



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #553

Approved Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2021

3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: M. Mahon, (Chair), C. Adams, K. Alexander, R. Barendregt, L. Barrett, J. Blum, S. Bubel, N. Buis Deering, P. Cardozo, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, A. Darda, J. Dobbie, I. Genee, K. Godfrey, E. Greidanus, M. Helstein, B. Hughes, M. Ingraham, D. Jarvie, P. Kellett, L. Kennedy, H. Kletke, J. Laurendeau, R. Lee-Thai, M. Letts, Y. Li, R. Lindblad, C. Loewen, M. Magnuson, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, M. Mohajerani, C. Nicol, A. Novello, E. Okine, R. Parkkari, T. Patel, K. Peacock, E. Pullan, G. Pyle, N. Reby, J. Rice, J. Sheriff, S. Spenceley, L. Spencer, R. Stark, C. Steinke, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, J. Usher, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood

Regrets: L. Connel, C. Currie, J. Diaz, L. Elias, K. Gillespie, H. Gray, I. Kovalchuk, L. Litchke, C. Mattatall, T. Oosterbroek, P. Shao, A. Stewart, D. St. Georges, J. Vokey, R. Yalamova, L. Zink

Other: J. Gallais, V. Grisack, N. Freiheit, K. Fuglerud, H. Jansen, H. Mirau, S. Olson, C. Takeyasu, L. van der Velde, M. Whipple, A. Zovoilis

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

J. Gallais gave the committee an update on Zoom and the changes in voting – in favour – green checkmark, against – red x and raise your hand to abstain.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2021.03.01

Novello/Marynowski

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #553 held Monday, March 1, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2021.03.02

Adams/Massey

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #552 held Monday, February 1, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- Budget 2021 - The government announced a decrease by 5.8% for our base operating grant for 2021/22. There was great variance in the amount of reductions different institutions received. The Mental Health Grant, Students with Disabilities Grant, Health Workforce Grant are all frozen, but we were relieved that they were not reduced. Our Infrastructure Maintenance Grant (IMP) Grant was increased to \$7.0 million. The Government is using infrastructure funding to create jobs. We will have a Budget Town Hall on March 9th 2pm-4pm. Details will be forthcoming. There is also a phone call with the ministry chief of staff tomorrow to gather more details.
- Fall 2021 – We have a special working group to determine how to effectively increase our numbers on campus. Summer 2021 will remain much the same as the Spring 2021 semester. We should also start to see an increase in students on campus residences.
- Dr. Dena McMartin will be the next Vice-President (Research) starting July 1, 2021. Dr. McMartin is very excited to come to the UofL, and has deep roots in the prairies.
- Executive Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion search is fully underway. There will be an announcement in the next while on the Vice-President (Development & Alumni Affairs) search.
- COVID Update- A reminder was given to follow COVID protocols, and complete the health check when on campus. We had two positive cases reported yesterday.
- Indigenous Awareness Week March 1 – 5th <https://www.uleth.ca/first-nations-metis-inuit/indigenous-awareness-week-2021> -M. Mahon attended a wonderful opening this morning. There will be many events to participate in, and individuals were encouraged to do so.
- Congratulations was given to Associate Vice-President (Finance) Carrie Takeyasu, for being awarded a YWCA Women of Distinction, along with Rachel Nicol (Young Woman of Promise) alumna and daughter of our colleague Chris Nicol.
- President's Award for Service Excellence – nominations close March 22, 2021.
- Feb 11th International Day of Women & Girls in Science
- Things are going to get better! Video release, great message for all students and staff and has been well received.
- Play Day Week Feb 15 – 19, will be held virtually and is partnership with North & Company LLP.
- University of Lethbridge Open House March 6th is coming up this weekend.
- Some words about the task force consultation that will start this afternoon, were given. COVID has show us that the world can change very quickly, and change is upon us and we are going to have to deal with it for the next few years. New models can emerge and can change the landscape we are in. Virtual delivery is one of those changes. We have seen some decline in our applications and we are working hard to

translate applications into acceptances. Some institutions have not seen any changes in enrolment. M. Mahon used the example of Laurentian who previously had struggles with curriculum and with change. We have listened to you as GFC members and agree that we need to listen to as many voices as possible. Rarely is the first version of the paper its best as it is usually a number of revisions later it is ready for publication. The consultation process is similar to writing a paper. The success of the UofL is based on our ability to attract faculty and students and the resources that we can bring to support our programs/students/etc. As we venture in to this consultation process, we consider change and the need to listen to different perspectives. The President has asked M. Helstein to chair the meetings of the Committee of the Whole for 2 reasons. 1) The committee recommendations come to the president. 2) It will allow him to concentrate on listening to all the thoughts on the various recommendations. He feels that there will be lots of great ideas and perspectives.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- S. Wismath – A comment arose on the honours of the Women of Distinction. R. Nicol's name been mentioned a number of times as Chris Nicol's daughter. The individual is being recognized for more reasons than being his daughter.
- H. Kletke – Is the budget town hall open to everyone including students? The President responded that it will be open to the whole university community.
- P. Wilson – This may be better for the COTW meeting later but can you give an update on the Indigenous Strategic Plan. Knowing the status will be helpful in our discussions. M. Mahon stated that it will form part of the discussion at COTW meeting. The strategic plan has slowed down a bit so all the voices can be integrated to a holistic plan. Since this plan was undertaken last year, a number of things have unfolded such as the MasterCard Foundation (MCF) partnership and the broadening of engagement around research. That work will be brought under one umbrella to make sure it is as robust as possible. H. Mirau was asked to speak. This was part of the task force review to include voices in the Indigenous plan. The MCF has allowed us to hire quite a few more people. We have a new Manager of Iikaiskini with Mike Frank taking on the role. It was decided that the Blackfoot values should be stated and they would like more on Reconciliation mentioned as well. The plan will be socialized throughout the UofL community when it is ready.
- K. Peacock – What is the actual cut now that the dust has settled? M. Mahon responded that our cut is - 5.8%. We had been anticipating a cut of - 5.11% but we had heard rumblings of a more significant cut. This was less than we had feared but it is still difficult.
- R. Lindblad – The students had a government meeting on budget day. He is curious if the president has heard if campus sexual violence is getting cut or if funding is staying the same? They have asked the government many times but they have been stonewalled. M. Mahon had no further information. The Board Chairs and Presidents have a meeting tomorrow afternoon so he will bring that up and see if he can get more information. He also has a meeting with the minister's chief of staff. He will endeavour to get more information.

- B. Cummins - -5.8% is what in dollar amounts? N. Walker stated that it is a reduction of \$5.7 million dollars in 2020 -2021 and -5.5% or \$5.1 million in 2022-2023.
- R. Lee-Thai – H. Mirau mentioned that Blackfoot values were listed. How do we make sure that other Indigenous students feel a sense of belonging at the University of Lethbridge? In the Strategic Plan, we acknowledge that we are in Blackfoot territory but it will be made clear that our supports are for all students. M. Mahon’s understanding is that we use Blackfoot values as the foundation because we are in Blackfoot territory. Also, Blackfoot values are seen as inclusive values and M. Mahon wishes that he could articulate it as well as Leroy Little Bear but it is something that he has been mindful of in his time here.
 - E. Okine – Thanked Richard for his comments. In Destination 2022, the inclusivity of Indigenous people and the collaboration with them is one of the hallmarks of the document. We will make sure it is reflected in our values going forward.
- L. Spencer – the budget cuts to the various institutions were not uniform. Can you elaborate? The cuts were anywhere from 0 to -11%. The rationale for that is something we are still trying to understand. The President will ask that in his meeting tomorrow with the ministry. Level of individual cuts was based on comparisons to other educational institutions which we don’t know who they are or what the metrics were that they used. In speaking to colleagues across the province, everyone is in the same boat - no one knows the comparators nor the metrics.
- C. Steinke – what are your thoughts on why the UofL is rarely being mentioned in the media since the budget came out. It seems like we are being left out somehow. There is little or nothing about the UofL but that may not be the case. Outside of Lethbridge the provincial papers seem to focus on other institutions. The President feels that the newspapers in Calgary and Edmonton focus on the institutions in those cities. We have had some success in cracking the news in those cities but they tend to focus on their own institutions. M. Mahon mentioned that he did have an interview with Global and that S. Wismath had a wonderful submission picked up by the Calgary Herald on Liberal Education.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee

May 1, 2022 implementation

Recommendations #1 – Faculty of Health Sciences – Shannon Spenceley

MOTION: gfc.2021.03.03

Spenceley/Loewen

That General Faculties Council approve the removal of HLSC 3002 and the addition of PUBH 1000 to the ‘One of’ list in the course core requirements for the Bachelor of Nursing for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

Recommendations #2 - 4 – Dhillon School of Business – Kerry Godfrey
MOTION: gfc.2021.03.04

Godfrey/Ingraham

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #2-4 for the Dhillon School of Business from the CCC report for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

Implementation Pending Ministerial Approval

Recommendation #1 – Dhillon School of Business – Kerry Godfrey
MOTION: gfc.2021.03.05

Godfrey/Buis Deering

*That General Faculties Council approve the introduction of a new Finance Diploma for implementation pending Ministerial **approval with the friendly amendment to add the wording “One Fine Arts and Humanities elective with an Indigenous-content focus”**.*

Motion: Carried

5.2. GFC Convocation Committee – Graduate Studies Parchments
MOTION: gfc.2021.03.06

Buis Deering/Spenceley

That the General Faculties Council approve the addition of majors and concentrations to the University of Lethbridge parchments for Graduate programs, effective for the Fall 2021 graduation.

Motion: Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. Academic Staff Count

J. Gallais gave an overview on how the academic staff count is calculated annually. The numbers and calculations were included in the agenda package. These calculations help the faculty councils know what their membership requirements are for the upcoming GFC year.

6.2. GFC Committee of the Whole (COTW) Update

E. Okine gave GFC members an update on the GFC Committee of the Whole. It will be meeting immediately after GFC concludes to discuss the report on Indigenous Units. In the agenda package is the consultation process laid out in detail. The summary format of pros/cons/savings/timelines and the confidentiality forms are laid out in the materials. The timelines for the Independent Consultation Committee (ICC) and the COTW meetings are included in the schedule. The type of meeting in relation to open, hybrid or closed meetings are still to be determined by GFC Executive. A question was asked for J. Gallais – could you clarify the student members’ status. In the summer, students don’t count against quorum but do count for it. In a virtual world, we expect that they will be able to attend meetings where in the past this wasn’t always possible in person during the summer months. The new students will be on GFC as soon as their terms allow.

6.3. GFC Convocation Committee – Spring 2021 Convocation Update

K. Massey updated General Faculties Council on the decisions made by the GFC Convocation Committee. They plan to have a virtual ceremony with Zoom celebrations but with on campus photo opportunities which we feel are important. There will be a convocation in a box. Change in celebration date is June 12 Saturday. We will release digital diplomas shortly there after. M. Mahon indicated that we all wish we could be face-to-face but that is not feasible. K, Massey mentioned that grads have up to three years to come back to attend convocation and to cross the stage.

6.4. GFC Executive Committee Report – February 22, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.5. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #533 – January 26, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2021.03.07

Spenceley/Ingraham

That the GFC meeting #553 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried