

General Faculties Council  
**GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

January 17, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

***Voting Members***

Penny Werthner, Vice-Chair  
Joule Bergerson\*  
Olive Chapman\*  
Jacqueline Jenkins\*  
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette  
Aoife Mac Namara  
Satish Raj\*  
Bill Rosehart

***Non-Voting Member***

Kent Donlevy\*

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Rachel Lauer  
James Steele

***Guests***

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research)\* – present for Item 4  
Lorna Very, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President (Research)\* – present for Item 4

*\*Attended virtually*

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The Vice-Chair voiced a Territorial Land Acknowledgement, and then called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the January 17, 2024 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**2. Remarks of the Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The search processes for Deans of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Schulich School of Engineering, and Faculty of Law are progressing

- The Students' Union (SU) Annual Leaders' Dinner was held this month, at which the SU President gave a strong presentation about the importance of valuing and funding education
- A meeting of Alberta's provosts, representing a variety of institutions including universities and polytechnics, was held in Edmonton recently. Carmen Baldwin-Dery, Acting Deputy Minister, Advanced Education, attended the meeting and discussion topics included budget, targeted expansions, and future funding to meet demand.
- The University's Academic Leadership Development Program has been redesigned, and a second cohort of Associate Deans and Department Heads has begun the workshops. The program will also be open to faculty members who aspire to leadership and wish to develop their skills.
- The annual Crowchild Classic hockey games, between the University of Calgary Dinos and the Mount Royal University Cougars, are being held January 24, 2024 at the Saddledome, with the men's teams playing first and then the women's

In response to a question, it was reported that information about expansion programs should be heard in February.

### **3. Approval of the November 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on November 22, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

*Secretary's Note: Items 4 and 5 were addressed together.*

### **4. Recommendation of the Research and Innovation Plan**

### **5. Recommendation of the Academic Innovation Plan**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented these items.

Highlights:

- The proponents gave a presentation on the development of the Research and Innovation Plan and the Academic Innovation Plan, the feedback received on each, and the changes that were made to each in response to the feedback received.
- The proponents reported that additional recent feedback (including from the last Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and Teaching and Learning Committee meetings and letters received from the Faculty Association and Research Services Office) will result in the General Faculties Council (GFC) receiving slightly revised versions of the Research and Innovation Plan and the Academic Innovation Plan than presented today. The proponents specifically reported that revisions will include: reference to "intercultural capacity" rather than "cultural competency" in the Indigenous Engagement section of the Academic Innovation Plan, and language around undergraduate research opportunities will be expanded in the Research and Innovation Plan as

the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) awards is only one example of such investment.

- Discussion included:
  - The College for Discovery, Creativity and Innovation (CDCI) should be included in the list of research support units in section 2.2 of the Research and Innovation Plan
  - It is necessary for members of the University community to clearly understand the targets set out in the plans, including the current situation, identified gaps, and the plans for closing these gaps and meeting the targets. The data that will be used to determine that the University is making progress toward its targets should accompany the plans.
  - Information would be helpful as to where the funding for initiatives is going to come from, as units are concerned about budget. Both proponents provided examples of possible new funding sources, including external funding for graduate student stipends and the federal Research Support Fund.
  - There is concern about class sizes increasing as a result of growing the student population, and the Academic Innovation Plan should speak more about increasing resources (staff and infrastructure) and maintaining the quality of education
  - The plans should describe the connections to, and commitments to further, the University's other strategic documents (e.g. the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Strategy, the Campus Mental Health Strategy, the Indigenous Strategy) in a consistent manner, as some strategic documents (e.g. the Continuing Education Strategy, the Information Technologies Strategy) are referred to by name only
  - Both plans refer to the "6+2" research portfolio plans in Figure A, but do not describe these and this may be unclear to readers not familiar with the eight crosscutting strategic research themes arising from the University's current Research Plan
  - The indication in the plans that the University will develop measures of research success and impact, including through qualitative narratives of impact, was applauded

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee (EC) recommend that the GFC approve the Research and Innovation Plan and the Academic Innovation Plan, in the forms provided to the EC, with the reported amendments, and authorize the proponents to make non-substantive changes to the plans prior to their presentation to the GFC.

**Carried**

#### **6. Recommendation of the Establishment of the 2024-2025 GFC Elected Membership Distribution**

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

#### Highlights:

- The presenters reported that this year's population data did not result in a change to the distribution of GFC elected academic staff member seats for next year
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that:

- The GFC Bylaws allow for a School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape student to be added to the GFC membership following an SU election to activate this student role
- The Office of Institutional Analysis uses population data for the Cumming School of Medicine that excludes persons with a less than full-time Continuing, Limited Term or Contingent Term appointment. It was noted that the University should be clear about the definition of ‘academic staff member’ to reduce confusion.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee recommend that the 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 on the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**7. Review of the Draft February 8, 2024 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

There was no discussion.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the January 17, 2024 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary