

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #623

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Science Theatres 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	E. Cobo	A. Knight	W. Rosehart
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	A. Dambrowitz	S. Lane	A. Schmal
S. Al-Khaz' Aly	S. Davidson	J.-R. Leblanc	R. Sheldon
J. Allan	J. Dinh	S. LeBlanc	B. Shi
S. Amin	D. Gereluk	A. Mac Namara	F. Smith
T. Anderson	N. Holt	M. MacKenzie	J. Spangler
J. Bergerson	S. Hubbard for K. Baetz	R. McCorkell for R. Weller	D. Stewart
W. Bridel	M. Husein	R. Mutyanda	E. Stokes
J. Brown	S. Jinnah Morsette	L. Nowell	R. Thompson for W. Ghali
A. Burns	V. Jones	E. Perrault	P. Toohey
W. Cai	C. Joseph	R. Plume	V. Turpin
J. Chan	R. Kim	T. Poffenroth	N. van den Hoogen
O. Chapman	Y. Kim	J. Priest	M. Van Hee
C. Cloutier	J. Klaassen	L. Reid	L. Wilks for J. Dewald
	J. Knibbe	M.-J. Romaniuk	K.-A. Wingert
			R. Yates

Guests

- D. Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 8
- M. Davies, Director - Environmental Health and Safety – present for Item 3
- K. Hamilton, Associate Vice-President (Strategy and Performance), Office of the President – present for Item 9
- C. Hogan, Associate Vice-President (Communications) and Chief Communications Officer, Office of Advancement – present for Item 9
- A. Pidlisecky, Interim Department Head, Department of Geoscience and member of the Strategic Plan drafting team – present for Item 9
- A. Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor – present for Item 8
- A. Van Herk, Faculty of Arts and member of the Strategic Plan drafting team – present for Item 9

Observers

- S. Luthy, Provost's office
- S. McKenzie, Faculty Association

Secretary

- C. McVie

Scribe

- E. Sjogren

Staff

- 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

Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) (LCR), presented the Territorial Acknowledgment and then highlighted inclusive practices in her portfolio, including:

- The Nickle Arts Museum and Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning both contribute to the University's inclusivity through Indigenous arts exhibits, and tours of these collections are available
- LCR is working to expand its Indigenous authors holdings, including recent acquisition of a Louis Riel diaries and letters collection, and is working with Elders to preserve oral records
- LCR is participating in a national/international project to decolonize library subject headings
- The Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL) has a multi-sensory room available to neurodiverse students
- LCR offers programs relating to diversity and mental health and wellness, for example the Long Night Against Procrastination drop-in session
- Some librarians have chosen to share that they identify as part of an equity deserving group, and this information is available through the MyLibrarian Program for students when selecting a librarian

3. Safety Moment

Mark Davies, Director - Environmental Health and Safety, presented the Safety Moment, including:

- A good institutional safety program includes psychological safety as an explicit priority. It is important for leaders to establish norms for members of the University community to share ideas, report issues, admit mistakes, be vulnerable, and take risks, with no fear of punishment.
- Resources to promote psychological safety at the University include Mental Health in the Workplace eLearning modules, the ULead Working Mind Manager workshop, talent development programs, and Staff Wellness: WellBeing and WorkLife programs

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- David Stewart, President of the Faculty Association, Jim Dewald, Dean of the Haskayne School of Business, and several of the elected academic staff members of GFC were acknowledged because their terms as members of the General Faculties Council (GFC) are ending
- The convocation ceremonies for the Faculties were held May 29 to June 2, 2023, and the Continuing Education graduation event was held June 5, 2023
- The provincial government Cabinet will be announced soon. In addition to these Ministers, the Deputy Ministers will also be announced. Representatives of the University will continue to

communicate with a range of Ministries, including Advanced Education, Education, Finance, and Technology and Innovation, about the value proposition of the University.

5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- The Qatar convocation ceremony will be held June 14, 2023
- Searches for a Dean of the Faculty of Law and a Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering are launching. Town halls for each search will be held, and there will be opportunities for members of the University community to offer opinions. The outgoing Deans will be celebrated next year.
- The Presidential Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) has been meeting. A project manager has been brought in to support this work.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

7. Approval of the May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on May 11, 2023 be approved.

Carried

Robert McCorkell abstained.

8. Approval of 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, and Anne Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the proposed revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity reflect changes to the Tri-Council standards, respond to lessons learned during usage of the current versions, and incorporate suggestions made during the consultation process
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity, in the forms provided to the GFC and as recommended by the Research and Scholarship Committee.

Carried**9. Approval of the 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, Associate Vice-President (Strategy and Performance), and Corey Hogan, Associate Vice-President (Communications) and Chief Communications Officer, Office of Advancement, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the Strategic Plan *Ahead of Tomorrow*, including:
 - Description of the timeline for the development of the document and the consultation and drafting processes. It was reported that there was remarkable engagement, with more than 23,000 individuals participating in the consultation.
 - The relationship of *Ahead of Tomorrow* to the University's other strategic planning documents, including the Academic Plan and Research Plan, and to the University's commitments to EDIA, Indigenous engagement, sustainability, and mental health and wellness
 - Observation that members of the University community have individual goals, and that *Ahead of Tomorrow* is intended to be an overarching strategic plan for differentiating the University, describing the collective culture, and direction moving forward, and that this strategy can encompass these goals
 - Each Faculty will have its own strategic plan that aligns with *Ahead of Tomorrow* but sets out goal and initiatives specific to the Faculty
- The proponents highlighted the feedback received, including: opinions for and against the use of 'entrepreneurial', celebration of the 'first-in-family' initiative, questions about how cross-cutting initiatives will be funded, discussion about the positioning of content relating to creativity and cultural literacy, and the value of maintaining engagement with alumni and retirees
- The proponents reported that changes to the document since it was discussed by the GFC in May include: inclusion of the definition of entrepreneurial thinking, including reference to the engagement of past faculty and staff, using absolute not relative numbers, referencing ethical thinking and critical thinking, and adding the need for the availability of services and supports and not only the ease and speed of these.
- The proponents acknowledged a petition sent to the members of the GFC yesterday, signed by 44 members of the University community, expressing concerns about *Ahead of Tomorrow*
- Discussion included:
 - The President of the Faculty Association observed that it is unusual for the GFC to receive a petition letter. He expressed that it took courage for people to put their names on it, and there are reportedly others who feel the same. He stated that if there is no compelling

urgency to approve *Ahead of Tomorrow* now, the decision should be postponed in order to allow for the gathering of more feedback and for concerns to be addressed. Postponing the decision would enhance the reputation of the GFC as a responsive and representative body. It was also observed that there have been workshops and surveys but no public townhall to discuss the strategic plan.

- It was reported that the leadership of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association of the University of Calgary (PDAC) was preparing a similar petition
- It was observed that the number of people who signed the petition letter is significantly fewer than the number of people who participated in the consultation process. Support for a strategic plan will not be unanimous, and the petition letter reflects the views of some members of the University community, but there is enthusiasm for *Ahead of Tomorrow* too.
- There remains some confusion about what is meant by 'entrepreneurial thinking' and 'community'
- Many persons at the University are involved in community-engaged research and transdisciplinary work, and are encouraged by the goals and initiatives in *Ahead of Tomorrow*. The concerns expressed by some members of the University community may reflect disagreement with the overall direction of the University.
- It was noted that postdoctoral scholars are not specifically mentioned in Strategy 2: Research Ahead of Tomorrow. The proponents indicated that this is an omission and will be corrected.
- The President of the Students' Union observed that some students may not have seen the current draft of *Ahead of Tomorrow* and that time to consult with students is desired. The proponents noted that while many students are off campus at this time, students were involved in the workshops and survey held earlier in the year. Students were strong participants in the workshops and approximately 17,000 students responded to the survey, and their feedback has been heard.
- In response to questions and comments, the proponents reported that:
 - A *What We Heard* report summarized the feedback gathered through the initial workshops and surveys. Engagement with workshops was lower in the later stage of the drafting process (between the first and second drafts) but those who participated provided valuable feedback.
 - It is not known why the petition letter is predominantly signed by persons from two Faculties (31 of 44 signatories are from the Cumming School of Medicine and the Faculty of Arts) but that efforts are being made in those Faculties towards addressing concerns raised and to increase engagement
 - When the timeline for the development of the strategic plan was established in August 2022, it was determined that the new strategic plan should be approved by the end of this academic year. The *Eyes High* strategic plan has ended, and it is important for the University to have a guiding strategic plan.
 - The University's Academic Plan and Research Plan will be renewed next year and a Community Plan will be developed, and these will set out specific go-forward initiatives. Key performance indicators and dashboards will be established.
 - If approved by the GFC and Board of Governors, *Ahead of Tomorrow* will be effective July 1, 2023

Secretary's Note: A motion to postpone the decision about the strategic plan until the first meeting of the GFC in the Fall and indicate that a townhall open to all members of the University community should be held before this was moved and seconded. The motion to postpone was not carried on a vote of the Council, and the Council proceeded with the original motion.

- Further discussion included:
 - The decision to use the word “entrepreneurial” and the phrase “entrepreneurial thinking” is still questioned, because some people at the University do not understand or identify with these and because persons external to the University may not have read the University-specific definition of entrepreneurial thinking and therefore may apply a business connotation and not understand what the University is aiming to do
 - The successes of the University become successes of the city, and many in the external community are supportive of *Ahead of Tomorrow* and are positive about its initiatives
 - The University is understaffed in many ways, and though *Ahead of Tomorrow* does speak about investing in people it does not speak specifically to addressing staffing levels or improving working conditions
 - In response to questions, the proponents indicated that:
 - Inclusion of the definition of ‘entrepreneurial thinking’ in *Ahead of Tomorrow* is meant to show that this is scholarly and more than the for-profit connotation, and that the definition describes entrepreneurial thinking in a way specifically for the University and is intended to stimulate thought and discussion. It was noted that this definition was approved as part of the renewal of *Eyes High*.
 - The *Ahead of Tomorrow* drafting team was aiming for as inclusive an energy as possible

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the strategic plan *Ahead of Tomorrow 2023-2030*, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and authorise the Working Group to make any minor changes that may be requested by the Board of Governors and final copy editing.

Carried

Opposed: Sandra Amin, Julia Chan, Jessie Dinh, Shazia Jinnah Morsette, Clara Joseph, Youjung Kim, Jessica Klaassen, Stephen Lane, Ruvimbo Mutyanda, Alison Schmal, Ben Shi, Francine Smith, David Stewart, Nynke van den Hoogen, Safaa Al-Khaz’Aly, Kristi-Anne Wingert

Abstained: Jene-Rene Leblanc, Peter Toohey

10. Elections

- **One Academic Staff Member of GFC to the GFC Executive Committee**
- **Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Law**
- **Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering**

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 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

General Faculties Council Executive Committee

Jacqueline Jenkins, Faculty of Arts

Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Law

Nick Turner, Haskayne School of Business

Juliet Guichon, Cumming School of Medicine

Advisory Selection Committee for a Dean of the Schulich School of Engineering

Jerrod Smith, Faculty of Science

Brent Edwards, Faculty of Kinesiology

11. University Calendar Software Update (CourseDog)

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that:
 - It is time to update the University Calendar platform, and the software chosen for this is called CourseDog. The presenter specifically reported that CourseDog:
 - Is straightforward to manage and will make it easier to update the University Calendar content
 - Has the appearance of a webpage, and the landing page can be modified to highlight important current information
 - Has a robust search tool
 - Includes accessibility features
 - Can align with PeopleSoft and other University systems
 - Includes a workflow module, and this can be used for some governance processes such as for program-related proposals
 - Will ensure matching with other information posted online

- Will restructure the Regulations, and this should make these easier to find and understand
- The contract for CourseDog was signed in December 2022. Work has been done since then to plan the move of the University Calendar content and to test the software, and it is anticipated that the new University Calendar will launch in September 2023. Utilising CourseDog for making Calendar changes and for governance processes will begin in a second phase of implementation, and adjustments to the new University Calendar can be made if determined necessary after launch.
- CourseDog training will be offered, and members are invited to take this training over the summer and provide feedback on this
- The presenter then provided a demonstration of the navigation within CourseDog, including how to find add/drop dates and undergraduate and graduate Regulations. The presenter illustrated that searching on a key word will produce broad results including programs, embedded certificates, and course lists including this key word.
- There were no questions

12. Global Engagement Plan Progress Report/International Research Update

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

13. Innovation Ecosystem Update

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

14. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the May 17, 2023 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the May 1 and 15, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the May 16, 2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the May 26, 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. **Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the June 8, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary