



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #549

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, October 5, 2020**

**3:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Present:** M. Mahon, (Chair), C. Adams, R. Barendregt, L. Barrett, J. Blum, N. Buis Deering, P. Cardozo, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, C. Currie, A. Darda, J. Dobbie, L. Elias, I. Genee, K. Gillespie, K. Godfrey, H. Gray, E. Greidanus, M. Helstein, B. Hughes, M. Ingraham, D. Jarvie, P. Kellett, L. Kennedy, I. Kovalchuk, J. Laurendeau, R. Lee-Thai, M. Letts, Y. Li, C. Loewen, M. Magnuson, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Mattatall, C. Nicol, E. Okine, T. Patel, K. Peacock, E. Pullan, G. Pyle, N. Rebry, J. Rice, P. Shao, J. Sheriff, S. Spenceley, L. Spencer, R. Stark, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, J. Vokey, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood, C. Zhu

**Regrets:** K. Alexander, L. Connel, J. Diaz, H. Kletke, R. Lindblad, M. Mohajerani, A. Novello, T. Oosterbroek, R. Parkkari, C. Steinke, A. Stewart, D. St. Georges, J. Usher, R. Yalamova, L. Zink

**Other:** J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Whipple, S. Bubel, H. Mirau

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

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2020.10.01

Stark/Mattatall

*That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #549 held Monday, October 5, 2020 be approved.*

Motion: Carried

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2020.10.02

Cummins/Spencer

*That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #548 held Monday, September 14, 2020 be approved.*

Motion: Carried

### 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- Senate Report – The Senate has been discussing the state of affairs regarding honorary degree recipients. There is a backlog of recipients and discussion occurred with Senate on if we should hold off on calling for Honorary Degree nominations, and the consensus was to continue. We are looking for input on different ways to award the honorary degrees.
- Fall 2020 Enrolment - total enrolment is currently 8,933 students; this is slightly above the prior fall enrolment of 8,929 students. The target set for Fall 2020 prior to the pandemic was 9,016 students. We received good news on the international front with the borders opening to international students on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We were chosen by the provincial government to be one of the campuses that will be open to international students.
- COVID-19 update – Spring 2021 to be primarily online (message from President was sent to GFC). There is a Virtual Event Toolkit on the Covid-19 Resources page. On October 1<sup>st</sup> we opened campus to more people – those coming to campus will not have to apply to be on campus, but they still must register. Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, we have increased to 1100 people on campus (up 100) and 450 students that are on campus.
- Budget Task Force Update – The government approved \$20 million towards the energy centre. We have 21 Task Forces who are actively looking at all things budget. This work will become more public and will take place over the next few months.
- Equity Diversity & Inclusion – work continues to create programs supporting this initiative. We have had workshops that have been given for the various search committees including the Vice-President (Research). The EDI Executive Director Position search will commence shortly. If the successful candidate is an academic, then that will be part of the appointment.
- Senior Administration Searches - the Vice-President (Research) search continues and the Vice-President (Advancement) search has been reinstated. Short listing on the VPR will be done in the next few weeks. The VP Advancement search is going ahead and although there have been some difficult staffing decisions made, it is becoming important to have that position filled to bring in revenue.
- COPPOA meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> with the Minister attending. Front and center in discussions was the Alberta 2030 review which has been focused on skills, efficiency, cost, enrolment and future enrolment challenges, governance model, and innovation. The government has asked for input and we have publicized this in Uweekly. The Investment Management Agreements (IMA) will be brought forward in the next few months. The government is now at a point where they want to move forward with them. The IMA had metrics associated with them and we still have some optimism on some of the metrics.
- Navitas – we are in conversations with this group. There are three institutes involved with them in Canada: Simon Fraser; Ryerson; and Manitoba. Navitas approached us and want to be based at the Calgary campus. They will be on campus next week meeting with a number of different groups. We are looking at this because we need to recruit international students to bring in revenue.
- We have funding approved to relocate Iikaiskini to University Hall. Iikaiskini was named after Leroy Little Bear and the current location was always meant to be

temporary. We are now in a position to relocate to University Hall with money from the federal government and the foundation. The computer center will be relocated to the library. The staff of Iikaisskini and the MasterCard Foundation staff will be located together in one space. We have received positive feedback regarding the new location but it will be a few months before the move actually takes place.

#### 4. QUESTION PERIOD

- K. Peacock – Is there any sense on how/when the winners of the teaching and research awards will be announced. M. Mahon reported that we have been trying to find an in person format but there will be an announcement in line with the convocation announcement.
- J. Laurendeau – thanks for updates – Can you give us an update on the University Librarian position. M. Mahon turned the floor to E. Okine to answer. There are taskforces in place to make decisions and one is for the library. We have had to fiscally pause some of these searches before moving forward. Follow up question – does this leave us without a university librarian and has there been consultation with the staff of the library. E. Okine has had a meeting with the library staff and has heard their position on the matter. It is important that we position ourselves properly with the results of the taskforce findings before we fill these positions. M. Mahon stated that we will need to reduce the budget further so we will have to look at all sources of revenue to possibly offset some of the reductions we will have to make.
- R. Lee-Thai – what is the final date for the completion of Iikaisskini? M. Mahon replied that we want to make sure that we do proper consultation before we do a final design. N. Walker stated that we haven't set a target date and are still in the planning stage. The president hopes that we will be able to open the space by fall of 2021.
- P. Cardozo – while she understands the budget, the library is understaffed. The library has done a lot of heavy lifting already and it is very important to have a qualified and experienced academic librarian in charge of the library. There is only one university in Canada that is looking for a university librarian right now. The staff thinks it is very important to start the search. E. Okine replied that the taskforces have a completion date of December 2020. We need to have a reflective transformation of the UofL. We are not alone in looking at internal structure (the UofA and the UofC also doing reviews) and we will wait until the reviews are finished before we make any decisions.
- J. Cunningham – Navitas – where is this interest coming from? Have we looked at in-house strategies? He has heard concerns about this group. The president responded that we have looked at internal processes but we have challenges with the cost involved in doing this internally. Navitas has critics as well as institutions who are enthusiastic about them. We are at the early stages of consultations with them. The challenge we face is trying to ramp up international student enrolment with a shrinking budget. We have so many needs on our finite resources. The University of Alberta announced today over 600 layoffs will be coming. M. Mahon says it is a balancing act and we need to look at things critically.
- K. Peacock – A suggestion regarding honorary degrees – it might be attractive for an honorary degree recipient to be receive their degree by zoom in this time. It would shorten their time commitment for travel. M. Mahon replied that we have had some

nominees say no in the past because of logistics. We are looking at this suggestion but have made no decisions at this time.

- P. Cardozo – Taskforce consultation – will the consultation include at least one professional librarian. M. Mahon replied that the recommendations will be provide for public consultation. The recommendations may not be the ones that are accepted as is or that they may be modified. There will be difficult decisions that will have to be made.
- C. Zhu – reservations regarding Navitas – will there be representation from students, grad students, ULFA and faculty. M. Mahon stated that consultation will begin with some of these groups next week when Navitas is on campus. Normal governance steps will be part of the process.

## 5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

### 5.1. GFC Executive Committee Nominations

M. Mahon introduced the process. E. Okine reported that there are two upcoming vacancies on the GFC Executive Committee. Two members are required for two-year terms (October 2020 - September 30, 2022). E. Okine went over the procedures for the nominations and the approval voting as required by the bylaws.

M. Mahon opened the floor to nominations. The following nominations were received for the two, two-year terms:

- Brendan Cummins
- Richelle Marynowski

MOTION: gfc.2020.10.03

Okine/Loewen

All nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

## 6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### 6.1. GFC Standing Committee Reports

J. Gallais reported that the committee reports are received annually for information on GFC standing committees' activities. They are reviewed by GFC Executive before being presented to GFC for information. These reports are posted to the GFC website for future reference. Discussion occurred around First Nations Governance Handbook and Indigenous studies minor in the CCC report. K. Massey will look into the answers and then get back to the member. M. Letts mentioned later in the agenda that the Indigenous Studies minor was passed at CCC and GFC and will be in the calendar in 2021/2022.

### 6.2. GFC Nominations Committee Call for Nominations

J. Gallais stated that there are three upcoming vacancies for academic staff to serve as members on the GFC Nominations Committee. There are two two-year terms (November 2020 - November 1, 2022) and one one-year term (November 2020 - November 2, 2021). The academic staff members designated for the Committee will be

elected following nominations from the floor. Please prepare for nominations to be requested at GFC on November 2, 2020. We will try to ensure diversity of Faculty/School representation whenever possible.

6.3. GFC Bylaws Editorial Change

In a review of the powers and duties of the GFC Quality Assurance Committee, an error was noted. A typo in this section added a five year report which was not approved by the Academic Quality Assurance Committee in accepting the recommendations from the external reviewers during the Internal Review Process. The Academic Quality Assurance Committee requested that this reference to a 5 year plan be removed.

6.4. GFC Executive Committee Report – September 28, 2020

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.5. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #528 - September 8, 2020

Received as information. No questions raised.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

K. Peacock requested an update on the bird strikes on the new science building. Were studies done and where are we in the process? Nancy Walker brought it to facilities attention but there hasn't been a formal study yet. She is unaware that bird strikes are an issue at this time. It was suggested that our faculty in the biology could assist in a study. Dean Letts commented that bird strikes information was passed on early in the spring semester and there was a plan for Facilities to note when there were strikes. He contacted facilities for update. COVID hit just as the study was to start so it has not been done. Anecdotally, there is a thought that this is not a big problem.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2020.10.04

Vokey/Ingraham

*That the GFC meeting #549 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried