

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #626

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Science Theatres 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	C. Channon	C. Joseph	T. Risling
P. Werthner, Vice-Chair	O. Chapman	R. Kim	W. Rosehart
S. Al-Khaz' Aly	T. T. Chowdhury	A. Knight	S. Ruwanpura
J. Allan	E. Cobo	R. Lauer	B. Salami
S. Amin	A. Dambrowitz	S. LeBlanc	A. Schmal
T. Anderson	S. Davidson	K. Lukowiak	R. Sheldon
G. Assefa	A. de Salvatierra for J. Brown	A. Mac Namara	J. Spangler
J. Ayala	K. Donlevy	M. MacKenzie	J. Steele
K. Baetz	V. Gabriel	R. Martinuzzi	R. Thompson for W. Ghali
N. Bakana	P. Galpern	A. Musgrove	P. Toohey
M. Bauer	D. Gereluk	K. O'Keefe	V. Turpin
T. Beattie	C. Heggerud	E. Perrault	A. Uy
W. Benoit	S. Hershcovis for G. Grandy	Q. Pittman	M. Van Hee
C. Bousman	N. Holt	T. Poffenroth	W. D. Walls
A. Burns	A.-M. Hubert	J. Poissant	R. Weller
W. Cai	M. Husein	J. Priest	
	V. Jones	S. Raj	

Guests

- R. Arseneault, resource person, Course Feedback Implementation Working Group (CFIWG) – for Item 11
- J. Lambert, Institutional Analyst – for Item 11
- M. Lee, Director - Quantum City – for Item 13
- P. Roach, Indigenous Engagement Research Director – for Item 12

Observers

- 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)
- M. Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
- L. Very, Vice-President (Research) Office
- R. Yates, Deputy Provost

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

E. Sjogren

Staff

H. Lywin
M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Inclusive Practice Moment

Kristin Baetz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then described her Faculty's recent journey in hiring three Indigenous academic staff members, including consultation with Elders about the process, hiring a search firm with connections to Indigenous communities, training the hiring committee, and adjusting the interview format. In addition to the three persons hired (Myrle Ballard, Tamara Bodnar, and Ally Menzies), the other two candidates interviewed will maintain connections with the Faculty and the University will also be welcoming a new Canada Excellence Research Chair in Indigenous Ways of Climate and Water Sustainability for Planetary Health and Well-being (Deborah McGregor) whose home Faculty will be the Faculty of Science.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services), presented on the topic of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), including:

- An AED automatically analyses a person and determines if an electrical shock to re-establish heart rhythm is needed. The AED provides voice prompts to direct the user, and the pads have diagrams for correct placement.
- The University currently has 105 public access AEDs in all buildings on all campuses. The locations are shown on the Campus Security [website](#), and the nearest one to the GFC meeting space in Science Theatres is around the corner by the Zipper sculpture. Campus Security regularly checks the AEDs to make sure they are functioning properly.
- There are restrictions around the size and age of a person an AED can be used on, but an AED should be usable on most persons at the University

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- There are first aid training options available at the University
- It is important for persons to know what to do in the case of a medical emergency, and consideration will be given to more strongly encouraging members of the University community to access first aid training such as Basic Life Support and to make these courses more available
- The University has naloxone kits available from Staff Wellness and Student Wellness Services and the Human Resources [website](#) links to a map with the locations of nearby pharmacies with kits. Consideration will be given to placing more of these around the University's spaces.

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- Wendy Benoit, Interim Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), was welcomed on this occasion of her first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting, Sandra Davidson, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, was welcomed back after her administrative leave, and a number of new academic staff and student members were welcomed to their first meeting
- Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), is Acting Vice-President (Research) while William Ghali, Vice-President (Research), is on leave during February and March

- The annual Crowchild Classic tournament, two games between the University of Calgary Dinos and Mount Royal University Cougars men's and women's hockey teams, was held on January 24, 2024 at the Saddledome and had a good turnout with over 10,000 attendees. Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and community members were invited to attend, which was an informal way of interacting with these important connections. The Dinos women won their game.
- The U15 Presidents have been in Ottawa, continuing to meet with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Parliamentary Secretaries about the importance of funding research and graduate student scholarships. Postsecondary groups, including the U15 leadership teams, Universities Canada, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, are all regularly communicating about the need for the federal government to invest in Canada's future. Research is important to Canada/United States (US) relations, and the US Ambassador to Canada recently observed publicly that Canada should be investing more in this.
- A meeting was held with Marc Miller, federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, about how the recent announcement of placing a cap on student study permits will impact international students. Each province and territory will be allotted a number of study permits and will distribute these among the province or territory's institutions. Minister Miller has said that international graduate students are not included in this cap. Registrars in Alberta are working to make sure that the provincial government understands the importance of getting its letters of attestation to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (the IRCC) in a timely manner.
- Carmen Baldwin-Déry was appointed as Acting Deputy Minister of Advanced Education in January, as Sherri Wilson has moved over to be Deputy Minister in the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas ministry

5. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

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

- The ISU World Speed Skating Championships are being held February 15-18, 2024 in the Olympic Oval, and members of the public are encouraged to attend
- The 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results have been discussed with the Deans, and Deans are bringing these discussions back to their Faculties. Student experiences in and outside the classroom are important, and the NSSE helps to identify strengths and successes and where improvement is needed.
- Three artificial intelligence (AI) working groups are being launched, and will study the use of AI in the research, academic, and legal domains. It is important for the University to be on top of using AI effectively in research and teaching.
- The Presidential Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) will be holding roundtable discussions in-person on February 26 and 27, 2024 and online on February 29 and March 1, 2024, and members of the University community are encouraged to participate in these

6. Question Period

In response to a question, the Chair reported that most of the federal Deputy Ministers and Ministers have advanced degrees, and government representatives come into meetings well briefed and prepared. When the U15 Presidents met with federal government representatives recently, the format was a series

of parallel topic-themed smaller meetings, and this format was successful and will be applied to meetings with government representatives in the future.

7. Approval of the December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on December 7, 2023 be approved.

Carried

The Chair noted 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 GFC members, and the process that produced the Minutes.

Secretary's note: Items 8 and 9 were discussed together.

8. Approval of the Academic Innovation Plan

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

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan will have four implementation plans: the Academic Innovation Plan, Research and Innovation Plan, Community Plan, and Operations Plan. The four plans will run 2024-2027 and then will be renewed for 2027-2030. The proponent provided an overview of the development of the Academic Innovation Plan and the Research and Innovation Plan, including the process and timeline, and then described the feedback received during the consultation process and the changes made to the Academic Innovation Plan as a result.
- Discussion included:
 - Critical thinking and strong communication skills are important for students across disciplines to develop
 - Midterm and other non-final exams being held on Saturdays and celebratory evenings (e.g. Valentine's Day) are problematic because, for example, some students work or have family obligations. The proponent noted that scheduling non-final exams outside of class time in these ways is intended only to occur in exceptional cases.
 - References to teaching and learning are common but the concept of memory, a factor in exam writing, is not addressed.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Provost's team is working with the Deans and Associate Deans (Academic/Teaching and Learning) to explore how critical thinking skills can be embedded into classes

- Guiding principles for the assessment of students (including the use of exams) at the University are currently under review, and mental health and wellness are being considered in relation to this

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Academic Innovation Plan, in the form provided to the GFC, as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, Teaching and Learning Committee, and GFC Executive Committee, and authorise the proponent to make any non-substantive changes to the Academic Innovation Plan that may be required in final copy editing.

Carried**9. Approval of the Research and Innovation Plan**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent briefly reiterated the process and timeline for the development of the Research and Innovation Plan, and then described the feedback received during consultation and the changes made to the plan as a result
- Discussion included:
 - Objectives 1 (*Become #1 University in U15, research revenue per scholar*) and 2 (*Grow external research revenue to \$750M a year*) of the *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategy, which are referenced in the Research and Innovation Plan, are both research revenue metrics. The proponent observed that the domains, activities, and initiatives described in the Research and Innovation Plan are much more varied than just about research revenue.
 - Metrics are complicated and can be selected to highlight a specific result, and so care will be needed to make sure that the University establishes a range of expertly developed metrics
 - In response to a question, the proponent indicated that reference to the University's strength in startup creation is in the Domain 5 (Innovation) section of the plan
 - The drafting team was thanked for referencing undergraduate student research throughout the plan

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Research and Innovation Plan, in the form provided to the GFC, as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee and Research and Scholarship Committee, and authorise the proponent to make any non-substantive changes to the Research and Innovation Plan that may be required in final copy editing.

Carried

10. Establishment of the 2024-2025 GFC Elected Membership Distribution

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair and University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The GFC was reminded that this is an annual process, and it was reported that the calculations have resulted in no changes to the elected membership distribution for next year
- In response to a questions, it was reported that:
 - The Office of Institutional Analysis works with the academic staff population data and does the rounding to determine the assignment of seats within the constraints set out in the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)
 - Some GFC members by virtue of office are prescribed in the PSLA and some are added to the GFC membership through the GFC Bylaws. Adding to the appointed members section of the GFC Bylaws can be explored but is done with great care to ensure alignment with section 24(2)(a) of the PSLA which requires that number of elected members be twice the number of persons who are members of the GFC by virtual of their offices.

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 in the document provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

11. 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Institutional Results

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Wendy Benoit, Interim Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), and Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the University's 2023 NSSE results, including:
 - Compared to the U15, the University has strong response rates (36% of eligible first year respondents, 35% of eligible senior year respondents, and 37% of targeted after-degree respondents)
 - The University's scores in most question areas met or exceeded the 2020 results
 - The University's scores were similar to or above the U15 in most of the question areas, and the University exceeded the U15 in the question areas of Learning Strategies, Collaborative Learning, and Discussions with Diverse Others
 - Responses to the open-response question "what could UCalgary do to help you prepare for your future career or education?" are sorted into the following themes: Meaningful Learning Experiences, Preparing for Next Steps, Navigating the University, Impact of Affordability, and Supporting Wellness

- Highlights of first year and senior year experiences:
 - 71% of first year respondents rated their overall experience as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ which is down from 78% in 2020, and 81% of first year respondents indicated that they would ‘definitely’ or ‘probably’ attend again which is steady from 2020
 - First year respondents identify Learning Strategies, Quantitative Reasoning, and Learning with Peers as the University’s strengths
 - Senior year respondents identify Thinking Critically and Analytically, Writing Clearly and Effectively, Working Effectively with Others, and Reflective and Integrative Learning as the University’s strengths
 - Students see experiential learning (EL) and work-integrated learning (WIL) as valuable opportunities for practical skill building, and responses indicate that students would like to see EL and WIL embedded in their programs
- The presenters reported that the Teaching and Learning Committee will discuss the 2023 NSSE results next month, and a student engagement dashboard is in development. Deans, leadership teams, instructors, and others all use the NSSE results to contemplate the student experience, inform strategic initiatives in teaching and learning, in quality assurance processes, and to inform continuous improvement practices in student services.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The NSSE does include some demographic questions, such as if a student has a disability. The NSSE results are not disaggregated by demographic data, but this data is available to the University and the office of EDIA has looked at this.
 - Enrolment data, such as dropout rates and the international student population, is kept by the University but this is not part of the NSSE. It is important for the University to contemplate the entire student experience landscape, and it is being considered how to work with all the data available.
 - The open-response question does show that affordability is a concern for some students
 - The NSSE is conducted every three years, and the results report allows for cycle to cycle comparison. It is cautioned not to compare first year and senior year responses in a particular cycle, however, as these students are in different groups, they are at different stages of their education, and they have different relationships with the University.
 - The student engagement dashboard will present NSSE and other survey data
- Discussion included:
 - The provincial Labour Force Survey results provide information about employability
 - A student’s learning experience may differ depending on their instructor, for example the experience with a sessional instructor may be different from the experience with a seasoned faculty member. Also, the learning abilities of a senior year student will likely be different from the learning abilities of a first year student.
 - The first year students surveyed in the 2023 NSSE were in high school during the pandemic and this may have impacted their learning habits and expectations

12. Indigenous Research Strategy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson and Pamela Roach, Indigenous Engagement Research Director, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on Indigenous research initiatives at the University, including:
 - The University is a leader in doing Indigenous research in a good way, and has been developing this intentionally since 2018
 - The Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST) structure now consists of a Manager, an Indigenous Research Advisor, two Research Coordinators (Health and Non-Health) and an Ethics and Process Specialist. Indigenous research leadership at the University is provided by the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement), the Indigenous Engagement Research Director, the Associate Vice-President (Research), and the Director of Institutional Programs.
 - The IRST assists researchers by:
 - Advising on Indigenous research practices, community engagement, and data management
 - Supporting grants and ethics applications, and identifying funding opportunities related to Indigenous research
 - Working with Indigenous communities and helping people understand engagement protocols
 - Supplying administrative support to Indigenous faculty for research projects, including through consultation, process guidance, and the raising of awareness
 - Establishing a network to support connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons and between researchers and Indigenous communities
 - Facilitating the creation of research agreements
 - Creating an Indigenous research community of practice
 - Providing communications and media outreach
 - An Indigenous research pathway (the Indigenous Research Strategy) is in development and will be brought forward in due course with an aim for implementation in 2026. The development plan for this includes:
 - Engagement with the Indigenous Research Steering Circle and extensive internal and external stakeholder consultation
 - Identification of strategic priorities and areas for capacity building aligned with the University's *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan, Research and Innovation Plan, and *ii' taa'poh'to'p*
 - Development of an Advisory, Operationalization, and Knowledge Mobilization Plan
- Discussion included:
 - Recent University activities connected to Indigenous research, including the One Health research initiative, hosting the Royal Society of Canada Celebration of Excellence and

Engagement and One Health Research Symposium, becoming the United Nations University (UNU) Hub focused on water, and the One Child, Every Child research initiative, are important in raising the University's profile nationally and internationally

- Indigenous data sovereignty is a complex matter and expertise at the University will be needed

13. Quantum Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson and Megan Lee, Director - Quantum City, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the University's quantum ecosystem, including:
 - The University has a long track record of quantum research and innovation excellence, having engaged in quantum for the past twenty-five years and intensively for the last fifteen years
 - Quantum at the University will now be built around the University's Institute for Quantum Science and Technology (IQST), the province's Quantum Alberta partnership, the province's multi-institutional Quantum Major Innovation Fund project, and the University's recently-announced Quantum City research centre and tech economic sector
 - Three Canada Research Chairs (CRC) have been allocated in the quantum area, specifically in Quantum Hardware, Quantum Machine Learning, and Quantum Computing in Chemical Systems, and the University has been awarded a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies
 - Quantum Horizons Alberta is a philanthropically funded pan-Alberta institute that will investigate the foundations of quantum mechanics, and will include hiring into four positions in Calgary, four positions in Edmonton, and one or two positions in Lethbridge
 - Quantum City has three pillars of focus: 1) to establish quantum enabling infrastructure, 2) to create pipelines for quantum and quantum-adjacent expertise, and 3) to bridge the gap between quantum technologies and solutions
 - Quantum training is a priority, and Quantum City is supporting training modules in applied skills of quantum computing, a Master's of Quantum Computing degree program, a Consortia Award to fund groups working on pathways to adopt quantum technology, and interdisciplinary workshops
 - The qConnect summit was hosted November 16-17, 2023, with over 300 quantum creators and users attending including several government, funding, and industry leaders
 - The Quantum City Challenge launched in November 2023, and it is expected this engagement initiative will attract partnerships and the location of startups in Calgary
 - Construction of the qLab Nanofabrication Centre will commence in 2024
- Discussion included:
 - An invitation to attend the Office of Advancement event Quantum Research: Transforming the Future on February 21, 2024 was sent to the University community and members of the GFC are encouraged to attend. The keynote speaker will be Urbasi Sinha, the University's incoming CERC holder in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies.

- The University is receiving kudos nationally and internationally for the quantum work being done
- The University's quantum ecosystem will be anchored by Quantum City and efforts will be made to engage the broader community
- The Master's of Quantum Computing degree program will cross disciplines and will grow expertise

14. Standing Reports

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

- a) Report on the January 17, 2024 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the December 11, 2023 and January 15, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the January 18, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the January 16, 2024 Teaching and Learning Committee Meetings
- e) Report on the December 8, 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

The February 8, 2024 General Faculties Council meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary