UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

Approved Minutes

Meeting #620
Thursday, February 9, 2023, 1:30 p.m. ST147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair
A. Akbari
J. Allan
O. Alp
G. Assefa
J. Ayala
C. Armstrong
K. Baetz
B. Barton
M. Bauer
W. Bridel
J. Brown
A. Burns
W. Cai
J. Chan
T. T. Chowdhury
R. Clements
C. Cloutier
A. Dambrowitz
A. dela Cruz
J. Dewald
R. Ferber
D. Fine
D. Gereluk
E. Gibbs Van Brunschot for A. Mac Namara
J. Guo
A. Harvey
N. Holt
M. Husein
S. Jinnah Morsette
V. Jones
C. Joseph
R. Kim
Y. Kim
J. Knibbe
A. Knight
R. Lauer
S. LeBlanc
M. MacKenzie
E. Macphail
A. Musgrove
L. Nowell
E. Perrault
Q. Pittman
J. Priest
S. Raj
L. Reid
M-J. Romaniuk
W. Rosehart
A. Schmal
D. Slater
F. Smith
J. Spangler
M. Thomas
R. Thompson for W. Ghali
P. Toohey
N. Tschupruk
V. Turpin
M. Van Hee
R. Weller
R. Yates

Guests

J. Abel, Research Data Management Specialist, Research Services – present for Item 12
R. Arseneault, Teaching & Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute – present for Items 8 and 11
T. Barnas, Manager, Social Innovation, Office of the Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 13
K. Benzies, Director, Social Innovation Initiative, Office of the Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 13
S. Day, Manager – Operations, Risk Management and Insurance – present for Item 2
T. Lier, Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services – present for Item 12
H. Ngo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work – present for Item 8
S. Powelson, Associate University Librarian, Technology Discovery & Digital Services – present for Item 12
Z. Shajani, Associate Professor (Teaching), Faculty of Nursing – present for Item 8
M. Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) – present for Item 8
J. Stransky, Student Ombuds – present for Item 14
F. Usman, Educational Development Consultant (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion), Taylor Institute – present for Item 8

Observers

K. Hamilton, President's Office
J. Krygier, Faculty Association
J. Lacasse, General Counsel
S. Luthy, Provost's Office

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

C. Tutt

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented a Territorial Acknowledgment and then reported that:

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Week 2023 is being held February 6-10. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion was recognized for its work on this initiative. There are many learning opportunities offered to the University community through weeks like this, and it is hoped that team members are supported in participating and perhaps even formalising this commitment in their personal development plans. A powerful presentation/workshop on critical allyship and impact versus intent was held earlier in the week.
- The Student Enrolment Services (SES) unit is currently working on its strategic plan, including building in EDI and Indigenous engagement and support and creating annual professional development curriculum for staff
- There is much going on within the University community at this time, and members are encouraged to reach out to apparently struggling students and colleagues

3. Safety Moment

Stephanie Day, Manager - Operations, Risk Management and Insurance, presented on the topic of international travel, including:

- Travel has resumed, and members are encouraged to be aware of the requirements and services available. The Risk Management and Insurance website has information on subjects including medical insurance, travel security, hotel advice, and registering travel.
- If a situation arises during registered travel, such as a natural disaster or pandemic, Risk Management and Insurance will reach out and can assist with repatriation if needed
- University travellers can contact Campus Security for assistance in the event of something happening during travel, including assault or robbery
- If a travelling colleague or student contacts you for help, please report this to Risk Management and Insurance

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- The members of the General Faculties Council (GFC) were thanked for participating in the strategic planning process. More strategic planning workshops are scheduled, and the University community is encouraged to engage with these. This consultation will be summarized into a report that will be released on March 10.
- Meetings will be held in Ottawa next week to continue to advocate for the University and the U15 as the federal budget is developed. Requests are being made for new Canada Research Chairs,

increased research support through the Tri-Council, increased graduate student scholarships and awards, funding for strategic international partnerships and attraction of talent, and infrastructure funding.

- The provincial budget will be announced on February 28, 2023. Representatives of the University have been advocating about the importance of the University and the postsecondary sector, and especially for funding for enrolment expansion and targeted enrollment funding and for priorities such as the multidisciplinary Life Sciences Innovation Hub.
- The University is preparing a response to the recent announcement by the provincial government that Alberta postsecondary institutions are now required to report annually to the Minister of Advanced Education on free speech at their institution. The annual reporting process is currently being developed in consultation with the institutions.
- The University's proposal to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) for the project 'One Child, Every Child' has completed the final interview stage of the competition, and it is expected that decision will be heard this spring. There is optimism for success, but there is intense competition for this funding.
- The oral presentation for the University's application for a construction-level Dimensions EDI Pilot Program recognition award was made in late January, and the results will be heard by spring
- Due in part to political and pandemic uncertainties, the search for a new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has been postponed. Penny Werthner has been asked to continue as Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for another year, and this is within the terms of her appointment. This postponement will allow the University to complete the strategic planning process and then align the qualifications for the new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) with this. The President's office will follow up with the GFC members who were elected to the search committee with an updated schedule.
- University undergraduate students Bill Zheng, Nursing, and Hanna Woodward, Social Work, organized a pop-up care village event that was held at the Kerby Centre on January 24, 2023. The event provided access to health care, clothing, haircuts, food, and other services, and the work of these students is applauded.

5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks.:

- The University community is encouraged to participate in the presentations and workshops being held during EDI Week
- February is Black History Month, and the University community is encouraged to participate in the planned events
- The University's budget process was extended this year to allow for greater consultation in October. The feedback received is informing the budgeting, and the University is now awaiting the provincial budget announcement on February 28 so that the amount of the Campus Alberta Grant will be known. The University's budget will be presented to the Board of Governors Budget Committee on March 7, 2023, and then proceed through the governance process. It was noted that a balanced budget and capital plan will be submitted to the provincial government.
- The 2023 Crowchild Classic hockey tournament was held on January 27. The event was well attended, and the University can take pride in its Dinos teams.

6. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- There are clear parameters between federal and provincial funding for postsecondary institutions
- The provincial government can alter the Campus Alberta Grant outside the budget process, for example, the University has received an in-year cut in the past
- The provincial government's requirement for an annual report on free speech is about events on campus and not academic freedom. The University is cognizant of the important of academic freedom and this will be addressed in the University's response.
- The University's communications team will be asked to address the recent natural disaster in Türkiye and Syria, as this will have impacted members of the University community

7. Approval of the December 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on December 8, 2022 be approved.

Carried

Nick Holt abstained.

8. Approval of a New University of Calgary Teaching Award (Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Learning)

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), Zahra Shajani, Associate Professor (Teaching), Faculty of Nursing, Hieu Ngo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, William Bridel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology, Fouzia Usman, Educational Development Consultant (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), Taylor Institute, and Robin Arseneault, Teaching and Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to add a new award for Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Learning to the University of Calgary Teaching Award program, including:
    - Inclusive Excellence is defined as practice that: "*recognizes, affirms, and respects how diversity can deepen learning, enhance critical thinking and problem solving, and fuel creativity and innovation in teaching and learning, research and artistic enquiry, professional service, and community engagement…* and *…individual and institutional pursuit of excellence, quality, or merit is best achieved in equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible environments in which everyone has the potential and opportunity to flourish*"

  - This new award will recognize persons who are embedding and advancing inclusive excellence at the University, including those who are proactively and intentionally designing curriculum and classroom experiences that are attentive to diversity including identities, lived experiences, learning styles, and ways of knowing
  - This new award will join the 14 existing award categories in the prestigious University of Calgary Teaching Awards program
  - If approved today, the new award will be added to the call for nominations for the 2023 awards that will launch in April
  - The Taylor Institute is developing supports and resources for the 2023 applicants in recognition of the workload of the nominators/nominees, and the University of Calgary Teaching Awards program will be reviewed in 2024 to consider the award criteria and to streamline the application process

- Discussion included:
  - Support for the review of the University of Calgary Teaching Awards system, with intention to reduce the work involved
  - Outstanding teachers will be eligible for the Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Learning award and other awards in the program
  - It was suggested that the awardee could be asked to give a presentation highlighting their work so that others can learn from this
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The University of Calgary Teaching Awards recipients receive a plaque and a certificate, are celebrated at an annual event, and are invited to join the University's Teaching Academy
  - The categories of the University of Calgary Teaching Awards program include a variety of awards for classroom teaching, mentorship/supervision, community partnership, and educational leadership by a unit

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the addition of a new 'Award for Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Learning' to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards Program, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Carried

9. Establishment of the 2023-2024 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The University Secretary explained that this is an annual item to ensure that the distribution of elected academic staff members seats is based on current Faculty populations
- 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 and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

10. Approval of Revisions to the GFC Bylaws

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The University Secretary provided an overview of the process followed to revise the GFC Bylaws, noted one additional change made since the GFC last reviewed the proposal, and reported that the GFC Executive Committee had discussed other possible changes but that these are not being recommended at this time
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revised GFC Bylaws, in the form provided to the GFC and as recommended by the General Faculties Council Executive Committee.

Carried

11. National Survey of Student Engagement 2020 Summary Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), and Robin Arseneault, Teaching & Learning Project Coordinator, Taylor Institute, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters described that the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is conducted on a regular cycle, and that institutional and Faculty-level data reports are generated. In 2014, the University began inviting teams to gather as a community of practice to share ideas on using the NSSE data and starting in 2017, the University began preparing a report collating what academic units are doing in response to their NSSE data. It is important for the University to be thinking about and working with the NSSE data, and it is valuable for teams to learn from one another.
- In response to a question, it was reported that the Haskayne School of Business information can be added to the 2020 report when received

12. Institutional Research Data Management Strategy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), Susan Powelson, Associate University Librarian, Technology Discovery and Digital Services, Tiago Lier,

Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services, Jennifer Abel, Research Data Management Specialist, Research Services, and Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters described the development of the University's Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy, including broad consultation, an online survey, and awareness-building webinars, and provided an overview of the feedback received and the revisions to the RDM Strategy made as a result of this feedback
- The presenters reported that the RDM Strategy will be approved by the Vice-President (Research) soon and then will be posted by March 1, 2023 as required by the Tri-Agency. At the time of posting, there will be a communications effort.
- Discussion included:
    - This version of the document incorporates EDI more robustly, but it is necessary to go beyond referencing the broad concepts of EDI. The presenters noted that the RDM Strategy includes that it is important to collect EDI data and that researchers are encouraged to incorporate EDI in their work as this facilitates better research.
    - The Tri-Agency requires that the University have an RDM Strategy to follow, but there are technology challenges such as accessing the internet on campus. The presenters reported that a business case will be presented to the University's Executive Leadership Team and the Tri-Council to ensure that the resources needed to support the implementation of the RDM Strategy are available.
- In response to a question, it was reported that clarification from the Tri-Council is needed regarding the expectations, exceptions, and support structures for the deposit of data such as qualitative data

13. <u>Social Innovation Initiative</u>

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Benzies, Director, Social Innovation Initiative, Office of the Vice-President (Research), and Tara Barnas, Manager, Social Innovation, Office of the Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the development of the University's Social Innovation Initiative (SII) and reported that:
    - Social Innovation is defined for postsecondary as "*the intentional implementation of an initiative to address a social need that is enabled through collaborative action leading to new or improved relationships and capabilities that are more effective, efficient, just, and sustainable*"
    - The SII has reverse-engineered engagement with community, by asking agencies to present their challenges and then leveraging University expertise to co-create sustainable solutions to these challenges
    - Social Innovation Week was held in October 2022, with events intended to spark dialogue about what social innovation means, how to adopt a systems approach to fostering social innovation, and how to engage with community for social good

- The University will hold another Social Innovation Week in Fall 2023, will host a Consensus Conference on measuring the impact of social innovation in 2024, and will host the International Social Innovation Research Conference in 2025

- Discussion included:
  - Arts discipline expertise in social innovation, such as relating to democracy, human rights, justice, and equity, is not fully recognized in the documentation. The presenters reported that this is a pilot initiative that will grow over time, and that the presentation is highlighting the SII and some details will have been omitted.
  - Some social innovation work does not convert to publication, but there must be mutual benefit. It was noted that incorporating the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) principles into the University's assessment system will ensure that social innovation work is recognized.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Nimble experiential learning opportunities are being developed. One potential model is that a macro project will be established with an agency, and there will be transition points aligning with academic semesters that will allow student to participate for a while.
  - It is known that there can be struggle to connect with initiatives such as the SII and effort is being made to facilitate this. Interested persons are encouraged to reach out to the SII team.
  - The SII team has been working with Faculty research facilitators to identify social innovation work currently being done, so that researchers can be introduced to agencies they could work with
  - Examples of collaborations meeting societal need are connection with the Trellis Society, which works with children, youth and families to deal with challenges such as sexual exploitation and homelessness, and with Vibrant Communities Calgary, which addresses poverty reduction. The SII team helps the agency narrow down its ask and then connects the agency with potential researcher partners. The SII team aims for a transdisciplinary approach to all projects.
  - The SII team can facilitate by coaching agencies and researchers about community engaged research

14. Annual Report of the Student Ombuds

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Jeff Stransky, Student Ombuds, and Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the annual report of the Student Ombuds Office, including:
  - The Student Ombuds office has four principles: to be independent, impartial, confidential, and accessible. The Student Ombuds does not have access to student records, and the University does not have access to the Student Ombuds' records.

  - The Student Ombuds will:
    - Listen to, acknowledge, and empathize with students
    - Guide students through University regulations, policies, procedures
    - Provide a neutral, supportive presence to students navigating stressful meetings and coach students on respectful escalation
    - Watch for University-wide trends and patterns, and share observations when necessary
  - The Student Ombuds will not:
    - Advocate
    - Conduct a formal investigation or discipline
    - Provide academic advising or personal counselling
    - Provide legal advice
  - The Student Ombuds has established key partnerships with other University offices, including the Student Appeals Office, undergraduate advising centres, Student Wellness Services, Student Accessibility Services, and the Registrar's Office
- The presenters then highlighted the 2021-2022 Student Ombuds Office data, including that:
  - 75% of the student consultations were with undergraduate students
  - The peak periods for approaching the Student Ombuds are in January, March, and May
  - The top issues are: unfairness and conflict, academic misconduct, required to withdraw, grade reappraisals and faculty-level appeals, registration appeals, accommodations, admissions, extenuating circumstance withdrawal, non-academic misconduct, finances, and EDI and Indigenous engagement
  - The Academic Turnaround Program appears to be having a positive impact
- The presenters reported that the Student Ombuds Office is closely watching EDI and Indigenous engagement, academic misconduct, mental health concerns, and improvement to access for Indigenous students. No cases relating to ChatGPT have been seen yet but are expected.
- Discussion included:
  - Only students who approach the Student Ombuds Office are reflected in the data. The presenters indicated that care is taken not to say that x number of students have a certain issue, and Faculty-specific data has to be taken in consideration that some Faculties' students have more awareness and access the Student Ombuds Office more than others.
  - Some students suffer in silence, either from lack of awareness of the Student Ombuds services or by choice
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - It is very rare for the Student Ombuds to intervene in a case. The Student Ombuds is not an advocate, but will, for example, call an office if a student is facing challenges in engaging with an office or will provide a warm handoff to another office if needed
  - Prior to the pandemic it was planned for the Student Ombuds to develop a physical presence on all campuses. Virtual access to the Student Ombuds grew during the

pandemic and it is expected that virtual access will continue. The best balance of physical presence is being considered.

- Table 3 in the report (Case Distribution by Nature of Issue) does not differentiate between undergraduate and graduate, but this information can be provided
- Next year's report could provide data on the student/supervisor relationship, but it is unlikely to go into details such as switching program or supervisor leave

15. Standing Reports

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

a) Report on the January 25, 2023 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
b) Report on the December 12, 2022 and January 16, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
c) Report on the December 13, 2022 and January 17, 2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Meetings
d) Report on the December 15, 2022 and January 19, 2023 Research and Scholarship Committee Meetings
e) Report on the December 15, 2022 Senate Meeting

In response to a question, it was indicated that reports on the recent Board of Governors (BG) meetings have not yet been received due to illness, but approved open BG minutes are posted on the Secretariat webpage.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary