



**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #621

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Zoom

***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	E. Cobo	R. Lauer	F. Smith
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	A. Dambrowitz	A. Mac Namara	J. Spangler
A. Akbari	S. Davidson	M. MacKenzie	J. Steele
S. Alexander	A. dela Cruz	E. Macphail	D. Stewart
O. Alp	D. Fine	A. Musgrove	S. Sulemana Saaka
D. Anderson	D. Gadbois	E. Perrault	R. Thompson for W. Ghali
T. Anderson	D. Gereluk	Q. Pittman	P. Toohey
G. Assefa	A. Harvey	R. Plume	N. Tschupruk
J. Ayala	N. Holt	T. Poffenroth	V. Turpin
K. Baetz	M. Husein	J. Priest	N. Van Den Hoogen
B. Barton	A. Jenney	S. Raj	M. Van Hee
S. Benseler	S. Jinnah Morsette	L. Reid	S. Weaver
W. Bridel	V. Jones	M-J. Romaniuk	R. Weller
J. Brown	C. Joseph	W. Rosehart	R. Yates
A. Burns	A. Kenward for J. Allan	S. S. Saaka	
W. Cai	R. Kim	A. Schmal	
O. Chapman	Y. Kim	N. Schmidt	
T. T. Chowdhury	J. Knibbe	J. Seidel	
R. Clements	A. Knight	R. Sheldon	
C. Cloutier	S. Lane	D. Slater	

***Guests***

M. Grantham O'Brien, Senior Assoc. Dean, Policy and Program Dev., Graduate Studies – present for Item 8  
M. Leait, Director - Environmental Health and Safety – present for Item 3

***Observers***

J. Alho, Assoc. Vice-President (Government Relations)  
K. Hamilton, President's Office  
M. Hart, Vice-Provost and Assoc. Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)  
C. Johns, Provost's Office  
D. Kozak, Faculty Association  
S. Luthy, Provost's Office  
M. Smith, Vice-Provost and Assoc. Vice-President Research (EDI)

***Secretary***

C. McVie

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

***Staff***

T. Hodzic  
H. Lywin  
C. Tutt

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**

Todd Anderson, Dean, Cumming School of Medicine (CSM), presented the Territorial Acknowledgment and then some information relating to inclusion:

- The Territorial Acknowledgement is a way to honour Truth and Reconciliation and moving forward in a good way
- The University has a Circle of Advisors, of which the CSM Dean is a member. The Circle of Advisors brings Indigenous leaders together with University leaders, and the resulting dialogue supports positive learning.
- Kannin Osei-Tutu has been hired as the CSM's inaugural Senior Associate Dean, Health Equity and Systems Transformation
- Leaders within the CSM graduate program launched an initiative providing snacks to students and found that the need was astronomical with over 400 graduate students accessing the offering. The initiative evolved into a broader food insecurities initiative, including a community kitchen and pantry. The amount of the graduate student stipend is identified as an emergency needing addressing.

**3. Safety Moment**

Mike Least, Director - Environmental Health & Safety, reported that:

- The University's Working Alone on Campus standard is currently being updated
- There is now a UCSafety app available that staff and students are encouraged to download, and which will be fully launched in April. This app will:
  - Be used for communications during a working alone session. The app will send a person a reminder if they forget to check in, and a third-party service provider will contact the person if they do not respond.
  - Have other features, including modules to request a walking escort, to report an incident or concern, and to access information such as campus maps, wellbeing resources, and environment health and safety information

**4. Remarks of the Chair**

Ed McCauley, Chair, reported on the February 28, 2023 provincial budget announcement:

- While this provincial budget does not contain as much investment in the postsecondary sector as was being hoped for, there are some positives including funding for: the fourth year of the targeted enrolment expansion program, an increased number of Cumming School of Medicine seats to grow the number of physicians in training, the first stage of a new Multidisciplinary Science Hub building, and some capital maintenance and renewal funding

- Representatives of the University continue to communicate to the provincial government about the constraints to providing high-quality programs and student experiences, supporting the community, and improving the world. Further increases to funding, such as for a second targeted enrolment expansion program and the operating grant, are needed.
- Despite challenges, the University is achieving tremendous successes. Members of the University community are thanked for all that they do.

## 5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- The President's Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) met yesterday, and will continue its work to help ensure the University is equitable for all
- At the last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting it was suggested that the University issue a statement regarding the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. A statement of compassion does not provide positive change for those affected, and in instances such as this the University amplifies the messages of others at the local level and takes actions that the University can take such as: the University's International Student Services (ISS) team sent messages to students in those countries and to students and staff here with Turkish and Syrian citizenship directing them to resources, and the ISS Advising team has been helping students with challenges with courses and fee deadlines.

## 6. Question Period

In response to an observation that not all students will benefit from the initiatives receiving funding through the provincial budget and that the February 28, 2023 budget announcement should not be framed as positive for the post-secondary sector, particularly because tuition and fees will continue to rise and there is minimal growth in scholarships, and that the University leadership and counterparts should be doing more to push for postsecondary funding and not appear to be in support of the provincial government's decisions, the Chair indicated that:

- The University's leaders continue to advocate with the province regarding the provincial budget. Representatives of the University have ongoing communications with representatives of the provincial government, including Ministers, about the value of the University to society and the training opportunities provided, and this will continue. Members of the GFC are encouraged to share their opinions on the provincial budget with their elected officials.
- The provincial government has produced a budget that aligns with its mandate and stated goal to align postsecondary funding with other provinces
- The initiatives receiving funding that were highlighted today are initiatives that the GFC has heard about in the past and the GFC is being updated on these successes

In response to a question about the funding-per-student infographic that was shared by the Minister of Advanced Education and that indicates that Alberta students are better funded than students elsewhere in Canada, the Chair observed that different institutions have different budget models and that FLE (Full-Load Equivalent) is defined differently and cannot be compared across jurisdictions, and that representatives of the University have been trying to communicate this to the Ministry.

In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that representatives of the University, and allies such as the Business Council of Alberta, do advocate for investment in the University generally and not just for targeted investments. Members of the GFC attested to the efforts of the University's leadership and to the importance of targeted and untargeted funding, and noted that information needs to be available so that students and other members of the University community understand how budget decisions are made.

In response to an observation, the Chair clarified that stating that the provincial government has a mandate for what it is doing is referring to the fact that the provincial government was elected by the people of Alberta.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that proposals for funding for targeted programs include operational budget factors such as staffing and facilities.

#### **7. Approval of the February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on February 9, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

#### **8. Approval of the Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Graduate Program Governance**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies), and Mary Grantham O'Brien, Senior Associate Dean, Policy and Program Development, Faculty of Graduate Studies, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to have the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Faculty Council be responsible for the oversight of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary graduate programs that are not within another Faculty. The proponents emphasised that broad consultation including with Teaching Faculties will continue, and that the FGS Executive Committee will require demonstration of this broad consultation.
- In response to a question, it was reported that this structure will decrease the workload of staff, governing bodies, and proponents. The streamlined routing will mean that proposals to create, suspend, terminate, or change programs that are not within a sole Teaching Faculty or that span multiple Faculties will no longer be taken to multiple Faculty Councils for approval. This involved a lot of work and could take longer than a year, and so this is seen as a positive change.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Faculty of Graduate Studies as the Faculty Council responsible for oversight of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary graduate programs, as presented to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

**Carried**

**9. Revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson, Dean, Faculty of Nursing and Co-Chair of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG), and Francine Smith, Professor, Cumming School of Medicine and Academic Co-Chair of the ASCPHWG, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reminded the GFC of the mandate and membership of the ASCPHWG, which is a working group of the GFC Executive Committee, and then provided an overview of the revisions to the Handbook that are currently being proposed for discussion. The proponents noted that it is intended to bring this proposal back to GFC for approval and that the revisions will be effective July 1, 2023.
- There were no questions or comments
- The Vice-Chair observed that no questions or comments is a compliment to the co-chairs of the ASCPHWG, and they and the working group were thanked for their thorough and ongoing work to improve the Handbook

**10. Revised Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson and Francine Smith presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that revisions to the Terms of Reference of the ASCPHWG were approved by the GFC Executive Committee at its February 15, 2023 meeting and the revised document is being provided to the GFC for information
- There were no questions or comments

**11. Standing Reports**

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

- a) Report on the February 15, 2023 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the February 6, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the February 14, 2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the October 14, 2022, December 9, 2022 and January 20, 2023 Board of Governors Meetings

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the March 9, 2023 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary