

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting #637

Virtual Modality

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	E. Cobo	R. Kim	S. Raj
O. Adegbayike	P. Dominelli	K. Lane for T. Poffenroth	T. Risling
A. Affonso	K. Donlevy	J. Lock	M.-J. Romaniuk
J. Amengor	G. Dziegielewska	T. Lucas	M. Rzain
T. Anderson	P. Easton	K. Lukowiak	F. F. Samavati
F. Aryan	S. Eaton	A. Mac Namara	A. Sen
G. Assefa	A. Franceschet	R. Martinuzzi	C. Seneviratne
J. Ayala	V. Gabriel	M. Moreau	R. Sheldon
A. Badescu	L. Gerein	A. Morris	F. Smith
K. Baetz	W. Ghali	A. Musgrove	I. Sohail
N. Bakana	G. Grandy	H. Naveed	N. Srivalsan
B. Barton	K. Hecker	L. Nowell for C. Laing	G. Stewart
W. Benoit	P. Hinman for J. Lacasse	A. Nygren	T. Strelow
K. Black	N. Holt	K. O'Keefe	C. Tepperman
C. Bousman	M. Hua	T. O'Neill	M. Van Hee
A. Burns	A.-M. Hubert	O. Osiyevskyy	W. D. Walls
O. Chapman	J. Jackson	H. Osthoff	R. Weller
T. T. Chowdhury	J. Jenkins	E. Perrault	R. Wensveen for S. LeBlanc
F. Clement	V. Jones	G. Petrie	C. Willness
C. Cloutier	A. Karimi	R. Plume	J. Winter
	J. Keller	J. Poissant	V. Wood for A. Dambrowitz
			R. Yates for S. Davidson
			S. Yee

Guests

S. Bryant, Academic Lead, Transdisciplinary Scholarship – present for Item 12
V. Burns, Director, University of Calgary Recovery Community – present for Item 9
M. Gale, Manager, Compliance and Special Investigations – present for Item 10
M. Lee, Director, Quantum City – present for Item 11
H. MacIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants – present for Item 12
K. Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research – present for Item 12
A. Rowe, Operations Director, Office of Institutional Commitments – present for Item 9
B. Sanders, Scientific Director, Quantum City – present for Item 11
M. Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship – present for Item 12
A. Szeto, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Commitments – present for Item 9
R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research – present for Items 10 and 11
M. Wallace, Director, Research Security – present for Item 10
J. Wheeler, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – present for Item 7

Observers

S. Alexander, Board of Governors member nominated by General Faculties Council
J. Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations)
K. Hamilton, President's Office
M. Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement)
C. Johns, Associate Deputy Provost
S. Luthy, Provost's Office
M. Smith, Associate Vice-President Research (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

Secretary

C. McVie

Scribe

M. Speta

Staff

R. Kenny
V. Kozielc

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

Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources), presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then shared:

- A recent impact study showed that the libraries are places of community at the University.
- An example of an event hosted by Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) to benefit the University community is the 'Long Night Against Procrastination'.
 - This event promotes student mental health and well-being by providing distressing activities and promoting self-care, offering writing and other academic supports, and serving food and drink.
 - The event is culturally sensitive and inclusive, with fresh food being delivered before and after sunset to support those observing Ramadan.
 - Participants were also able to explore the Archives, release stress in a 'Scream at your Textbook' room, and relax during 'Story Time' readings.

3. Safety Moment

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Van Hee, Vice-President (Services and Operations), presented on the topic of pedestrian safety:

- Last year a task force was established to reduce the risk of pedestrians being injured on main campus. This work has progressed to the stage of being an active Facilities project, and changes will be made to five areas of concern over the summer with the work to be complete by the Fall semester. The changes will include:
 - Narrowing the Energy, Environment, Experiential Learning (EEEL) building crossing zone, adding indicators, and having new pavement markings.
 - Reducing the number of crosswalks between the LRT pathways and the Biological Sciences building to two and installing barriers to prevent jaywalking.
 - Eliminating the remnant crosswalks in the Mathison Hall area and making it clear where it is now intended for people to cross. A speed bump will be added.
 - Making the stop signs significantly larger at the four-way stop near the Olympic Oval. Traffic calming measures will be explored.
 - Clarifying the pedestrian and vehicle areas in the MacEwan Hall delivery corridor and enforcing the vehicle speed limit. In future, it is planned to move the MacEwan Hall shipping and receiving location to the north side of the building, but this is a larger capital project.

4. Remarks of the Chair

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

- New graduate and undergraduate student representatives were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting.
- The University's Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition finals event was held April 10, 2025. This year's competition had 68 graduate students participating, with 10 advancing to the finals. The competition's first place winner was Parker Volk, a PhD student in Gastrointestinal Sciences. Parker continued the University's strong record in 3MT competitions, proceeding to place second in the 3MT Western finals on May 6, 2025, and he will be participating in the National event in November 2025.
- The formal announcement of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) move to 801 7th Avenue SW downtown was held April 11, 2025. There is a partnership with City of Calgary to convert empty office spaces and will bring all of SAPL together instead of split between downtown and main campus. The new SAPL home will include nine floors of the tower and an adjacent annex will include design studios, classrooms, research spaces, a robotic fabrication workshop, an exhibition gallery, and the community-facing Design Justice Lab.
- The Creating Tomorrow series event held April 12, 2025 as part of the Calgary Stampede's Aggie Days showcased the University's expertise in agriculture.
- The annual You at UCalgary event was held April 12, 2025, with more than 1,500 participants. The event welcomes incoming undergraduate students and their families through activities including a pep rally, campus tours, and Faculty sessions.
- The 2025 Giving Day campaign was very successful, with more than 3,000 faculty, staff, student, and alumni donors generously raising \$2.4 million. There was a significant increase in alumni donations this year, and all donors and campaign supporters are thanked for their contributions.
- It was announced on May 6, 2025 that the University has been selected as the Canada Hub for XPRIZE. This is the foundation's first international hub, and will involve incentive competitions to innovatively solve challenges and connecting Canadian innovators to opportunities within the XPRIZE network.
- The Haskayne School of Business hosted the Inspiring Business Leader Award gala on May 6, 2025, honouring Bryan de Lottinville, founder of Benevity, as the 2025 award recipient. The event raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships.
- The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and other University representatives are currently in Qatar to attend the final Qatar Faculty (University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ)) convocation ceremony. The University is winding down UCQ after eighteen years, during which more than 1,100 nurses from more than 40 countries graduated. The University has had tremendous impact in raising the profile of nursing in the Middle East.

On behalf of the Vice-Chair, it was remarked that:

- The Students' Union Teaching Excellence Awards event was held on April 16, 2025. The event honoured 41 exceptional members of the University community and highlighted their commitment to student success.
- The Promotion Review Committee meetings have completed, with 62 academics receiving promotion to the full professor rank in this cycle.
- The Taylor Institute's annual Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching was held April 28-30, 2025, with the theme of 'reassessing assessment'. There were 339 registrants participating in 80 sessions, with three keynote addresses. Participants from as far away as Australia attended.

- The annual Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada conference will be hosted by the University May 26-27, 2025. The theme of the conference is 'Collective Action for a Sustainable Future: Collaboration Across Generations, Sectors and Knowledge Systems'.
- The Winter 2025 term has wrapped up, with the exam period ending last week.
- Preparations are underway for the University's convocation ceremonies to be held June 3-10, 2025.

5. Question Period

In response a question, it was reported that the risk to the University from measles is relatively low. Individuals who have had the two MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine doses in their lifetime are protected from severe measles, and the likelihood of contracting even mild measles is low. Education around vaccination is key, but the extent of public health advisories varies between jurisdictions. The University will be monitoring the measles situation over the summer.

6. Approval of the April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Chair, presented this item.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on April 3, 2025 be approved.

Carried

7. Approval of Revisions to the General Faculties Council (GFC) Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Deputy Provost and Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG) Administrative Co-Chair, and Justine Wheeler, Librarian and ASCPHWG Academic Co-Chair, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, including updates to Section C3 (appointment selection processes) and housekeeping edits. It was reported that no changes have been made since the GFC discussed the document at the April 3, 2025 meeting.
- There were no questions.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

8. Election of Two Academic Staff Members to the Advisory Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Chair explained that 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 9 to follow the link and submit their votes.

No nominations from the floor were received.

Secretary's Note: The following persons were elected:

Fabiola Aparicio-Ting, Cumming School of Medicine

Jennifer Lock, Werklund School of Education

9. Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy Progress Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Commitments, and Victoria Burns, Director, University of Calgary Recovery Community, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters described initiatives moving ahead under the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy (CMHWS), which was approved in May 2024 and launched in November 2024, including:
 - The UFlourish expo, held October 30 to November 15, 2024, which included a Wellness Fair and other synchronous and asynchronous events.
 - Establishment of the CMHWS structure, including populating the CMHWS Advisory Council, which has met three times to date, and the appointment of an Academic Director of Mental Health and Well-Being, who will start in their role in June 2025.
 - Development of a principles-focused evaluation framework that aligns with the four guiding principles of the CMHWS, building an evaluation plan, and data collection. Evaluation is supported by the CHHWS Advisory Council and the office of Student Experience and Support.
 - Development of the CMHWS implementation plan, which is underway but will be finalised by the incoming Academic Director.
 - Launch of the Post-Secondary Mental Health and Well-Being Research and Knowledge Hub, in January 2025. The Hub is funded by two Transdisciplinary Connector Grants, and will support impactful mental health and well-being research, a co-creation symposium, and a series of knowledge mobilisation working groups.
- The presenters then highlighted the UCalgary Recovery Community (UCRC), including:
 - Guided by the CMHWS, the UCRC services addiction prevention and recovery through support meetings, substance-free events, substance-free housing within the University's Residence system, scholarships for students and staff in recovery, and education sessions and classroom visits.
 - Funding from the provincial government has facilitated the secondment of the UCRC Director and the hiring of UCRC staff and student peer-recovery facilitators.
 - The UCRC is based in Yamnuska Hall. The UCRC is the first collegiate recovery program in Canada.

- The Recovering in Place Lab is the research program, and there is the Recovery on Campus Alberta umbrella organization.
- The presenters highlighted that the Office of Institutional Commitments (OIC) was established in January 2025, and reported that:
 - The OIC is an integration of the offices of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA), Sustainability, and CMHWS. This integration will increase collaborations and efficiencies for these previously more independent offices, and will facilitate impactful work through collaborations with Faculties, Departments, and other units.
 - The hiring of staff and Academic Directors for the OIC is underway.
 - The OIC scope, mission, vision, and values will be developed in Summer 2025, and the OIC will officially launch in Fall 2025.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Residence staff and Campus Security officers are trained to administer Naloxone and they attend harm reduction workshops.
 - If a student overdoses during class, 911 should be called.
 - Naloxone kits are available to persons for free from the pharmacy, and nasal Naloxone is now available for those who may not be comfortable with the administering of an injection.

10. Research Security Division Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), Martha Wallace, Director, Research Security, and Matthew Gale, Manager, Compliance and Special Investigations, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that:
 - The Research Security Division (RSD) serves to identify and mitigate risks to open and collaborative research and to support discovery.
 - The RSD was initially focused on grant applications, ensuring that funding program research security requirements were met and maintained for the duration of the grant. The RSD has now expanded to a suite of services to help researchers identify risks and develop mitigation plans, including in relation to sanctions and export controls, travel security, and contract security.
 - The RSD's recent key accomplishments include:
 - Supporting the research community through the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice.
 - Creating a culture of secure research through Research Security Training.
 - Improving the University's facilities through the Laboratory Security Enhancement Fund.
 - Ensuring legal compliance through the Sanctions Compliance Program.
 - Supporting secure travel through the Travel Security Program, which includes customized travel security briefings, information sessions about travel best practices, and providing loaner devices for international travel.

- Looking ahead, the RSD will continue to advance secure research by partnering with other University units, addressing gaps in its programs, remaining aware and responsive to the needs of the University's researchers, and supporting other institutions in Alberta through a train-the-trainer program. The RSC has a goal of becoming a Centre of Expertise for Research Security.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The type of breach of research security determines what the next steps will be. A RSD group meets bi-weekly to review issues.
 - The federal Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) policy requires that all named researchers on a project complete an attestation form when applying for a grant related to a sensitive technology research area (e.g.; advanced digital infrastructure, energy technology, sensing and surveillance, weapons, aerospace and satellite technology, artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, quantum science, and robotics). The STRAC attestation process is go-forward and does not apply to past research. The STRAC policy aims to safeguard research by identifying and mitigating risks such as affiliations that conflict with any Canadian sanctions. There are potential legal ramifications and disqualification from future funding if a researcher submits a false attestation.

11. Quantum Ecosystem Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), Barry Sanders, Scientific Director, Quantum City, and Megan Lee, Director, Quantum City, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that:
 - The University's quantum ecosystem includes:
 - Faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and students in a range of disciplines conducting research through to knowledge mobilization.
 - Quantum education, including undergraduate and graduate programs.
 - The Quantum City initiative, created with industry partner Mphasis and funded by Alberta Innovates and Prairies Economic Development Canada, brings together researchers, developers, industry, and adopters to expand the quantum science and technology sector and move toward quantum solutions and services. Quantum City has quantum-enabling infrastructure, creates a pipeline for talent and experts, narrows the gap between challenges and solutions, and supports a vibrant scientific community (qLab and under-construction Nanofabrication Centre) and economic collision space (qHub).
 - The Quantum Horizons Alberta partnership with the University of Alberta and University of Lethbridge to expand foundational knowledge of quantum science and technology.
 - The Institute for Quantum Science and Technology (IQST) is the University's node of the Quantum Alberta initiative.
 - Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Canada Research Chair (CRC) appointments. There are currently two Tier 2 CRC holders at the University, with a Tier 1 appointment currently at the search phase.
 - 2025 is the international year of quantum science and technology. University events will include the qConnect 2025 conference for quantum creators and users, the Quantum City Challenge

2025, welcoming a Calgary-based qAI Ventures cohort, and competing with Mphasis in the COPA (Compañía Panameña de Aviación) Challenge.

- There were no questions.

12. VPR Funding Programs

a) Catalyst Grants Program

b) Postdoctoral Match-Funding Program

c) Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. William Ghali, Vice-President (Research), Hector MacIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants, Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, Steven Bryant, Academic Lead, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, and Mariska Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters described that the Vice-President (Research) (VPR) funding programs are formative funding programs meant to be leveraged to support researchers to achieve incremental success in subsequent internal and external funding programs. It was emphasised that researchers who are not successful in applying to one of the VPR funding programs are coached and encouraged to apply again. The presenters then reported on each of the three VPR funding programs:
 - Catalyst Grants Program
 - These are short-term, approximately six-month, grants to catalyse well-designed early-stage research projects.
 - The value of these grants is normally \$15,000 but higher requests are considered.
 - There are currently three application windows per year, with deadlines of October 1, February 1, and June 1.
 - Approximately 44% of applications come from early-career researchers and 56% from established researchers. The overall success rate is approximately 60%, with the success rate a little higher for early-career researchers. The top three Faculties in receiving these awards are the Cumming School of Medicine, Schulich School of Engineering, and Faculty of Science, but applications are welcome from all disciplines.
 - Since the program began in Fall 2020, 86% of recipients have gone on to apply for external funding and 80% of those have been awarded funding.
 - There were no questions.
 - Postdoctoral Match-Funding Program
 - This program serves to help faculty recruit strong postdoctoral scholars, particularly those who will be competitive for external fellowship funding. The VPR funding under this program is matched by the supervisor.
 - There are two intakes to the program, with deadlines in May and November each year.
 - The success rate is approximately 45%, with 68% of the scholars being international. China, India, the European Union, and Iran are the highest international regions of origin. The top three Faculties in receiving these awards are the Schulich School of Engineering, Cumming School of Medicine, and Faculty of Science.

- The Tri-Council is harmonizing its training awards program into the Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS), with the postdoctoral fellowships now to be called the Canada Postdoctoral Research Awards (CPRAs). The value of this stipend has been increased to \$70,000 per year for two years, and eligibility has been expanded.
- Current topics relating to postdoctoral scholar recruitment include: the increasing costs of employment, guarding against unconscious bias and adjusting practices to meet EDIA principles and commitments, national security requirements, and restrictions on remote research work.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The new minimum stipend under the collective agreement with the Postdoctoral Fellows Association of the University of Calgary is \$56,000 per year. It was noted that many supervisors are choosing to pay more to provide further support and to be competitive.
 - The University's Knowledge to Impact team can help a researcher with preparing a narrative curriculum vitae (CV), such as the CV now required for the Tri-Agency's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery grant.
 - Demographic data such as Indigenous status is not collected at this time.
- Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program
 - The goals of this program are to enable transdisciplinary research teams and to foster new connections. It is intended that the program will lead to success in external transdisciplinary funding opportunities.
 - There are three intakes per year and two intake streams: Initiating grants and Consolidating grants.
 - Over the seven rounds that have occurred to date, 170 of 316 applications have been funded, with \$2.06 million awarded, and with 57% of the applications to the Initiating stream and 43% to the Consolidating stream. The top three Faculties (by primary project holder) are the Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Arts, and Schulich School of Engineering. Teams range in size from two to 46 researchers, with an average size of eight researchers.
 - Program outcomes include the establishment of new partnerships, the launching of new research projects, increased Horizon Europe and New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) applications, publications, conference and symposium attendance, mentorship, and student hires.
 - Discussion included that one thing that differentiates the University from other institutions is the extent of collaboration across the University. The University is a recognized leader in Canada for transdisciplinary scholarship.
- The Chair observed that the VPR funding programs provide an avenue for faculty and students to engage in research in alignment with the University's *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan.

13. **Approved Revisions to the Faculty of Science Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

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 April 16, 2025 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the April 17, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- c) Report on the April 15, 2025 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the May 8, 2025 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary