

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes

Meeting #615

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	A. Burns	S. Jinnah	J. Poissant	P. Toohey
Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair	M. Chu	R. Kim	L. Reid	M. Van Hee
B. Adams	R. Clements	B. Klics	E. Rezaei	S. Weaver
M. Akbari	R. Cockett	R. Lauer	W. Rosehart	R. Weller
J. Allan	A. Dambrowitz	S. LeBlanc	A. Schmal	P. Werthner
O. Alp	S. Davidson	K.Y. Lee	N. Schmidt	B. Wylant
D. Ashby	J. Dewald	M. MacKenzie	C. Seneviratne	R. Yates
J. Ayala	V. Fast	E. MacPhail	R. Sigurdson	M. Zytaruk
K. Baetz	M. Fraser	J. Meddings	D. Slater	
S. Barker	S. Haq	A. Musgrove	J. Steele	
M. Bauer	M. Hogan	L. Nowell	D. Stewart	
B. Beaty	C. Hurrell	E. Perrault	L. Stoffregen	
S. Benseler	M. Husein	R. Plume	M. Tarailo-Graovac	
I. Brodie	A. Jenney	T. Poffenroth	T. Tombe	

***Guests***

- E. Kaipainen, Associate Director, Experiential & Work-Integrated Learning, Taylor Institute – present for Item 11
- K. Flanagan, College of Discovery, Creativity and Innovation (CDCI) Academic Lead – present for Item 11
- N. Kenny, Senior Director, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Items 2 and 11
- S. Lavoie, Communications Specialist, Taylor Institute – present for Item 11
- D. Monar, Director - Operations, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 8
- J. O’Connell, Manager, Experiential Learning, Taylor Institute – present for Item 11
- E. Samoilova, HR Partner, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 8
- L. Stowe, Director, Experiential Education, Taylor Institute – present for Item 11
- A. Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy – present for Item 10
- K. Wiens, Interim Senior Director, Student Wellness - Access and Support – present for Item 10

***Observers***

- J. Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations)
- M. Hart, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)
- C. Johns, Senior Director - Program Innovation and Planning
- J. Krygier, Faculty Association
- J. Lacasse, General Counsel
- A. Liu, Dean’s Office, Schulich School of Engineering
- C. McVie, Provost’s Office
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
- M. Smith, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
- W. Therrien, President’s Office
- R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research

***Secretary***

C. Tutt

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

***Staff***

T. Hodzic

R. Kenny

H. Lywin

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts were declared.

**2. Inclusive Practice Moment**

Natasha Kenny presented a Territorial Acknowledgment and then shared information about the 2022 University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching: Moving Forward in a Good Way, which was held May 1-3, 2022.

**3. Safety Moment**

Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), presented on the topic of 'The Impact of Complacency', including that situational awareness is important and, in the workplace, many incidents happen due to complacency and leaders need to provide oversight to mitigate this.

**4. Remarks of the Chair**

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Ron Kim, Vice-President (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer, Saaka Sulemana Saaka, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, James Steele, GSA Vice-President (Academic), Cameron Armstrong, GSA V-P (Finance & Services), Masume Akbari, GSA V-P (Student Life), Shaziah Jinnah, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), and several new undergraduate student Faculty representatives were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- During challenging times, it is important to be mindful of the valuable things that we do: engagement with students, the creation of knowledge, and improving the world around us. A recent poll of Canadians indicated that the #1 organization with the potential to make Canada a better country is the universities and colleges system, for providing higher education and the results of research. We cannot lose sight of our importance and that most Canadians recognize this.
- At the recent national meeting of Universities Canada, the Board discussed the challenges that the world is facing relating to climate change and energy transition, and the role that universities can play in tackling these issues
- It has been announced that the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded \$67 million from the provincial government to expand its Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) enrolment from 50 to 100 students by 2025. Additional announcements will be made next week relating to the provincial government's targeted enrolment expansion program, which is funding the creation of more seats in high-demand programs including Data Science, Software Engineering, Commerce, Rural Nursing, and Quantum Computing.
- Convocation Week is being held May 30-June 3, 2022, and this will be the first convocation event with guests in the audience in two years. Members of the University community are thanked for all that they do for students, and are encouraged to attend the ceremonies.

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

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The in-person convocation event is positive for the University, and the team that is putting this on is applauded
- The SU and GSA both recently held their 2022 teaching awards galas, and these were great events for celebrating the amazing and passionate work that is being done by instructors
- Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International), is a finalist for the 2022 Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards and the public is encouraged to visit the Canadian Immigrant website and vote
- The organizers of the 2022 University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching: Moving Forward in a Good Way are congratulated on the success of the conference, and the learnings will have lasting impact
- Representatives of the University, including Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), are in Vancouver for an inter-institutional forum relating to the Scarborough National Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Higher Education. Malinda Smith is a member of the steering committee that is facilitating this event. Members are encouraged to read about this event, and other related initiatives, on the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) website.
- The University’s webpages have been updated to comply with the Canada Research Chair (CRC) program requirements for public accountability and transparency. In addition, webpages have also been updated to support literacy relating to EDI in education, to provide resources to researchers for embedding EDI in their research, and to have an archive of CRC job ads and links to related EDI data.

**6. Question Period**

In response to a question, it was reported that administrators are open to considering changes to the University’s transcript format and how grades are reported.

**7. Approval of the April 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

<p><b>Moved/Seconded</b></p> <p>That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on April 7, 2022 be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p>
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**8. Recommendation of the Dissolution of Departments and the Creation of a Non-Departmentalized Structure for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Renate Weller, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Derek Monar, and Elena Samoiloova presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to non-departmentalize the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, with emphasis on the rationales for doing so, the plans for restructuring operations, and the process followed in the advancement of the proposal
- Discussion included:
  - Current non-departmentalized Faculties, such as the Faculty of Nursing and Werklund School of Education, are functioning well and report strong unit cultures without departmental siloes
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It is perceived that there is more risk to not changing the Faculty structure, rather than changing it. The non-departmentalization of the Faculty will be reviewed in six months' time and any shortcoming will be addressed accordingly.
  - Some support staff members will be reassigned, but no staff will be let go as a result of the restructuring
  - The work currently done by the Department Heads will be done by the two new Associate Deans (Professional Development)

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the dissolutions of the Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, Department of Production Animal Health and Department of Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences and approve a non-departmentalized structure for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, effective immediately, as presented to the GFC and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

**Carried**

Peter Toohey and Ermia Rezaie abstained.

**9. Establishment of the 2022-2023 GFC Elected Membership Distribution**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and Meeting Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents noted that this item of business was previously approved by the GFC at its February 10, 2022 meeting, but it has become necessary to re-do the calculation of the GFC elected academic staff membership distribution because the number of *ex officio* members of GFC has recently increased by one
- There were no questions

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out on the document provided to the GFC.

**Carried**

## **10. Campus Mental Health Strategy Update**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto and Kevin Wiens presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation about initiatives relating to the Campus Mental Health Strategy (CMHS), including: enhanced mental health resources and services during the pandemic; the positive results of an external review conducted in November 2021; popular trainings and workshops for faculty, staff, and students; dedicated supports for Indigenous and neurodiverse students; an embedded certificate; an informative website and the use of a chatbot to help with the access of resources; and a suicide awareness and prevention program
- It was reported that some adaptations made during the pandemic, such as virtual and single-session consultations, will be continued as these have improved wait times and student satisfaction. Other forward plans include: growth in collaborations with Faculties for mental health service delivery, renewal of the CMHS, continued implementation of post-secondary and workplace national standards, development of a Wellbeing and Worklife Strategy for faculty and staff, continued efforts to connect the CMHS with ii'taa'poh'to'p (the Indigenous Strategy) and the Institutional Sustainability Strategy, and continued leadership and recognition within Canadian post-secondary mental health.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The increased availability of resources and services will lead to more accessing of services, and so the increase in the number of students seeking help is a good thing and demonstrates the success of the CMHS
  - Surveys of students who have accessed services indicate that satisfaction is high
  - The provincial government provides funding directly to student health services. The last provincial grant was a three-year commitment and no reduction in staffing or service levels is anticipated. Funding is also provided by external sources such as Bell Canada.
  - A scan of student services will be conducted, to ensure that financial resources are being allocated in a way that provides optimum services to the growing student population
  - Access of direct mental health services and trainings have both increased
  - Evidence-based approaches to mental health services are important, and the partnership with the Mathison Centre assists with this
  - Effort is being made to follow leading practices in employee mental health supports
  - It will be assessed whether the University's staff benefits cover expenses relating to mental health wellbeing and physical wellbeing at the same percentage

## **11. Experiential Learning Community Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Erin Kaipainen, Lisa Stowe, Natasha Kenny, Sasha Lavoie, Kyla Flanagan, and Jessica O'Connell presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation about the University's Experiential Learning (EL) Plan and described initiatives relating to EL including: that EL is broad and includes field placements,

internships, and research opportunities; the province's Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs initiative establishes a goal that all undergraduate students will have an EL or Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience and the University's EL Plan sets targets for undergraduate and graduate student experiences; efforts are being made to identify and reduce barriers to EL and WIL and to increase the number of opportunities for EL and WIL; and a process for tracking and reporting on EL and WIL is being developed

- The presenters displayed statistics on EL and WIL, including that 82% of the University's academic programs provide opportunities for WIL, 62% of the University's WIL courses are mandatory clinical placements or field placements, and 25% of the University's students participate in WIL each year
- The presenters reported that forward plans include: further addressing accessibility and inclusion in EL; connecting the EL Plan and ii'taa'poh'to'p; expanding EL and WIL opportunities, especially to include more early degree options; supporting teams to scale EL programs; enhancing messaging to students about EL; and strengthening partnerships and the partnership processes
- Discussion included:
  - There is huge value to students in EL, and improving accessibility and inclusion through the understanding of barriers must be a priority
  - Barriers to having EL and WIL experiences include finances, having other commitments that take a student's time, and lack of awareness of opportunities
  - Students with positive EL and WIL experiences appear to become more engaged alumni
  - The critical reflection component of EL is valuable
- In response to questions, it was reported that the EL office:
  - Can currently only track gender and whether a student is an international student, but collecting other demographic data should be possible in the future
  - Is developing a plan for supporting students who need help to access EL and WIL, with a special commitment to helping neurodiverse students
  - Is looking into ways of documenting which courses contain EL opportunities, so that students can more easily seek these out

## **12. Standing Reports**

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

- a) Report on the April 14 and April 27, 2022 GFC Executive Committee Meetings
- b) Report on the April 11, 2022 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the April 19 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the April 21, 2022 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the March 24, 2022 Senate Meeting

## **13. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**14. Adjournment**

The May 12, 2022 meeting of the General Faculties Council was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

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Cherie Tutt  
Meeting Secretary