



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #545

Approved Minutes

Monday, April 6, 2020

3:00 p.m. Via Zoom

- Present:** M. Mahon, (Chair), K. Alexander (phone), L. Barrett, J. Blum, J. Brassolotto, S. Bubel, L. Burckes, D. Burleigh, P. Cardozo, J. Copeland, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, J. Dobbie, G. Fujiwara, A. Gammack, K. Godfrey, R. Harper-Brown, B. Harray, L. Howard, B. Hughes, M. Ingraham, D. Jarvie, S. Johnsrude, D. Kaminski, J. Laurendeau, M. Letts, C. Loewen, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, C. Mattatall, K. Mazurek, J. Miles, R. Munn, C. Nicol, J. Nugent, E. Okine, T. Oosterbroek, K. Peacock, K. Potts, E. Pullan, J. Rice, B. Rogers, M. Serebryansky, P. Shao, J. Sheriff, C. Steinke, A. Stewart, M. Stingl, J. Vokey, K. Vos, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood, L. Zink
- Regrets:** C. Currie, J. Gamble, H. Ghanbari, A. Khalil, H. Kletke, H. Ladd, J. Mather, A. Moatari-Kazerouni, B. Nikolai-Wilson, J. Usher
- Other:** J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Whipple, Liam Connel, Jonathan Diaz, Richard Lee-Thai, Ryan Lindblad, H. Mirau, N. Piquette

Oki. The President opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement.

J. Gallais gave a refresher on Zoom.

M. Mahon gave the students a virtual round of applause. Some are returning and some are moving on. Thank you to them and all others as we move through this new reality.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2020.04.01

Hughes/Laurendeau

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #545 held Monday, April 6, 2020 be approved as amended to add the March 24, 2020 minutes.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2020.04.02

Mattatall/Vos

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #544 held Monday, March 2, 2020 and March 24, 2020 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- COVID-19 Update – Measures/Restricted Access/Postponed Convocation/Emergency Bursaries – We will continue to communicate via various methods but this will mostly be done through the website. If it is something timely, we will email directly. There is restricted campus access now and it seems to be managed well. We have created an emergency bursary that will support students who are having challenges. We imagine that these challenges will increase as the term ends and summer jobs become less available. Different units including the Students' Union have been looking to reallocate funds that would normally be used for other things to help students. We have been lobbying the federal government for the students' summer jobs. The Prime Minister is taking a serious look at how to support the students during the summer. We continue to make good progress but there are lots of challenges ahead.
- Budget update -workforce planning as it relates to COVID and the challenges of the budget. Those in Human Resources and Financial Services have been hard at work. The budget is not ready to be brought forward yet but we are getting closer. M. Mahon has had many meetings with government, the department and board chairs and Presidents. The president will be meeting with the premier's chief of staff this week. COVID has escalated the challenge of the budget.
- Positive things during the pandemic:
 - Dr. Trushar Patel published in Biophysical Society, "Coronavirus Pandemic & Life in Social Isolation"
 - Dr. Majid Mohajerani will use a 3-d printer to produce 10 shields a day and is sending them to local health authority.
 - Group met to discuss using the Science Commons to do testing analytics so people don't have to go to Calgary.
 - We have been looking in our stores for any possible supplies that we can use to help support the health authorities. Thank you to everyone who is helping out.
 - Campus Care Packages were delivered to the students. This initiative is led by Erin Phillips.
 - An account by Jennifer Mather has been published about her COVID-19 experience. He encouraged everyone to read it.
 - MasterCard Foundation funding has been paused but they have given new funding to assist Indigenous Students during this time of upheaval. The foundation originally committed \$15 million but we are having difficulty getting things up and running right now. They have now given this additional money to help with the COVID situation in the indigenous communities (SikSika, Peigan and Blackfoot)

- We are looking to the future. The President has struck a task force with board members with financial experience and members of our senior team. We are looking to prosper as a university as we come out of the COVID experience.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- R. Harper-Brown – Regarding security and privacy issues. Are we still convinced that Zoom is the way to go for classroom delivery? M. Mahon has asked IT to look into this to see if this is the best delivery system. We try to not advertise meetings on social media because this is how some of the Zoom-bombings occurred. It is a challenge and we need to take it seriously.
- K. Peacock – What is going to happen to our enrolment if we can't get back into the classroom. M. Mahon stated that we are already seeing some effects with indigenous numbers down 18% and we are also seeing a softening in domestic numbers as well as the numbers for residence. There has been discussion on strategic communication and advertisement for people to understand that the UofL is a safe place. We are having to plan that the fall might be virtual delivery. We are looking at international tuition numbers which is a significant issue as we don't know when the government will open immigration pathways. Possibility to have international students stay at home for the fall semester and come in January. We are also considering a 2 year work opportunity with 1 year remote experience. Despite everything going on, our numbers for international students are higher than last year.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Nominations Committee – Vice-President (Advancement) Search Committee

Appointment

MOTION: gfc.2020.04.03

Stingl/Marynowski

That GFC appoint Wei Xu to the Vice-President (Advancement) Search Committee.

Motion: Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. 2020-2022 GFC Meeting Schedule and Guidelines

J. Gallais explained the guidelines and presented the new meeting schedule for information. No questions were raised.

6.2. GFC Nominations Committee Process Update

M. Stingl reported on the process and encouraged members to nominate worthy candidates for the vacancies. This will be posted on the GFC website.

6.3. Summer Session Update

M. Mahon introduced J. Rice who updated members on the upcoming summer session regarding program delivery. A message went out last week announcing the cancellation

or moving online for Summer Session 1. We are trying to delay the decision for the rest of the summer sessions until we can gauge the loosening of restrictions. We are trying to make sure there are lots of choices for students but realize that we cannot deliver everything. There are a number of supports in place to help students. Co-op, practicums and placements are still up in the air but are being considered on a case by case basis. Things that can run remotely will still go but those that are face to face are unlikely to be approved. E. Okine and K. Massey added additional comments. Summer session is looking to be 1.8% ahead and the fall is lagging behind about 3%. We are making some process changes in the Registrar's Office to remove some barriers for new and continuing students.

We are still looking for what is the plan for the fall and are looking at what other institutions will be doing. There was discussion on assigned day/time slots for classes, compensation for sessionals, and promotion of online courses to the Calgary campus as well as help with home office charges via professional supplement or tax breaks. The President mentioned that there have been discussions on what we can do to reallocate things to support new realities. Provost's Committee is looking at a number of solutions. K. Massey was going to follow up with GFC on a question (see response below that was sent to GFC.)

"A number of summer courses were originally timetabled for online delivery prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic led to the shift to alternative delivery models and academic units began planning for the conversion of their summer face-to-face courses, where possible, to online delivery. Most summer offerings have been or will soon be converted to online delivery, with the campus noted as the Online Campus. Academic Units are delivering a variety of courses online, both asynchronously and with a synchronous component."

Where courses have a synchronous component, their synchronous information is highlighted in the section-level note and/or in the meet days and times. Courses with a synchronous component typically kept their original delivery days/times or "part" of their original meeting times to offer more flexibility for students, e.g. if an instructor originally scheduled to meet twice per week only required one synchronous meeting time per week, only the one meeting time was listed."

6.4. GFC Convocation Committee Update

M. Mahon welcomed N. Piquette, Chief Marshall to the meeting and asked her to update members on the recent decisions by the GFC Convocation Committee. She stated that this is an unprecedented situation. We cancelled spring convocation and have arrived at a three prong approach for alternate delivery. The first is an offer to the student to walk across the stage at a different ceremony in Spring 2021. The second is a video montage with various addresses from the Chancellor, President, Alumni and faculty to the graduates with awards presented through a slideshow. The third is to send out a Convocation in a box which would contain all the things that they would received at the ceremony. We want to be sure that the students receive consistent messaging so are asking faculties to be careful in what they release for information. M. Mahon stated that there has been lots of input from the students and the Convocation Committee has been thoughtful in their decisions. There was some discussion on why the committee chose Spring 2021 and not this fall. N. Piquette responded that we are not sure if we will be face to face in the fall. There are more options with 4 ceremonies in the spring as well instead of the fall.

6.5. GFC Executive Committee Report – March 30, 2020

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.6. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – February 24, 2020, March 24, 2020

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A question was raised on the returning of library books for students leaving the city. C. Nicol stated that we are not encouraging return of books by continuing students. The books drops are open but the buildings are now closed. M. Mahon suggested that we should come up with some way to have them return them. Anderson Hall is open Monday through Friday. C. Nicol said that fines and costs of returning materials should not be covered by the students. There is information on the library website. (<https://www.uleth.ca/lib/>)

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2020.04.04

Ingraham/Mattatall

That the GFC meeting #545 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried