczko
J. Ayala	V. Fast	J-R. Leblanc	A. Qayyum	R. Walker
K. Baral	M. Fraser	S. LeBlanc	L. Reid	S. Weaver
S. Barker	D. Gereluk	K.Y. Lee	M.J. Romaniuk	R. Weller
M. Bauer	W. Ghali	M. MacKenzie	W. Rosehart	P. Werthner
T. Beattie	J. Guo	B. Mayer	A. Schmal	B. Wylant
C. Bousman	K. Hecker	J. Meddings	N. Schmidt	R. Yates
W. Bridel	C. Hogan	A. Musgrove	J. Seidel	M. Zhang
J. Brown	M. Hogan	L. Nowell	C. Seneviratne	M. Zytaruk

Guests

B. Barton, Director, School of Creative and Performing Arts – present for Item 2

M. Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 11
(and attends entire meeting as an Observer)

Observers

J. Alho, Associate Vice-President - Government and Community Engagement
J. Krygier, Faculty Association
J. Lacasse, General Counsel
C. McVie, Provost's Office
A. Morris, Co-Interim Vice-President (Advancement)
J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
W. Therrien, President's Office
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)

Secretary

C. Tutt

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

S. Faisal
T. Hodzic

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Bruce Barton, Director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA), read a Territorial Acknowledgment and then shared his unit's inclusive practices, including that the School has reviewed its courses and programs and added culturally diverse programming and engagement of guest presenters, has established an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID) Committee and an EDID Community Advisory Board, has dedicated webspace for EDID information, has launched a Peer-Support Network for undergraduate and graduate students, has applied for funding to pilot an Alumni Mentoring Program, is developing a 4-year EDID Action Plan with 14 priorities and 9 areas of action, and is collaborating with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Office of Indigenous Engagement, and the Faculty of Arts EDI Committee on longer term efforts.

3. Remarks of the Chair

Ed McCauley, Chair, included the following in his remarks:

- Members were thanked for their commitment and for all that they are doing during this difficult time
- Bernhard Mayer, outgoing Interim Dean of the Faculty of Science, was recognized on this occasion of his last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- The Office of EDI has launched an equity census, and this data will be useful to the University
- The Registrar's Office has renewed the University's Indspire agreement
- Implementation of the Campus Mental Health Strategy has included the piloting of a wellness program that has reached many students this year
- On November 18, 2021 the University signed the Scarborough Charter on anti-Black racism and Black inclusion in higher education
- The University's Hotchkiss Brain Institute has partnered with McGill University's Tanenbaum Open Science Institute to develop Open Science approaches in research and innovation activities
- The fundraising campaign OWN.CANCER, a joint initiative of the University, Alberta Cancer Foundation and Alberta Health Services, has launched in support of the new Calgary Cancer Centre
- The University's UCeed Social Impact Fund, an early-stage startup companies investment fund, has received a \$2 million investment from the provincial government
- Two in-person convocation ceremonies were held on November 9, 2021, and the University's convocation teams were congratulated on this achievement
- The SCPA's performance of the play *The Bus Stop*, which ran November 26-December 4, 2021 in the University's Reeve Theatre, was praised
- The University is in the process of reviewing applications for the current Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Canada Research Chair (CRC) competitions, and it is expected that the University will be able to attract strong international talent to new positions through these
- To communicate the urgent need for the provincial government to reconsider the magnitude of the upcoming budget cut, representatives of the University have met with provincial Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaidis to advocate for the importance of the University. This messaging is being communicated at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

- It is planned that the Winter term will see a return to even more in-person learning. The University is committed to having a safe campus, and there is a January 1, 2022 deadline for all members of the University community to be registered as fully vaccinated in order to attend in person. Currently, 98% of the University's faculty, staff and students are fully vaccinated; the remaining persons are being directly contacted, and some employees may be placed on leave if they remain uncompliant.
- The University is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation, including current developments relating to the Omicron variant
- Members were thanked for their generosity in supporting the United Way campaign, and reminded that the deadline to donate is December 10, 2021

4. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks:

- It has been announced that the University will be closed on December 24, 2021
- The SCPA was congratulated on The Bus Stop opening, the School's first show since the pandemic began
- The University was the only institution to hold in-person convocation ceremonies this term, and the teams were thanked for this major accomplishment
- Forward planning workshops to discuss operationalizing the University's priorities and the University's transdisciplinarity efforts were recently held via Zoom and were well attended
- Members of the University community are encouraged to complete the equity census form. There is an informational slide deck available that persons can watch before completing the form. The Office of EDI and the Office of Institutional Analysis were thanked for their work on this initiative that will support the building of diversity across the University and ensuring that the University's population is reflective of that of the City of Calgary.
- It is currently planned that 98% of students will have in-person classroom experiences during the Winter term and only 2% of students will be completely online. Messaging regarding planning for the Winter term will be sent before the end of the year.
- Conversations with the Associate Deputy Minister of Advanced Education regarding the accessibility of post-secondary education are occurring

5. Question Period

The Chair reported that one question received in advance of the meeting, regarding the University's recent submission to the provincial government on its partnerships in China, was answered directly by the Vice-President (Research).

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The University is sticking with the January 1 deadline for persons to be fully vaccinated in order to be in person on campus, despite the recent provincial change to eight weeks between vaccine doses rather than six weeks. Any persons impacted by this change and thus not fully vaccinated by January 1 will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

- The federal government supports universities through programs including student funding loans, scholarships, bursaries and research funding. The University actively pursues available federal student experience and employment opportunities.

6. Safety Moment

Mike Van Hee, Interim Vice-President (Finance and Services) - Services, presented on 'Psychological Safety', reporting that the University is committed to providing a psychologically healthy and safe workplace and highlighting initiatives in this area.

7. Approval of the November 4, 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 November 4, 2021 be approved.
Carried

8. Approval of the Academic Schedule for 2026-2027 and Revisions to the 2022-2026 Academic Schedules

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the changes to the existing Academic Schedules and the proposed 2026-2027 Academic Schedule, noting that the added observance of the September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation results in technical changes to the Fall schedules and that changes to the start and end of the Spring and Summer terms provides flexibility for group study and field schools
- Discussion included:
 - When the Summer term begins before July 1 this is out of step with the academic year and may impact academic staff members coming off leave
 - The start of the Fall term is creeping into August and this is a concern because summer is traditionally a time for academic staff members to focus on research and take personal time
 - For accreditation reasons, some programs need a certain number of full weeks of lab sections and the addition of the September 30 University closure impacts this. The proponent indicated awareness of this, and explained that the schedules attempt to provide 62 instructional days but that it is difficult to provide ten full weeks for labs.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revised Academic Schedules for 2022-2026 and the Academic Schedule for the 2026-2027 academic year, in the forms provided to the GFC.

Carried**9. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to an Advisory Selection Committee for a Director of the School of Public Policy**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair explained that, in order that it can be confirmed that only voting members of GFC are participating, the election will be conducted via an electronic form and a link to this will be sent by email immediately following the meeting. Members will have until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 10 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Cheryl Barnabe, Cumming School of Medicine
Petra Dolata, Faculty of Arts

10. Student Academic Misconduct Annual 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 Student Academic Misconduct (SAM) Annual Report, noting that the SAM policy was approved in 2019 and this is the second year of reporting to the GFC, and highlighting that:
 - The vast majority of the University's students are honest
 - Institutions worldwide, including the University, have seen significant rises in academic misconduct in recent years. Cases of cheating have decreased, but cases of plagiarism have increased.
 - Three factors explain why SAM has increased:
 - Awareness - This is the second year of the University's policy and workshops relating to this, and awareness of SAM and the University's procedures is increasing which is leading to more reporting
 - Opportunity - During the pandemic there was some lack of clarity about what is permissible in online learning, and there is an increased ease to sharing information online
 - Mental Health - Students may make poor choices if they are struggling
 - Academic integrity is an important value to the University, and persons who report and investigate SAM cases are thanked for their efforts

- The presenter reported that a member of GFC had noted in advance of the meeting that some of his department's students are so focussed on not being accused of SAM that they are not concentrating on their learning
- Discussion included that:
 - It is important for instructors to be clear with students about what is and what is not permitted in the online learning environment, and that instructors should discuss ethical behaviour with students
 - The growth of websites collecting exam and assignment questions that students can access has increased the workload of instructors by requiring them to develop more, and more complex, questions. The presenter reported that the University has blocked any of these problematic sites that are known of.

11. Indigenous Strategy ii'taa'poh'to'p 2021 Journey Update

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

Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed that ii'taa'poh'to'p has four foundational components (Ways of Being, Ways of Knowing, Ways of Connecting, and Ways of Doing) and provided an overview of the annual update, including:
 - There have been increases in Faculty-based Indigenous bridging pathways to increase the Indigenous student population, support services, and gathering places to enhance Indigenous student experience
 - A new e-learning module on reconciliation has been developed and this will be offered through Human Resources' UAdvance program for faculty and staff
 - There are special Indigenous faculty-led projects on reconciliation, including "What is Allyship?" and "What does Reconciliation Mean to Me?"
 - The University's ii'taa'poh'to'p Circle of Indigenous Scholars has been formalized
 - There has been an increase in Indigenous-focused CRCs and Indigenous-focused Tri-Council and non-Tri-Council research grants
 - Lyndon Crowshoe has been appointed as Associate Dean (Indigenous) of the Cumming School of Medicine
 - The Indigenous Summer Student Program has been expanded, and operates in partnership with Community Futures Treaty 7 and the Rupertsland Institute
 - The University's ethics application was revised to include Indigenous research protocols and practices
 - The University's participation in the Canadian pilot of the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification engages in a parallel process exploring community engagement through Indigenous perspectives
 - The Indigenous student population, number of awards received by Indigenous students, and number of degrees, certificates and diplomas awarded to Indigenous students are all continuing to increase

- The number of Indigenous management and support staff persons has remained relatively stable, and the number of Indigenous academic staff members is increasing again after a drop in 2018-2019
- The Indigenous Research Team is hosting the 'Weaving Webs Conference: Strengthening Research through Reciprocity' from January 27-28, 2022 and the Taylor Institute's May 1-3, 2022 Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching will have the theme 'Moving Forward in a Good Way: Nurturing the Spirit of Learning in Postsecondary Education'
- The presenter indicated that the full ii'taa'poh'to'p annual report is available on the Office of Indigenous Engagement webpage and feedback on this is welcome
- The presenter reported that the ii'taa'poh'to'p bundle was ceremonially transferred to new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Teri Balsler after her arrival, and that this was a significant part of the ii'taa'poh'to'p parallel path
- The presenter noted that the University's September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events, including the lowering of the flag on campus, were an important part of the University's journey to reconciliation
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The awards illustrated in the report are Indigenous-specific awards
 - The Office of Indigenous Engagement has started outreach to Two-Spirit faculty and staff, and will be working with the student community to build on this
- Discussion included:
 - Pathways and scholarships for Indigenous students are very important and are a priority for the University
 - A member of GFC reported that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is conducting a number of events relating to Indigenous engagement, and the presenter indicated that his office would support the GSA in this as much as possible
- The Chair noted that Lee Maracle, a celebrated Indigenous writer, passed away on November 11 and so the University is glad that she was able to participate in the University's literary event on September 30

12. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the November 24, 2021 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the November 1 and 22, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the November 16, 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the November 18, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the November 18, 2021 Senate Meeting

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Adjournment

The December 9, 2021 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Cherie Tutt
Meeting Secretary