



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #557

Approved Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2021

3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: M. Mahon, (Chair), K. Alexander, L. Barrett, J. Blum, G. Bonifacio, R. Bright, N. Buis Deering, C. Carnaghan, B. Cummins, C. Currie, C. Devoy, J. Dobbie, P. Dutt, A. Dymond, C. Fleischman, I. Genee, P. Ghazalian, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, T. Harrison, M. Hawkins, M. Helstein, M. Ingraham, H. Jansen, D. Jarvie, L. Kennedy, M. Kildaw, H. Kletke, M. Letts, Y. Li, R. Lindblad, M. Magnuson, S. Malla, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Mattatall, I. McAdam, D. McIntyre, D. McMartin, A. Mendenhall, D. O'Donnell, E. Okine, D. Olsen, T. Oosterbroek, B. Parker, T. Patel, N. Rebry, J. Rice, D. Scott, M. Serebryansky, P. Shao, J. Sheriff, L. Spencer, C. Steinke, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, S. Urquhart, J. Victor, K. Walker, N. Walker, S. Wismath, R. Wood, R. Yalamova

Regrets: A. Dodd, O. Kovalchuk, G. Ogilvie, R. Parkkari, D. St. Georges, P. Wilson

Other: K. Fuglerud, J. Gallais, V. Grisack, T. Henschel, M. Kienzle, M. Mathurin-Moe, H. Mirau, S. Nieboer, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, A. Zovoilis

Oki. The President opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. A moment of silence was observed for Dr. Keith McCurdy, Professor Emeritus in Chemistry. Welcome was given to all new members and returning members. The President recognized Dena McMartin, Vice-President (Research), Robin Bright, Interim Dean of Education and Martha Mathurin-Moe, Executive Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion who were all joining us today.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2021.09.01

Oosterbroek/McIntyre

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #557 held Monday, September 13, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2021.09.02

Dutt/Patel

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #556 held Monday, June 7, 2021 and GFC Email Meeting #556.1 July 30, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- Return to Campus – We have been communicating about our return to campus approach. Thanks to W. Chalmet and T. Patel for all of their hard work on getting us back safely. We appreciate everyone's contributions. All updated information is available on the website. We made an announcement that we will go to mandatory vaccinations as of November 1st. It is in collaboration with several other institutions in Alberta. We are aware that some people will not be happy with this decision, but we feel that this is the best way to keep campus open. There are many faculty and staff as well, as students who are happy to be back on campus. The decision of November 1st was to move as quickly as possible to get people vaccinated. We had talked about January 1st as a possibility but decided that we needed to do it as soon as possible to keep our campus as safe as possible. The President believes that this is the right decision for our campus. Implications will unfold as we get closer to November 1st so some of the details are still in progress.
- Fall 2021 Enrolment - Fall 2021 total enrolment is currently 8,851 students as of a couple of days ago; this is a 1.2% decrease from the prior Fall enrolment of 8,955 students. The Fall 2021 forecast for total enrolment on September 21, 2021 is 8,879 students, down from Fall 2020 at 8,984 students. We were very concerned about enrolment but are happy with where our enrolment is sitting. Huge thanks to all the people who worked tirelessly to bring the students to campus, and the key is to keep them now. We know that we will lose some students due to the vaccination policy but we would also lose some due to a campus closure.
- Budget & Recommendations – You would have received the report on Friday. M. Mahon wanted the report provided to GFC members before the meeting today. Thanks to N. Walker and her colleagues for all of their work on the document. Out of all the discussions, N. Walker was able to derive five things that spoke to the themes with nine recommendations and a timeline to implement them. In terms of recommendations, some are at a level that requires more consultation. Some by necessity will require further discussion at the various governance level. Some are administrative decisions and we will move forward with them as we can. We are in the thick of Covid and some may suggest that we should slow down but we have a need to move forward. The President would rather have us dictate change instead of having it dictated to us.
- Indigenous Initiatives – Red Crow College & Old Sun Agreement. We have signed some really important agreements with these institutions that he wanted to highlight.
 - Red Crow Community College – agreement around research with collaboration with UofL including some 2+2 possibilities.

- Old Sun – agreement around academic programming. Work with Indigenous schools is continuing.
- Royal Society Inductees – Congratulations were given to Mary Kavanagh & Robert Sutherland – this is no easy feat, and we are excited for our colleagues to be recognized with this honor.
- Biophysical Society of Canada recognizes Dr. Trushar Patel with the 2021 Young Investigator Award
- Lots of things happening in the next few weeks but he wanted to highlight the National Day for Honouring Truth and Reconciliation Day on Sept 30th – special thanks to GFC for approving this change to the Academic Schedule over email this summer. There is work underway to recognize this event on September 29th as the University will close the next day.
- We still plan to have convocation in person. Thank you to H. Kletke, SU President and her team for their understanding the need to cancel for the safety of our campus some of the events they had planned for the return of students. We will continue to make decisions on the larger scale events as the fall unfolds and much will depend on how well we can control the environment.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- H. Kletke – Question on the vaccine mandate – What is the hybrid delivery model going to look like once that mandate is in place. If students fall ill, can they attend virtually. The President replied that students and faculty should stay home if they are ill and we will encourage the instructors to work with the students. We will need to refine the model, as we are not moving to a hybrid model for those who are not vaccinated. One option is if you can find online delivery of courses that you can take if you are not vaccinated. In particular, the University of Alberta has a similar position on this topic. The University of Calgary will not start their mandate until January.
- P. Dutt – Questions – I realized that the details may not be hashed out yet. How are we enforcing the mandate? Do they need to scan or show the QR codes? What happens if students choose not to vaccinate and are not exempt? What are their options? M. Mahon commented that we will continue to use the app. We don't know if we will need to require more information. We are mindful of any privacy requirements, and will continue with reviews on the use of the app. Faculty can ask to see the QR codes. Things are still being decided upon so can change. Students will have to make the choice to withdraw if they choose not to vaccinate and we were mindful of the add/drop date in that respect.
- A. Mendenhall – Going back to people with strong opinions. Are there any plans in place to protect our international students? M. Mahon stated that we want our students to feel safe on and off our campus. We need to check in with students, faculty, and staff to see how they are coping with being at an institution that has made this vaccination mandate decision. Constant communication is important. The communication team will be a large part of this conversation. It is important for people to be back on our campus. We must be part of the solution and part of the communications vehicle on why we are doing this.

- D. McIntyre – Thank you for all the work that people have done to make this as safe a return as possible. Will the app remove the students from our class lists when they don't meet the requirements? That is a technical question. M. Helstein reported that we have people working in the app and are gathering that info. The mechanics are still being determined but it will not be up to the faculty to do this. M. Mahon stated that we are trying to communicate on the positive side of this topic, being that vaccinations are effective.
- G. Bonifacio – Regarding enrolment and the reduction of 1.2%, Covid has opened up the online world. Have there been any discussions on creating an online presence. M. Mahon commented that that is happening at the faculty level with which courses can continue to be offered online. This is work that needs to continue to happen. Most feedback has been that they prefer the face-to-face experience. E. Okine used the example of Indian students who cannot travel to Canada due to travel restrictions, so accommodations are being made for them so that they do not get disadvantaged.
- M. Kildaw – Is there any concern of people not having the correct information on the app. The President commented that there were issues in the early days but nothing recently. M. Helstein reported that we can tell you that there are people who are dedicated to working through the information coming through the app. We will be getting a portal where the information from rapid testing will come directly from Shopper's and not from the students.
- D. O'Donnell – He commented that if you filled in the vaccination portion on the app but didn't have the proof you can't go back and update it. M. Mahon stated that we will check into that.
- M. Stingl – is there a percentage for people who have opted for rapid testing? M. Helstein reported that the numbers were provided on last Return to Campus newsletter. It was about 89% vaccinated and 11% rapid testing. The President stated that we want to be closer to 100% than 90%. Communication remains vital so continue to refer to the website for updates.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Appointed Members

MOTION:

gfc.2021.09.03

Okine/Mattatall

That General Faculties Council (GFC) approves the non-ex-officio appointed members to GFC for terms ending as noted below.

APPOINTED MEMBERS Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints) [Two-year terms staggered to provide continuity where possible (GFC Bylaws Part 2, E, 7)]

<i>Arts & Science</i>	<i>Stavroula Malla</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>Deric Olsen</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>
<i>Health Sciences</i>	<i>Tracy Oosterbroek</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>
<i>Library</i>	<i>David Scott</i>	<i>December 31, 2021</i>

APPOINTED GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBER (Nominated by Graduate Students Association) Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints)

Graduate Student Kayla Walker April 30, 2022

Graduate Student Chloe Devoy April 30, 2022

Motion: Carried

5.2. GFC Nominations Committee - Appointments

MOTION: gfc.2021.09.04

Stingl/Letts

That GFC Nominations Committee met on Aug 31, 2021 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees to fill committee vacancies.

GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee

- *Danny Balderson (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024)*

GFC Convocation Committee

- *Mary Greenshields (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

GFC Research Planning Committee

- *Chris Hopkinson, Sciences (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*
- *Bryson Brown, Humanities (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*
- *Debra Basil, Business (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

GFC Strategic Planning Committee

- *Mary Greenshields (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*
- *Louise Barrett (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

GFC Student Awards Committee

- *James Dobbie (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*
- *Marcus Dostie (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

Senate

- *David Scott (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

Motion: Carried

The President opened the nominations from the floor for the single Senate vacancy. One nomination was received to fill the position:

- *Rossitsa Yalamova (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023)*

MOTION: gfc.2021.09.05

Mattatall/Marynowski

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. GFC Executive Committee Member Nominations

J. Gallais highlighted that next GFC, we will need nominations from the floor for members to serve on the GFC Executive Committee. Interested individuals were encouraged to speak with any of the current members on the committee. There was a discussion on what constitutes an academic staff member and the definition is contained within the GFC Bylaws. It was noted that adding sessional to the definition is needed.

6.2. GFC Executive Committee Report – September 7, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.3. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes - #537 – June 28, 2021 Email Meeting, #537.1 – July 23, 2021 Email Meeting

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2021.09.06

Ingraham/Hawkins

That the GFC meeting #557 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried