

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #625

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Zoom

**Voting Members**

E. McCauley, Chair	R. Cockett	R. Kim	J. Poissant
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	A. Dambrowitz	Y. Kim	J. Priest
J. Allan	J. Dinh	J. Klaassen	S. Raj
S. Amin	K. Donlevy	J. Knibbe	L. Reid
T. Anderson	J. Fewell	C. Laing	T. Risling
G. Assefa	V. Gabriel	S. Lane	M.-J. Romaniuk
J. Ayala	P. Galpern	S. LeBlanc	W. Rosehart
N. Bakana	D. Gereluk	K. Lukowiak	A. Schmal
B. Barton	W. Ghali	A. Mac Namara	C. Seneviratne
M. Bauer	G. Grandy	M. MacKenzie	R. Sheldon
T. Beattie	J. Guo	R. Martinuzzi	F. Smith
A. Belikova	A. Harvey	L. Mazzino	J. Spangler
J. Bergerson	N. Holt	A. Musgrove	V. Turpin
J. Brown	S. Hubbard for K. Baetz	K. Neprily	A. Uy
A. Burns	M. Husein	K. O'Keefe	M. Van Hee
C. Channon	J. Jenkins	E. Peng	
O. Chapman	S. Jinnah Morsette	E. Perrault	
C. Cloutier	V. Jones	G. Petrie	
	C. Joseph	T. Poffenroth	

**Guests**

- R. Arseneault, resource person, Course Feedback Implementation Working Group (CFIWG) – for Item 9
- G. Beatty, Specialist - Academic Integrity – for Item 13
- S. Cunningham, Acting Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) – for Item 12
- M. Morrison, Associate General Counsel (Litigation, Student Appeals and Policy) – for Item 17
- C. Pound, Chair of the Senate Honors Committee – for Item 18
- J. Stransky, Student Ombuds – for Item 16
- N. Wyatt, Academic Co-Chair, CFIWG – for Item 9

**Observers**

- J. Alho, Associate Vice-President Government Relations
- C. Johns, Provost's Office
- J. Kincaid, President's Office
- J. Lacasse, General Counsel
- S. Luthy, Provost's Office
- S. McKenzie, Faculty Association
- J. Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International)
- S. Ruwanpura, Students' Union
- M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
- R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research)
- L. Very, Vice-President (Research) Office
- R. Yates, Deputy Provost

**Secretary**

C. McVie

**Scribe**

E. Sjogren

**Staff**

T. Hodzic  
H. Lywin  
M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts were declared.

**2. Inclusive Practice Moment**

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented a Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then highlighted inclusive practices in her area, including that:

- Efforts are made to be inclusive across the student cycle, including during recruitment, with the first-in-family funding and support program, by accessible admission processes, by using preferred names, and at convocation
- A current priority is to decrease barriers to the application process
  - Starting in Fall 2022, any Indigenous student who attended a University of Calgary recruiting event was offered the opportunity of having the application fee waived and offered help from a Recruiter in completing the application, and 70% of the students who had this assistance attended the University in Fall 2023
  - This program is continuing for Fall 2024, with the addition that community partners and counsellors were given 'golden tickets' that could be given to students who were facing a barrier to the application process and those students were invited to the October 28, 2023 Open House to receive assistance. Twenty-eight students came to the Open House under this initiative and were helped through the application process.

**3. Safety Moment**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), presented the Safety Moment on the topic of evacuation procedures, including:

- Evacuation drills were held in the University's occupied buildings in September, which allowed for the identification of any challenges
- The map showing the exit strategy for the current General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting room, Science Theatres ST147, was shown
- Members were encouraged to make themselves familiar with the exit strategy for any location that they occupy, such as workspaces and hotel rooms

**4. Remarks of the Chair**

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

- Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), and Catherine Laing, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, were thanked on this occasion of their last General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting. Elizabeth Sjogren, Governance Coordinator (GFC Lead), was acknowledged for 25 years of service at the University.

- The University has been awarded two new Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC): one in Indigenous Ways of Climate and Water Sustainability for Planetary Health and Well-being and one in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies
- Seven University researchers have been appointed as Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada: Frank Cheng, Schulich School of Engineering, Carolyn Emery, Faculty of Kinesiology, David Hodgins, Faculty of Arts, Nicole Letourneau, Faculty of Nursing, Jennifer Love, Faculty of Science, Venkataraman Thangadurai, Faculty of Science, and Marcello Tonelli, Cumming School of Medicine. Five University researchers have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists: Marie-Claire Arrieta, Cumming School of Medicine, Gina Dimitropoulos, Faculty of Social Work, Kirsten Fiest, Cumming School of Medicine, Joe Harrison, Faculty of Science, and Aaron Phillips, Cumming School of Medicine. Perri Tutelman, Cumming School of Medicine postdoctoral scholar, has been awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Alice Wilson Award, and Saliha Haq, 2023 Faculty of Law graduate, has been awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize. These important and prestigious recognitions raise the profile and reputation of the University.
- The University has been named as the home of the first United Nations (UN) University Hub focused on water. The University will partner with the think tank UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health to study and engage with the public about climate threats and environmental change.
- The University is increasingly a leader on the national and world stage, such as through the groundbreaking One Child Every Child initiative
- The groundbreaking ceremony for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Learning Commons building was held on December 1, 2023 at the University's Spyhill Campus. The facility was granted \$68.5 million in provincial capital funding, and it was announced at the ceremony that an additional \$11.2 million in provincial funding has been invested to support an increase in the number of Veterinary Medicine student seats and the acquisition of diagnostic equipment.
- The *ii' taa'poh'to'p* (Indigenous Strategy) Journey Update annual report and celebration was held November 28, 2023
- The selection process for a Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is underway

## 5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- Wendy Benoit, Faculty of Science, has been appointed as Interim Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) starting January 1, 2024
- Martha Hall Findlay has been appointed as the new Director of the School of Public Policy starting January 8, 2024
- The selection processes for new Deans of the Faculty of Law, Schulich School of Engineering and Faculty of Graduate Studies are progressing, and the new Deans should be in place between July and September 2024
- The Open House held October 28, 2023 was successful, with 3,500 more prospective students in attendance than the previous Open House. Attendees were local, national, and international and the Registrar's team was thanked for their efforts on this event.

- The new Calendar software, CourseDog, will have a soft launch on December 8, 2023. The current 2023-2024 online Calendar is still the official version for the current year, and the Calendar will entirely switch to CourseDog for the 2024-2025 Calendar. CourseDog software training sessions for instructors, students, and staff will be offered.
- The Presidential Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) has been meeting regularly. The Higher Education Strategy Associates firm has been engaged to help with conducting internal and external scans and interviews, and campus-wide engagement will begin in January 2024. The Presidential Task Force on EDIA will continue to work toward developing a strategy on EDIA for the University.

## 6. Question Period

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The University issued a statement on October 10, 2023 because the attack by Hamas on Israel was condemned as a terrorist act and members of the University community were impacted. The University is providing wellness supports to all students, faculty, and staff impacted by the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. The University is a collection of voices that embraces diversity of opinion and prioritizes ensuring a safe environment for all. It was noted that the University will not be making a further statement.
- The Vice-President (Services) will alert his team that concern has been expressed about calcification reducing the quality of drinking water from some of the spouts in campus buildings

## 7. Approval of the October 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The University Secretary reported minor revisions to Item 13, the Enrolment Report.

The Chair reminded members that it is not necessary for members to abstain if they were not present at the meeting. Voting to approve can mean that the member has confidence in the Secretariat, the other members, and the process that produced the Minutes.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on October 5, 2023 be approved, with the reported amendments.

**Carried**

## 8. Approval of Revisions to the 2024-2028 Academic Schedules and the Academic Schedule for 2028-2029

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the changes to the academic schedules, which include the expansion and shifting of the convocation dates, and the addition of the fifth year out

- Appreciation was expressed for the academic schedules being made to be as functional as possible
- Discussion included observation that programs with lab sections and accreditation are challenged because ten full weeks is the minimum time needed to meet requirements and most of the semesters provide for only this, including the first week of classes. Statutory holidays, including the new holiday in September, make it difficult to schedule ten weeks of Monday to Friday labs.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revised Academic Schedules for 2024-2028 and the Academic Schedule for the 2028-2029 academic year, in the forms provided to the GFC.

**Carried**

9. **Approval of the New Name and New Core Questions for University of Calgary Course Surveys (currently the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI))**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and Administrative Co-Chair of the Course Feedback Implementation Working Group (CFIWG), Nicole Wyatt, Academic Co-Chair of the CFIWG, and Robin Arseneault, CFIWG resource person, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the history of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and the development of the new survey name and questions. The proponents noted that alongside the development of the new institutional survey, the Faculties have begun developing new Faculty questions to accompany this.
- The proponents summarized the feedback received at the October 5, 2023 GFC meeting, and reported that Question 4 has been revised. The proponents then presented the six questions being proposed for approval today, and reported that the approved survey will be launched in Spring 2024.
- The proponents indicated that the CFIWG will next work on updating the guiding document for course survey administration, and confirmed that the new survey will be thoroughly reviewed after one year.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The Explorance Blue course evaluation software will be used, and response rates for surveys currently using this mobile-friendly platform have shown increased participation. The CFIWG will also be working on a communication plan to increase awareness of the importance of participation.
  - The new survey will run for a full academic year and then there will be a mixed-methods approach to assess its success. There will be participation data and the CFIWG will consult with students and academic staff about the effectiveness of the new survey questions. Any changes to the institutional questions will be brought to the GFC for approval. After the one-year review, a review schedule will be determined, perhaps to review the survey every three years going forward.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the new survey name (UCalgary Course Experience Survey) and proposed six new core institutional course survey questions, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the Teaching and Learning Committee, replacing the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey name and questions.

**Carried**

Kent Donlevy abstained.

**10. Academic Innovation Plan**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the Academic Innovation Plan, including that:
  - This will be a three-year plan, that will then be renewed for 2027-2030
  - The plan ties to the three objectives of the *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan: 1) to become the number one U15 university in student engagement, 2) to increase total student enrolment by 10,000 to 46,000 (with graduate student enrolment increasing by 7,000 to 15,000), and 3) to ensure all students are provided an opportunity for meaningful entrepreneurial and critical thinking within research and creative scholarship
  - The previous Academic Plan identified three academic priorities: prioritizing people, connecting communities, and driving innovation, and the 2023 Academic Innovation Plan builds on these priorities and identifies four domains of focus: 1) Transformative Student Experience, 2) Innovative Academic Programs, 3) Increase Influence and Investment with our Communities, and 4) Inclusive, Caring and Sustainable Campus Culture
  - Over the coming months, benchmarks and metrics will be identified developed to track progress
  - Some of the priority initiatives include the first-in-family financial support and wrap-around services program, increased financial support for thesis-based graduate students, expanding programming focused on entrepreneurial thinking, research, and creative scholarship, and development of a Digital Learning Strategy
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Many of the University's priority initiatives have already begun, so are not tied only to the initial three-year span of the Academic Innovation Plan, and there is understanding that several priorities will be longer term initiatives. The review of the plan in three years' time will have some metrics to consider, and the initial span of the plan will be long enough to find where there are challenges and where adjustments need to be made.
  - Graduate student enrolment expansion will occur in both course-based programs and thesis-based programs. The University is talking with the provincial government about the needs for more faculty members and to grow classroom and laboratory spaces and other infrastructure to accommodate the increased number of undergraduate and graduate

students. The University is also talking with the federal government about the need for more scholarships for students.

- Discussion included:
  - In addition to needing more academic staff because of the increasing student population, the University also needs more staff in general, including admissions staff, student advisors, and caretaking staff
  - The University is striving to be the number one U15 university in student engagement, but this will require maintaining quality. It was observed that, in addition to seeking to increase the number of faculty members and improving spaces, the University is working on developing experiential learning and work-integrated-learning opportunities, which will positively impact student experiences.

## 11. Research and Innovation Plan

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the Research and Innovation Plan, including that:
  - This will also be a three-year plan, that will then be renewed for 2027-2030
  - The former *Eyes High* strategic plan set a number of research-related targets, including being recognized as one of Canada's top five research universities, and so a foundation of research supports were developed over the past ten years and are in place to support the goals of the new Research and Innovation Plan
  - The research and innovation-related goals of the current *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan include: 1) to be #1 in the U15 for research revenue per scholar, 2) to grow external research revenue to \$750 million per year, and 3) to grow the University's position as Canada's #1 creator of start-ups to be among the top 50 start-up creators in the world
  - The Research and Innovation Plan has five domains: 1) Enhancing Institutional Capacity, 2) Connecting People with Opportunities, 3) Becoming Best-in-class for Administrative and Regulatory Functions, 4) Leading Research Impact, and 5) Innovation
- Discussion included that:
  - The goal to be #1 in the U15 for research revenue per scholar does not signal that the University values research impact as much as it should, and that metrics to measure research impact should also be developed and prioritized in addition to metrics that measure research revenue
    - The proponent observed that research revenue is a demonstration of research intensity but noted that the Research and Innovation Plan does speak to the importance of DORA (the Declaration on Research Assessment) and that the University does employ a research impact assessment framework that is not just about revenue but also societal impacts
    - It was observed that competing for and receiving prestigious research funding and research impact are both important in demonstrating the University's strengths to partners and the community and helping with the recruitment of postdoctoral scholars and graduate students

- Graduate student funding is a hybrid of institutional funding and the scholarships and grants that students and faculty receive. The stronger the University's research enterprise is, the better the supports for graduate students will be.
- Research impact assessment frameworks are complicated, and it will take a lot of work to identify and recognize research impact and this has resourcing implications
  - The proponent reported that an Associate Vice-President Research is working with the University's research impact team and it has been determined that the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) framework is considered to be the best model for assessing research impact but the University's research enterprise is complex and must recognize differences across disciplines. The University is aiming to create a paradigm similar to the CAHS framework that supports reporting of revenue and expenditures, scholarly outputs, and short and longer term impacts.
- Members were encouraged to continue submitting feedback on the draft Research and Innovation Plan and Academic Innovation Plan

## **12. Indigenous Strategy Progress Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Shawna Cunningham, Acting Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement), presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenter provided an update on the implementation of *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, the University's Indigenous Strategy, including:
  - The theme of this year's celebratory event and community journey update was Becoming Relatives. The event included a keynote address by Dwayne Donald, University of Alberta, entitled Ethical Relationality as Kinship Wisdom, and the sharing of four stories from members of the University community under the umbrellas of Ways of Knowing, Ways of Connecting, Ways of Being, and Ways of Doing
  - The University is creating an environment that recognises lived experiences, promotes a deeper understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems, provides safe places for Indigenous persons in teaching, learning, and research, and nurtures relationships with the Indigenous community
- The presenter highlighted initiatives at the University that fall under the umbrellas of Ways of Knowing, Ways of Connecting, Ways of Being, and Ways of Doing, including conducting innovative research through Indigenous-focused projects and community partnerships; the \$125 million Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) award for the One Child Every Child transdisciplinary project; the Inclusive Excellence Cluster Hiring Initiative; the new Indigenous Curriculum Grants for instructors who are looking to indigenise content, engage traditional elders, or launch land-based learning; the creation of designated gathering spaces on the University's campuses; the offering of workshops and online learning modules to support reconciliation; and hosting webinars and events to foster cultural understanding and relationships
- The presenter reported that Cadmus Delorme, a Cree and Saulteaux and former Chief of Cowessess First Nation, spoke at the University's 2023 Orange Shirt Day event about the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, Indigenous sovereignty, reconciliation, and moving forward. The



event was followed by a screening at Calgary's Central Library of the film *Beans*, based on true events around the 1990 Oka Crisis armed stand-off.

- Key indicator data illustrating the growth of the Indigenous student and staff populations at the University since 2016 was then presented
- The presenter described upcoming initiatives, including Indigenous components of the University's Landscape Plan; a grant application to redesign a building at the Barrier Lake Field Station for Indigenous research and land-based learning; the development of a residence meditation space; a Continuing Education certificate called *Towards Truth and Reconciliation*; a Human Resources program for staff called *URise*; a micro-credential learning bundle for students offered jointly by the Office of Indigenous Engagement and Continuing Education; an Office of Indigenous Engagement LGBTQIA2s *Indigiqueer* program; a library digital repository of the story of *ii' taa'poh'to'p*; and the expansion of the University's bridging programs to include the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape and the Haskayne School of Business, bringing the total number of Faculty access bridging programs to six
- In response to a question, the presenter indicated that instructors seeking help in decolonizing their courses can reach out to the Office of Indigenous Engagement or the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning for guidance. It was noted that the decolonization of course content will also be facilitated through robust curriculum preview processes.

### **13. Student Academic Misconduct Annual Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), and Garrett Beatty, Specialist - Academic Integrity, were present for this item.

Highlights:

- In response to a question, the proponents indicated that the Student Academic Misconduct Policy has been reviewed to ensure that generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is encompassed in relation to academic integrity. It was noted that it is not known how much the statistics in this annual report have been impacted by the use of generative AI, and it will be explored if this can be assessed for future reporting.
- Discussion included that students need clear guidance about when the use of AI to supplement their education is acceptable. The proponents indicated that a website is being constructed that will guide students and academic staff to resources about this, and a member noted that Libraries and Cultural Resources has a [research guide](#) on AI and integrity.

### **14. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Annual Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), was present for this item.

There were no questions.

### **15. Student at Risk Annual Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin was present for this item.

There were no questions.

#### **16. Student Ombuds Annual Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Verity Turpin and Jeff Stransky, Student Ombuds, were present for this item.

There were no questions.

#### **17. Student Appeals Annual Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Melissa Morrison, Associate General Counsel (Litigation, Student Appeals and Policy), and Michelle Speta, Associate Secretary, were present for this item.

Highlights:

- In response questions, the presenters reported that:
  - The Student Misconduct and Academic Appeals Policy, approved by GFC in June 2018, narrowed the Faculty Appeals Committee jurisdiction for student appeals to appeals of academic assessment/graded term work only. The presenters indicated that Faculty Appeals Committee appeals are not tracked centrally, and it will be explored if those numbers could be reported on.
  - The Faculty Appeals Committee Procedure does not include the ability to appeal an instructor's decision such as pertaining to Academic Regulations Section M1. To navigate this type of issue a student should work with their Faculty, for example with an Associate Dean.

#### **18. Honorary Degrees and the Order of the University of Calgary Award (Senate Honors Committee)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Colleen Pound, member of the Senate and Chair of the Senate Honors Committee, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the work of the Senate Honors Committee, including that:
  - The Committee is responsible for the University's Honorary Degree, Order of the University of Calgary, and Senate Service Award programs
  - The goals of the Committee include to receive more nominations for Honorary Degrees and the Order of the University of Calgary. To that end, members of the Committee are hoping to engage directly with Deans in order to solicit more nominations and to gain ideas for how the nominations process could be improved.
- The Chair remarked that the Honorary Degree and Order of the University of Calgary are high accolades, and that it is important that the University community support the Senate Honors Committee in this work

**19. Standing Reports**

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

- a) Report on the October 18 and November 22, 2023 GFC Executive Committee Meetings
- b) Report on the October 30 and November 20, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the November 23, 2023 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the October 17 and November 21, 2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Meetings
- e) Report on the October 13, 2023 Board of Governors Meeting
- f) Report on the October 4, 2023 Senate Meeting

**20. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**21. Adjournment**

The December 7, 2023 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:32 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary