

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting #110

A167/Zoom

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**Voting Members**

Ed McCauley, Chair  
Sandra Davidson, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Ayala  
Tara Beattie  
Olive Chapman  
Jessie Dinh  
Anna-Maria Hubert  
Jacqueline Jenkins\*  
Aoife Mac Namara  
Jeffrey Priest  
Satish Raj\*  
Saaka Sulemana Saaka

**Secretary**

Courtney McVie

**Scribe**

Elizabeth Sjogren

**Non-Voting Members**

Kent Donlevy\*

**Guests**

Todd Anderson\*, Dean, Cumming School of Medicine – present for item 3  
Gina Grandy, Dean, Haskayne School of Business – present for item 4  
Sarah Louw, Senior Legal Counsel – present for item 5  
Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services – present for item 5  
Paula Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence – present for item 5

*\*Attended virtually*

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*Secretary's Note: In accordance with the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws Section 8.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Meeting Opening**

**1.1. Approval of the Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the November 20, 2024 General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**1.2. Remarks of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

- The University's School of Public Policy (SPP) hosted Canada's Productivity Summit from October 16-17, 2024. The Alberta government was a partner in the event, and the Premier and many Cabinet Ministers attended among the approximately 600 participants from across the country. The theme of the summit was about driving investment for economic growth and prosperity, and featured speakers included Premier Danielle Smith.
- Related to the Summit, the SPP is launching a series of papers about closing Canada's productivity gap. Martha Hall Findlay, Director of the SPP, and Trevor Tombe, SPP Research Fellow, accompanied me (the University's President) to Ottawa to meet with federal Deputy Ministers whose portfolios touch on this area, including Chris Forbes, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Stephanie Beck, Deputy Minister of National Defence.
- The recipients of the Alumni Association's 2024 Arch Awards were celebrated in a series of events held October 15-30, 2024.
- The University's Creating Tomorrow - Water: Exploring the Ripple Effect of Water Research panel event was held on October 22, 2024 at the TELUS Spark Science Centre. The well-attended event's keynote speaker was Kerry Black, a Schulich School of Engineering Canada Research Chair (Integrated Knowledge, Engineering and Sustainable Communities).
- The University's 2024 Killam Award recipients were celebrated at a luncheon held October 24, 2024.
- I (the University's President) was recently in Ottawa to testify again to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research. This testimony is important because a new capstone organization is being formed to oversee the operations of the Tri-Council, including coordinating activities to support multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary scholarship and more mission-driven research for Canada. Funding in the federal budget for the Tri-Council is backend loaded and future investment will depend on the Treasury Board being confident in the capstone organization.
- A U15 Day on the Hill was held, with U15 Presidents meeting with representatives from both government and the opposition. The Presidents continue to talk about the value proposition of research universities in talent creation, economic prosperity, and quality of life.
- The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) Celebration of Excellence and Engagement was held in Vancouver from November 7-9, 2024. The University again hosted the induction ceremony for the new RSC Fellows and Members of the RSC College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. The University had six inductees: RSC Fellows Nathalie Jette, Cumming School of Medicine, Deborah Marshall, Cumming School of Medicine, Suzette Mayr, Faculty of Arts, Keith Sharkey, Cumming School of Medicine, and Alain Verbeke, Haskayne School of Business, and College Member Bukola Salami, Cumming School of Medicine.
- The Fall convocation ceremonies were held November 13-14, 2024.
- Representatives of the University continue to advocate as the provincial government implements recent legislation. It is hoped that universities will be exempt from the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024 (Bill 18). The Real Property Governance Act, 2024 (Bill 13) may impact the University's trusts including the

University District and University Innovation Quarter and the WA Ranches land though it is hoped that these will be outside the scope of Bill 13's regulations.

- Provincial postsecondary institutions are pushing hard for a sustainable funding model from the provincial government. An expert panel, to be chaired by Jack Mintz, is being created to consider the components of a funding model and competitiveness in the postsecondary system. It is expected that the panel will issue its recommendations in the summer, so that this can feed into the Treasury Board budget submissions in the fall of 2025.
- Because of the importance of innovation at the University, two innovation tables are being set up within the President's office. The first table will include representatives of the ecosystem including the directors of the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, the Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies, and Innovate Calgary, academic advisors, and the Associate Vice-President (Research and Innovation). The second table will be an innovation advisory group and the morphing of an existing committee for innovation and entrepreneurial leadership.

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The University's budget process continues, with the tuition and fees consultation recently concluding.
- Searches for Deans of the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Nursing, and Schulich School of Engineering are underway. The interview phase of the Law search will occur in December.
- The University's Open House for potential students and their families was held October 26, 2024.
- The Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy (the renewed Campus Mental Health Strategy) was launched during UFlourish 2024.
- A presentation entitled Thinking Out Loud Together: Why Civil Discourse Matters on Campus, given by Randy Boyagoda, University of Toronto Provostial Advisor on Civil Discourse, on November 12, 2024 as part of the University's Courageous Conversations speaker series, was recorded and is available on the University's website.
- A team in the Provost's office is working to define and develop measurements of student engagement as this is a priority in the Academic Innovation Plan.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The capstone organization being formed to oversee the operations of the Tri-Council will be doing the work that the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) was originally intended to do.
- The advisory selection committees for Deans follow consistent procedures. While transparency is valued, sometimes candidates are not required to present publicly if there is a concern that an open process would result in loss of high-quality candidates. When a search for a Dean is underway, there are mechanisms for members of the University community to offer input, including through a form on the search website.
- The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has a definition of student engagement, but the University is working on a definition of its own. It was observed that graduate student engagement can be different from undergraduate student engagement, and it was suggested that the Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey (CGPSS) also be considered as the definition and measurements are developed.

## **2. Approval of the October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council Executive Committee meeting held on October 16, 2024 be approved.

**Carried****3. Approval of Revisions to the Cumming School of Medicine Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Todd Anderson, Dean of the Cumming School of Medicine, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed revisions to the Cumming School of Medicine Faculty Council Terms of Reference (TOR) include the addition of two more student representatives, shortening the term for appointed members to allow for more people to participate, and revisions to align with the new Faculty Council TOR template.
- Discussion included whether the Cumming School of Medicine graduate students consortium should have representatives on the Faculty Council. The proponent indicated that the existing two graduate student seats are considered to be sufficiently representative, but that there is openness to a future TOR revision if the consortium feels strongly about this. It was observed that the two graduate students on the Faculty Council are “recommended by their respective learner association or student group” and so there may be an opportunity for the consortium to recommend as well.
- In response to a question, it was reported that the undergraduate student representatives normally serve a one-year term.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Cumming School of Medicine Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee.

**Carried****4. Approval of Revisions to the Haskayne School of Business Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Gina Grandy, Dean of the Haskayne School of Business, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed revisions to the Haskayne School of Business Faculty Council TOR include updating the title of the Vice Chair, updating the title of the undergraduate student society President, and revisions to align with the new Faculty Council TOR template.
- There were no comments or questions.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee approve the revisions to the Haskayne School of Business Faculty Council Terms of Reference, in the form provided to the Committee.

**Carried****5. Revisions to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sarah Louw, Senior Legal Counsel, Jennifer Quin, Senior Director, Student Services, and Paula Russel, Manager, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents gave a presentation describing the process followed in reviewing the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy and then highlighted the resulting proposed revisions.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office continuously reflects upon how cases go and the effectiveness of the policy. The appeal process allows for a review of how a case was handled, and complainants can also provide feedback to the team organically. The policy as a whole is reviewed every three years.
  - In practice the complainant will be involved when decisions are being made about making changes to interim measures (temporary, non-disciplinary restrictions or adjustments), and so it will be considered whether section 4.13 should be revised to capture this involvement.
  - An assessment of whether additional mental health and other supports are needed beyond those provided under faculty, staff, and student benefits and services was not conducted as part of the policy review. The results of the 2023 Alberta Post-Secondary Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Survey were considered.
  - The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office provides support to students, faculty, and staff, and can also make counselling referrals. The Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) sexual assault centre has someone who comes to the University once a week to provide specialized and accessible counselling.
  - A complainant can choose how they want to have their case addressed. They can report to the University and engage in the policy's process, report to the police and engage in the criminal process, or involve the civil legal system. It is possible for a complainant to engage in multiple processes concurrently, and the University will take that into consideration and can pause the process under the policy if that is appropriate.
  - The process under the policy is not a judicial process, and the University's definition of sexual assault can be different from the definition in the criminal code and with a different burden of proof.
  - It is possible for the process under the policy to reach a different outcome than the criminal process.
  - The Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Office may redirect a report, such as to a Dean's office, if a complaint is not substantiated to be addressed under the policy.
  - The power differential between students and others may make a student reluctant to file a report and the work being done to address this.
  - Section 4.10 (Confidentiality) is based on Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, but the Act is not specifically quoted in order for the policy to be more easily readable. Federal law does not apply.

- Discussion included:
  - Report that the Faculty Association met with the drafting team to provide feedback on the proposed revisions, specifically in relation to sections 4.38 to 4.44 (Informal Resolution Process), 4.51 to 4.54 (Steps After Receipt of the Investigation Report), and 4.56 (Unsubstantiated Formal Reports). The Faculty Association expressed appreciation for the consultation process and will await proposed revisions based on the dialogue at the recent meeting.
  - Relating to experiential learning (EL):
    - EL is referenced in section 2.2 (Scope) but EL can occur in non-University facilities and/or the perpetrator could be someone from outside the University community, and concern was expressed that it is unclear if the policy applies in such cases. The proponents indicated that whether the policy applies depends on the identity of the perpetrator (the policy only applies to persons within the University community), and that cases in EL will be handled on a case by case basis. The proponents stated that the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office will support students who have been victimized during EL and can refer students to reporting channels outside the University. It was observed that the definition of Respondent in section 3 includes “contractor” and “volunteer” and so the policy may apply in some EL situations.
    - A student may be reluctant to file a report for fear of losing their EL placement, funding, or completion of their program and efforts to reduce this fear or stigma.
    - The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office will notice if there are multiple incidents connected to the same external partner.
  - Members of the University community need to be mindful that they may be hosting events, such as receptions and conferences, at which violence may occur.
- The Chair reported that the policy will next be discussed at the December 5, 2024 GFC meeting and then is expected to return to the Committee for recommendation.

## **6. Review of the Draft December 5, 2024 GFC Agenda**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Highlights:

- The committee reviewed the draft December 5, 2024 GFC agenda.
- It was reported that the Committee’s advice at the last meeting was taken and this GFC meeting will be held in person. The meeting will be held in the usual room, Science Theatres 147, as the renovation of the new room is not yet complete.
- It was decided that the estimated time for the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy item should be expanded as engaged discussion is expected.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council Executive Committee adjourn the November 20, 2024 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary