

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #622

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	C. Bousman	J. Fewell	R. Lauer	B. Shi
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	W. Bridel	D. Gereluk	A. Mac Namara	D. Slater
B. Adams for T. Anderson	J. Brown	W. Ghali	M. MacKenzie	F. Smith
A. Akbari	A. Burns	J. Guo	A. Musgrove	J. Spangler
S. Al-Khaz'aly	W. Cai	A. Harvey	R. Mutyanda	J. Steele
S. Alexander	J. Chan	N. Holt	L. Nowell	J. Stein for R. Kim
J. Allan	O. Chapman	F. Islam	E. Perrault	D. Stewart
S. Amin	T. T. Chowdhury	C. Jessel	Q. Pittman	P. Toohey
D. Anderson	R. Clements	S. Jinnah Morsette	T. Poffenroth	V. Turpin
G. Assefa	E. Cobo	C. Joseph	S. Raj	R. Weller
J. Ayala	A. Dambrowitz	M. A. Khan	L. Reid	K. Wingert
K. Baetz	S. Dasgupta for M. Van Hee	Y. Kim	W. Rosehart	R. Yates
B. Barton	S. Davidson	J. Knibbe	A. Schmal	
J. Bergerson	J. Dewald	A. Knight	C. Seneviratne	
	J. Dinh	S. Lane	R. Sheldon	

Guests

- D. Book, Legal Counsel – present for Items 10 and 12
- S. Bryant, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Chief Scientist, Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies – present for Item 16
- K. Hamilton, Executive Director & Chief of Staff, Office of the President – present for Item 13
- C. Hogan, Associate Vice-President (Communications) and Chief Communications Officer, Office of Advancement – present for Item 13
- S. Hubbard, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Science – present for Item 8
- A. Iamartino, Director - Active Living & Outdoor Centre – present for Item 3
- M. Keyhani, Haskayne School of Business and member of the Strategic Plan drafting team – present for Item 13
- H. MacIntyre, Manager - Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants – present for Item 15
- M. Moon, Team Lead, WellBeing and WorkLife – present for Item 14
- A. Pidlisecky, Interim Department Head, Department of Geoscience and member of the Strategic Plan drafting team – present for Items 8 and 13
- A. Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy – present for Item 14
- K. Wiens, Interim Senior Director - Student Wellness, Access and Support – present for Item 14
- A. Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor – present for Item 12
- A. Van Herk, Faculty of Arts and member of the Strategic Plan drafting team – present for Item 13

Observers

- B. Evelyn, Vice Provost (Planning and Resource Allocation)
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- S. Lavoie, Provost's Office
- S. Luthy, Provost's Office
- J. Lacasse, University General Counsel
- S. McKenzie, Faculty Association
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost and Assoc. Vice-President Research (International)
- M. Smith, Vice-Provost and Assoc. Vice-President Research (EDI)
- R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

R. Kenny
H. Lywin
C. Tutt

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

James Allan, Vice-President (Advancement), presented the Territorial Acknowledgment and then highlighted inclusive practices in his portfolio, including that the Advancement staff and Alumni Association Board members are engaging in a variety of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) and Indigenous Strategy trainings and workshops and that measurable goals have been set.

3. Safety Moment

Nick Holt, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, and Albert Iamartino, Director of the Active Living and Outdoor Centre, presented the Safety Moment, including:

- Kinesiology's diverse facilities, including classrooms, pools, gymnasiums, and outdoor locations, necessitate a shared responsibility for safety, and this is part of the culture of the Faculty. Risks to safety include slips, trips, and falls; biohazards; chemical hazards; equipment mishaps; and fire. Risks are mitigated by holding site-specific orientations for staff and the public, having hazard assessment control procedures, and conducting inspections of spaces.
- Kinesiology also prioritises psychological safety and has an environment that supports interpersonal risk taking, asking for help, admitting error, and expressing different ideas

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- Kirsten Neprily, new Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), Sandra Amin, new Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), and several new undergraduate student Faculty representatives were acknowledged
- A number of positive events have recently been held, including:
 - March 13, 2023 was the official opening of The Summit: Marian & Jim Sinneave Centre for Youth Resilience, a mental health facility that will provide Calgary area youth and their families with access to publicly funded mental health services and which will develop new clinical interventions in a partnership between the University and Alberta Health Services
 - The completion of Mathison Hall was celebrated with a pipe ceremony on March 20, 2023
 - The 'You at UCalgary' event for incoming undergraduate students was held April 1, 2023
 - Hon. Jean Chrétien attended the University on April 18, 2023 for a fireside chat and reception with students in Law, Public Policy, and Political Science

- The 2023 provincial budget includes funding for two of the University's proposals for targeted enrolment expansion, the Master of Physician Assistant program and the Bachelor of Nursing program
- It has been announced that the University's 'One Child Every Child' research initiative has been granted \$125 million in Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) funding
- The writ has been dropped commencing the 2023 Alberta provincial general election

5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- The University was awarded a Dimensions: Construction award in April 2023, to recognize that the University is addressing EDIA in a strategic and coordinated way and committed to cultural change
- Gina Grandy has been appointed as the new Dean of the Haskayne School of Business, starting in September 2023
- The Students' Union's Teaching Excellence Awards recognition event was held on April 19, 2023
- The 2023 Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching was held April 26-28, with the theme of blended and online learning, and the Taylor Institute team is congratulated on this event
- Convocation will be held May 29-June 2, 2023, and members are encouraged to attend their Faculty's ceremony

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

7. Approval of the March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

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

Carried

8. Approval of the Name Change for the Department of Geoscience to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Kristen Baetz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Stephen Hubbard, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Adam Pidlisecky, Interim Department Head of the Department of Geoscience, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that this proposal is the first of a number of initiatives in the Faculty of Science to drive solutions to current challenges, and then provided an overview of the proposal to rename the Department of Geoscience, including the timeline, reasons for the change, and consultation conducted. The proponents noted that changing the name to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment will allow the department to reframe its identity and grow its programs, and better reflects its transdisciplinarity.
- Discussion included that transdisciplinarity across units is challenging, but there is excitement for future partnerships between the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts and great promise for positive work for all faculty and students interested in Earth, Energy, and Environment studies
- In response to a question, it was reported that deciding upon the new name was challenging, and it was chosen because it reflects the three pillars envisioned for the department's future. It was noted that 'Earth' and 'Environment' are seen to be different, and it was further noted that there is a plan to move the Environmental Science program to the department in the future.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the name change of the Department of Geoscience to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, effective September 1, 2023, as presented to the GFC and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

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

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the mandate, membership and work of the ASCPHWG and then reviewed the proposed revisions to the Handbook
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, effective July 1, 2023, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried**10. Approval of the Retiring of the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy is no longer needed because the University has developed other good practices relating to this
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) retire the Aboriginal Student Admissions Policy, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

11. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Werklund School of Education

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 and in order to allow all of the voting members of GFC to participate, 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, May 12 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Kristine Bauer, Faculty of Science

Hieu Ngo, Faculty of Social Work

12. Revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) (VPR), and Anne Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity, explaining that the revisions are meant to improve clarity, provide an appeal process for those who do not have one, and maintain the University's compliance in this area
- There were no questions

13. Proposed Strategic Plan – Ahead of Tomorrow

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, Penny Werthner, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Kate Hamilton, Executive Director & Chief of

Staff, Office of the President, and Corey Hogan, Associate Vice-President (Communications) and Chief Communications Officer, Office of Advancement, presented this item. Aritha Van Herk, Mohammad Keyhani, and Adam Pidlisecky, working group members, were also in attendance.

Highlights:

- The proponents remarked that the Strategic Plan *Ahead of Tomorrow* will reflect the collective culture and values of the University and will crosscut all of the work that is done at the University. The proponents then provided an overview of the development of the Strategic Plan, including the timeline, environmental scan, consultation process including workshops and surveys, circulation of a ‘what we heard’ report, drafting and refinement process, and approval routing.
- The proponents reported on the feedback received since the first draft of the Strategic Plan was released in March, and described the revisions made to result in the draft being presented today
- Discussion included:
 - The provision of one semester of financial support for first-in-family students (Strategy 1, Initiative 2), the provision of increased graduate student financial support (Strategy 1, Initiative 1), and the expressions of connection to community throughout the document were applauded
 - The word ‘entrepreneurial’ is used a lot in the document and it was suggested that a definition of this and what it means to the University be included. It was observed that defining ‘entrepreneurial’ in the context of the University’s values, including inclusivity and with ethical courage to drive forward, can make the University stand out amongst peer institutions.
 - The level of support for the use of the word ‘entrepreneurial’ was questioned, and concern for how society understands the word, which could be different from the University’s definition, was expressed
 - It is necessary to understand what is meant by “meaningful entrepreneurial thinking” (Strategy 1, Objective C) and to consider that budget constraints may impact the ability of units to fulfil the initiative to “create required programming focused on entrepreneurial thinking” (Strategy 1, Initiative 3)
 - It is hoped that increasing “average financial support for thesis-based graduate students” (Strategy 1, Initiative 1) will not negatively impact other graduate programs
 - It was suggested that Strategy 4, Objective A be expanded to read that the *availability* of University services and supports is needed in addition to the ease and speed of these
 - Building capital is not the same as capitalism. Building capital, of all kinds including emotional and intellectual, allows the University to be of value to the environment.
 - The University’s retirees can be valuable during strategic planning as they have extensive experience and knowledge, a deep understanding of the University’s culture and values, and provide connections that support the University in its mission
 - The University’s challenges will change over time and new challenges will emerge, and the Strategic Plan will give the University a foundation to allow it to adjust and continue its important work
 - In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Effort has been made to engage students in the development of the Strategic Plan and identification of issues and needs going forward

- Many students have engaged in the University's existing entrepreneurial programs to date, and so there is clearly student interest in this area
 - The University's Experiential Learning Plan sets out the aspiration to grow the experiential learning and work-integrated learning opportunities for students, and to embed community engaged learning in more programs
 - The new Strategic Plan enfolds the concepts of 'creativity', 'innovation', and 'cultural literacy' into 'entrepreneurship' as it is considered that these words are overused by institutions
- The proponents reported that the Strategic Plan *Ahead of Tomorrow* will come to the GFC and Board of Governors for approval in June

14. Campus Mental Health Strategy Progress Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy (CMHS), Kevin Wiens, Interim Senior Director – Student Wellness, Access and Support, and Michele Moon, Team Lead, Wellbeing and WorkLife, presented this item. Sasha Lavoie, Senior Communications Specialist, Office of the Provost, was also in attendance.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on mental health-related initiatives at the University, including:
 - The annual weeklong Uflourish event, with mental health and wellbeing-related workshops, events, and activities for all members of the University community
 - The UCalgary Campus Recovery Community, which provides peer support for substance use and addictions recovery, ally training, and anti-stigma events and initiatives
 - Student wellness services, including mental health supports, wellness classroom visits, and supports for neurodiverse students
 - Staff wellness services (for faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars), including workshops, a wellness champions network, and the recent mental health and wellbeing survey which will inform future efforts
 - The undergraduate Certificate in Mental Wellbeing and Resilience
- The presenters reported that the CMHS, originally launched in 2015, is currently in a renewal process
- In response to a question, it was observed that there is still stigma about seeking mental health and wellbeing support, especially within some cultural groups, but efforts are being made to reduce this

15. VPR Catalyst Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Hector MacIntyre, Manager - Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the VPR Catalyst Grants program was introduced in 2020, the first intake occurred in 2021, and there have been ten cycles of granting to date, and specifically reported:
 - The VPR Catalyst Grants are short term, basic research grants intended to fund organized projects that need a boost to later succeed in external competitions
 - Data relating to application success rates, awards by area, career stage of applicants, amounts of funding awarded, and subsequent funding successes of applicants
 - Many projects that were awarded VPR Catalyst Grants are still active years later
 - Unsuccessful VPR Catalyst Grants applicants are assisted in re-applying to following intakes
- Discussion included observation that it is important to grow the University's scholarly activities and position researchers to be successful in applying to external granting programs, as this funding brings important resources to the University and this funding also provides jobs and student experiences

16. Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Steven Bryant, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Chief Scientist, Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on initiatives at the University to foster transdisciplinary connections and activities, including the hosting of campus gatherings to bring people together to identify opportunities for collaboration and the new Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program which:
 - Launched April 4, 2023 and has a deadline of May 15, 2023 for the first intake
 - Is similar to the VPR Catalyst Grants program except that no Principal Investigator is needed. A project under the Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program must have a minimum of two team members with diverse backgrounds.
 - Has two streams, the Initiating Stream which supports the building of new transdisciplinary connections, and the Consolidating Stream which supports the deepening of existing connections and activities. Funds within the Initiating Stream can be used for things including travel to symposia and to meet new external collaborators, and funds within the Consolidating Stream can be used for things that will advance defined collaborative projects and positioning the researchers to apply for other funding in the future.
 - Will have four intakes per year
- Discussion included that the University is recognised nationally as a leader in its transdisciplinary approach to creating new knowledge
- It was reported that all eight crosscutting themes in the University's Research Plan received catalyst investments and analysis has demonstrated that these collaborations are powerful and that these funding initiatives work. The 'One Child Every Child' CFREF-funded transdisciplinary research initiative is an inspirational success story and example of what can be done.

17. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the March 15, April 11 and April 28, 2023 GFC Executive Committee Meetings
- b) Report on the March 13, March 27, and April 17, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the March 14 and April 18, 2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Meetings
- d) Report on the March 16 and April 20, 2023 Research and Scholarship Committee Meetings
- e) Report on the March 23, 2023 Senate Meeting
- f) Report on the March 24, 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

18. Other Business

There was no other business.

19. Adjournment

The May 11, 2023 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.
--

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary