



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

Meeting #618

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	A. Burns	I. Holloway	E. Macphail	N. Schmidt
S. Alexander	W. Cai	M. Husein	A. Musgrove	J. Seidel
O. Alp	O. Chapman	S. Jinnah Morsette	G. Nelson	S. Shah
S. Amin	T. T. Chowdhury	V. Jones	E. Perrault	D. Slater
T. Anderson	M. Chu	C. Joseph	Q. Pittman	J. Steele
J. Ayala	R. Clements	R. Kim	T. Poffenroth	D. Stewart
K. Baetz	C. Cloutier	Y. Kim	J. Poissant	M. Tarailo-Graovac
B. Barton	A. Dambrowitz	J. Knibbe	J. Priest	M. Thomas
M. Bauer	A. dela Cruz	A. Knight	L. Reid	P. Toohey
T. Beattie	J. Dewald	S. Lane	R. Reimer De Bruyn	V. Turpin
S. Benseler	D. Gereluk	R. Lauer	M-J. Romaniuk	N. van den Hoogen
C. Bousman	J. Guo	S. LeBlanc	W. Rosehart	M. Van Hee
W. Bridel	A. Harvey	A. Mac Namara	S. Sulemana Saaka	S. Weaver
J. Brown	M. Hogan	M. MacKenzie	A. Schmal	R. Yates

Guests

- J. Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations) – present for Item 8
- T. Barr, Associate Vice-President (Finance) – present for Item 10
- D. Book, Legal Counsel – present for Items 7 and 8
- B. Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation) – present for Item 10
- L. H. Lewis, Director, Financial Services – present for Item 10
- J. Quin, Senior Director, Student Services – present for Item 11

Observers

- K. Hamilton, President's Office
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- J. Krygier, Faculty Association
- J. Lacasse, General Counsel
- S. Luthy, Provost's Office
- R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

T. Hodzic
R. Kenny
H. Lywin

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

Ian Holloway, Dean of the Faculty of Law, presented a Territorial Acknowledgment and, as an associated learning moment, remarked that Treaty No. 7 was signed near Calgary at Blackfoot Crossing. He then shared that the study of legal history is a compulsory component of the Faculty's curriculum.

3. Safety Moment

Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), spoke about the October 25th active assailant incident on the main campus and the issues with the Alertus app, including that:

- Campus Security responded quickly, attending in person and issuing an emergency notification. The area was declared clear after 30 minutes and the assailant was arrested on October 27.
- The response to the incident has been analysed, and the following aspects are considered to have gone well:
 - The rapid response and initial communications
 - The decisions to issue alerts and the deployment of multiple means of communication, including through a desktop alert, the Alertus app, and Twitter
 - The capability of the campus CCTV
- The following aspects need to be addressed:
 - The effectiveness of the Alertus app and communications
 - Refresh of community training, including awareness that the 'run/hide/fight' response is current best practice
 - Connectivity with the Calgary Police Service
 - The Campus Security and Information Technologies staffing level and model
- A recent test of the Alertus app was successful, but a test does not load the system the way that the real incident did. The University is working with the vendor to diagnose why the app did not deliver the notification properly and decisions will be made about how to move forward
- In addition to addressing the Alertus app issue, the University is reviewing the incident channels of communication in general, including whether the fire alarms should have been engaged, if voice communications systems should be installed in older buildings, and if an automated text/phone call system should be established

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Many people were trying to download and set up the Alertus app during the incident, likely because they heard from others that something was happening on the main campus. The app should be able to withstand this, and this will be a point of discussion with the vendor.

- It was determined that email would be an unreliable method of communication since this method does not necessarily connect immediately with the recipient and because the incident was occurring after normal hours of operation. This will be reconsidered for the future.
- The campus community is encouraged to download and install the Alertus app proactively and to refresh their emergency training
- Discussions about budget are happening, and the staffing model is being considered. On the evening of the incident, over 100 phone calls were handed in less than an hour and some skilled staff were answering phones rather than directly helping with the incident.
- An active shooter exercise was held on the main campus a few years ago and a similar exercise could be conducted again

It was discussed that many rooms at the University are configured with the door opening outwards and many rooms do not have locks. It was suggested that trainings should enable people to make decisions about when to run and when to hide, and teach people ways to secure their space.

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- The University's International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) team, comprised of students from the Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Science, and Schulich School of Engineering, won the gold medal and the Best Sustainable Development Impact award at the iGEM event held in Paris last week, for their food packaging project Cellucoat
- Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's economic statement today signals that there may be increased funding for students in the next federal budget
- The 2022 Community Report will be presented at upcoming events on the main, Foothills, and downtown campuses. Accomplishments under the sunsetting *Eyes High* strategy will be celebrated and the process to develop the University's next strategic plan will be launched.
- The University is hosting the Royal Society of Canada Celebration of Excellence and Engagement from November 23-26, 2022, and this will include the One Health in Canada Research Symposium on November 24 and recognition of new inductees and award winners on November 25

5. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Advocacy for increased federal funding includes for scholarships, bursaries and loans for students, and for the Tri-Council
- Advocacy continues about the need to resolve the backlog in student visa processing. Some impacted international students have now been able to arrive, and the University is working to assist still-impacted students in advance of the Winter semester.

6. Approval of the October 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Two revisions to the Minutes were reported.

In response to a question, the University Secretary confirmed that it is not necessary for members to abstain from voting to approve the Minutes if they were not present. Voting in favour signals that a member has confidence in the Secretary, the other GFC members, and the process that produced the Minutes.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on October 6, 2022 be approved, with the reported amendments.

Carried**7. Recommendation of Revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), and Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the proposed revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy are in response to an initiative of the Alberta Government. The presenters noted that one additional revision was made following the October 6, 2022 General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting: a statement is added at the beginning of the document that “Any member of the University Community impacted by Sexual and Gender-Based Violence may contact the Sexual Violence Response Office for support”.
- There were no comments or questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

Maen Husein abstained.

8. Recommendation of Revisions to the Partisan Political Activities Policy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. John Alho, Assoc. Vice-President (Government Relations), and Deborah Book presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes to the Partisan Political Activities Policy, which respond to recent changes to Alberta’s Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act and update some language. It was emphasised that the policy is not meant to prevent members of the University community from engaging in discourse relating to political matters.

- In response to a question, it was specifically confirmed that expressing opinions on matters relating to politics will not be interpreted as being in contravention of the policy and that knowledge mobilization will be interpreted as including contributions to a policy debate
- Discussion included that the Partisan Political Activities Policy serves to prevent the misuse of the University's resources, but the University's scholars need protection from outside persons subjecting them to harassment through University resources (e.g., email and telephone) and the policy does not speak to this. The proponents indicated that protection from harassment is outside the scope of this policy, but that this issue needs to be addressed and conversations about safeguarding members of the University community will occur.
- It was decided to revise section 4.11 to read: "...the Academic Staff Member, Appointee, or Employee will ~~disclose their candidacy to~~ notify the member of the Senior Leadership Team to whom they report of their candidacy..."

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Human Resources and Governance Committee approve the revisions to the Partisan Political Activities Policy, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried

9. Elections

- **Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)**
- **Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources)**
- **Three Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair explained that, in order that it can be confirmed that only voting members of the GFC are participating, the elections 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, November 4 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement):

Pamela Roach, Cumming School of Medicine

Yvonne Poitras Pratt, Werklund School of Education

Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources):

Kyla Flanagan, Faculty of Science

Jean-Christophe Boucher, Faculty of Arts

Advisory Selection Committee for a Provost and Vice-President (Academic):

Wendy Benoit, Faculty of Science

Mary Grantham O'Brien, Faculty of Arts

Hieu Ngo, Faculty of Social Work

Secretary's Note: Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources), abstained from voting in the election to the Advisory Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources).

10. 2023-2024 University Budget Planning

Ron Kim, Vice-President (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer, Bill Rosehart, Deputy Provost, and Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation), presented this item. Tanis Barr, Associate Vice-President (Finance), and Le Ha Lewis, Director - Finance Services, were also in attendance.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on:
 - The budget consultation process, including the townhall that was held on October 28, 2022
 - The challenges impacting the budget, including operating with more students and less funding and that provincial program expansions are placing a strain on existing facilities
 - Plans for revenue sharing with units to fund strategic priorities, including adjusting the tuition revenue and research overhead allocation
 - The budget finalisation and approval timeline
 - That it is necessary to make the government and broader community aware of the value of the University so that funding can grow again
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - There has been a trend of provincial grant reductions over the last several years, but no cut is expected for 2023-2024
 - There are rules and a process to allow units to carry over surplus funds to spend in the next budget year
- Discussion included:
 - The recent budget survey asked members of the University community to identify priorities for spending under revenue growth and that future surveys should include steady state priorities
 - Clarity is needed around what happens to any budget surplus at the end of a budget year

11. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Annual Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin and Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the why and how of the work they do, noting that there is a tendency to think of this work as punishment applied to students for transgressions, but the focus is on moving forward with students and having the appropriate compassion. Each situation is assessed to choose the best process, and recidivism is at 7% this year. It was noted that if students find the process fair, they will accept the outcome and there is a low rate of appeal.
- The team proactively engages to prevent misconduct, and this year over 2000 students were trained. Three new video resources were created, a new workshop was launched on ending relationships in a healthy way, and new conflict management and upstander digital badge programs were created.
- There were no comments or questions

12. 2022 Enrolment Report

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that enrolment targets were met last year despite unpredictability and challenges during the pandemic, and reflected on factors that impact enrolment, including targeted expansions. The presenter noted that the number of applications to the University have increased, and the University will continue to move toward its enrolment targets.
- The presenter then reported on the Fall 2022 enrolment data, including:
 - Total student enrolment is 36,328 which is the University's highest enrolment number ever
 - Undergraduate student enrolment is 28,327 (78% of the total) and graduate student enrolment is 8,001 (22% of the total). The graduate student population is growing more rapidly than the undergraduate student population, which is in line with meeting the University's enrolment targets.
 - The Indigenous student population is 1,227. More Indigenous students are being admitted directly to programs now.
 - 63.0% of new undergraduate students are from Calgary, 12.5% are from elsewhere in Alberta, 12.8 % are from elsewhere in Canada, and 11.7% are international students
 - The international student population, particularly on the graduate student side, was impacted by issues with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) document processing. International students come from 140 countries, with the number of students from China lower this year and overall reflecting the global geopolitical situation.
 - The high school retention rate has dropped slightly to 87.7%
 - The number of 'non-binary' and 'not disclosed' gender students is growing
 - The mean admission averages across the Faculties are all slightly lower this year because expansion allowed the University to admit more students
- The presenter reported that the University is actively recruiting, including through the Open House event that was held on October 22, 2022

- In response to a question, it was reported that the pool of undergraduate applicants was the same size for Fall 2022, but the University made more admission offers due to the targeted expansions
- Discussion included that accurate and detailed enrolment data is needed in order to demonstrate the demand for and value of the University

13. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the October 19, 2022 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the October 17, 2022 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the October 18, 2022 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the October 20, 2022 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Adjournment

The November 3, 2022 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary