

General Faculties Council
GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 67
March 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Ed McCauley, Chair
Dru Marshall, Vice-Chair
Mohamed Abdelsamie
Joule Bergerson
Eloise Carr
Kevin Dang
Sarah Eaton
Mary O'Brien
Richard Sigurdson
Hussein Warsame

Non-Voting Member

Paul Rogers

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Lesley Rigg
Trevor Tombe

Guests and Observers

Jaclyn Carter, University Secretariat
Alex Paquette, incoming Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Florentine Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost – present for Items 1-4

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 25, 2020 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- The University has been working closely with Universities Canada and the U15 to coordinate efforts to support students, particularly with respect to international student visa issues, increases

to scholarships, and remote learning

- The Tri-Council is engaged in a coordinated effort to maintain quality research programs into the future, including planning relating to personnel and research productivity
- The University has been coordinating with Alberta Health Services and the provincial and municipal governments to make decisions and communicate consistently

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The tremendous effort of faculty, staff and students to work differently in order to allow students to continue and complete their programs is greatly appreciated, and it is acknowledged that this is a very stressful time as people are also dealing with school closures and other personal concerns
- Effort is being made to communicate regularly and effectively with the University community during this extraordinary time
- The University's budget and other significant matters will be taken to the Board of Governors for approval this Friday

3. Approval of the January 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on January 29, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Florentine Strzelczyk presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the University's International Strategy (IS), which was approved in 2013, was recently reviewed by an external panel. Many of the recommendations from this review have been incorporated into an updated strategy entitled Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025 (GEP).
- The proponents noted that, at its March 16, 2020 meeting, the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) recommended that the consultation process for the GEP include a town hall, and this will be scheduled
- The proponents then commented that the GEP is informed by the original goals of the 2013 IS, and provided an overview of the GEP that includes building internationalization activities at home and links the GEP more closely to the University's Academic and Research Plans
- Discussion included that:
 - In addition to the University's Academic and Research Plans, the GEP has synergies with

the federal government's *Building on Success: Canada's International Education Strategy (2019-2024)*

- The practices of social distancing and self-isolation, necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, are likely to have long-term impacts on interactions. Lessons will be learned on what travel is necessary and what can be replaced with technological connections. The proponents noted that the GEP proposes to ensure *"that a number of our transformational intercultural learning experiences can be offered through local community resources, technological innovations and other creative strategies to provide alternatives to the high cost of global travel."*
- The increased flexibility in allowing faculty to pursue academic partnerships, and the clarity of responsibilities set out in the Appendix, is appreciated
- The learning and study of languages is part of internationalization, and a lot of this work can be done locally
- There are differences between "global engagement" and "globalization". The proponents reported that the title of the GEP was chosen deliberately, and that it is believed that this better reflects the University's goals.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The GEP links to the Academic and Research Plans, and the University's Indigenous Strategy, through connected priorities
 - Indigenous languages, including Stoney, Blackfoot, and Cree, are taught at the University and elsewhere, but these would not be considered an international learning experience
 - The reference to *"relatively free flows of highly qualified researchers across international borders"* refers to connectivity and the exchange of ideas, and not the cost of travel
 - Some institutions do undertake social innovation, in addition to scientific innovation, at their research parks
 - The GEP refers to enhancing partnerships with Continuing Education (CE) because CE offers successful English language programs, and these are even more important now that the Werklund School of Education's International Foundations Program is no longer available to incoming students
- It was suggested that:
 - The 2025 target that *"50% of our students will graduate with at least one International Learning Experience that takes place either abroad or at home on our campus"* might be more realistically achievable if set at 30%
 - The third paragraph of the GEP's Context section states that the 2013 IS was launched in response to the City of Calgary's needs, and this could be reworded to reflect that the City was only one factor
 - The text under Goal 1 of the GEP could read: *"All students at the University of Calgary bring a rich diversity of identities, cultures, languages and world views..."*
- The Chair thanked the Committee for their feedback and reported that the GEP will be discussed next at the April 9 meeting of the General Faculties Council (GFC)

5. Review of the Draft April 9, 2020 GFC Agenda

The Committee reviewed the draft April 9, 2020 GFC Agenda, and agreed that the meeting will take place via Zoom.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the March 25, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary