



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #559

Approved Minutes

Monday, November 1, 2021

3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: M. Mahon, (Chair), K. Alexander, B. Badiuk, 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, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, T. Harrison, M. Helstein, H. Jansen, D. Jarvie, S. Johnsrude, L. Kennedy, M. Kildaw, H. Kletke, O. Kovalchuk, M. Letts, Y. Li, R. Lindblad, M. Magnuson, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Mattatall, I. McAdam, D. McMartin, D. O'Donnell, E. Okine, T. Oosterbroek, B. Parker, T. Patel, N. Rebry, J. Rice, A. Schultz, D. Scott, S. Scott, M. Serebryansky, P. Shao, J. Sheriff, L. Spencer, C. Steinke, A. Taylor, S. Urquhart, K. Walker, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood, R. Yalamova, A. Zovoilis

Regrets: A. Dodd, C. Fleischman, I. Genee, P. Ghazalian, S. Malla, D. McIntyre, G. Ogilvie, R. Parkkari, D. St. Georges

Other: K. Fuglerud, J. Gallais, V. Grisack, H. Mirau, R. Westlund, M. Whipple

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.01

Marynowski/Rice

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #559 held Monday, November 1, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.02

Massey/Kovalchuk

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #558 and #558.1 held October 4, 2021 and October 13, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- Return to Campus - Mandatory Vaccination on campus effective Nov 1st. We will be checking QR codes for approved status with increased checkpoints.
- Alumni Achievement Awards – Wonderful group to recognize:
 - Distinguished Alumnus of the Year
 - Bradley Hamilton (BMgt '88)
 - Young Alumna of the Year
 - Fern Leavens (BSc '13)
 - Alumni Honour Society
 - Rhonda Crow (BMgt '99, Certificate in Mgt '97)
 - Christine Dagenais (BMgt '04)
 - Raeleen Manjak (BA/BEd '92)
 - Robert Mein (BA '96)
 - Robert Tanguay (BSc '08)
 - Amy Whipple (BA '07)
- New deputy minister of Advanced Education, Laura Pillipow. This is her first appointment as Deputy Minister. M. Mahon had a couple of meetings with her. The government introduced Bill 74, Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act that opened the *Post-secondary Learning Act* last week– there are three key areas that are being considered - 1) focus on creating equality between external experience and academic experience across the various institutions. We need further discussion with government on the meaning of this. 2) They have done away with six-sector model and moved to a two sector model – one is universities and the other is colleges and polytechniques. The government has maintained the descriptors with the roles of institutions and differentiations still being there. There will be an advisory board introduced in the legislation that will provide some sort of high level direction for the province. 3) Commercialization and Research. Again what this means will be part of the discourse over the next few months. The government will be bringing in additional metrics that will tie into the Investment Management Agreement but we did very well with the work integrated learning (WIL) metric. We were the only institution in the province to have 100% of our students have WIL options available. We will work with government to help them understand the need to give us metrics that are beneficial to universities and colleges and enable them to address their agendas.
- The week of Nov. 22nd our Shine Campaign wrap up will be introduced.
- Modern Languages & Linguistics Speaker Series (Nov. 5th & 26th)
- Royal Society Celebration of Excellence Nov. 15 – 19th - Mary Kavanagh and Robert Sutherland. This event has moved online so we will do something as an institution to recognize them.
- Nominations for Excellence In Teaching (Dec. 1st) and Board Of Governors Teaching Chair (Nov. 26th)
- The University of Lethbridge permanently raised the Blackfoot confederacy flag in the 1st Choice Savings Centre at the recent Basketball games.
- Fall Reading Break Nov. 8 – 12th – this break is important for students and for all of us to have a chance to take a breather as well.

- Scarborough Charter Signing Nov. 18th which is the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Charter initiated by the University of Toronto that we will be participating in.
- IT Cyber Security Training due Nov. 19th. This is very important as the number of cyber attacks we have on a daily basis is astounding.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- T. Harrison – Really glad that you brought up Bill 74 – there is a section of the preamble that changes the focus of post secondary from affordable, accessible and high quality to the emphasis on training to get jobs. This section should be of great concern to all of us in academia. Advisory council is another concern – current administrators or faculty will be prohibited in having any role in the advisory body. The previous iteration of the proposed board was highly stacked with business people mostly based outside of Alberta. How do you propose to oppose some of the proposals made in this document? M. Mahon responded that you have identified a number of concerns. The previous iteration that the government was proposing in their Alberta 2030 document was worse with regards to autonomy and GFC by extension was very much at risk. In the current version, the role of GFC is maintained at the institutional level but there is a role for this council as it relates at the macro level of post secondary in the province. We are in discussion with other institutions on the metrics and potentially a challenge of academic freedom with regards to individual researchers to pursue their research. We have our work cut out for us. Related to the first point – it is important for the students to recognize the change in language in relation to affordability and access. E. Okine emphasized what the President said. We were given Bill 74 and were told to meet with minister on the same day it was read in the legislature. We are not sure where they are going with this system review. We are pushing back together with other comprehensive academic research universities (CARUs) as much as we can at the president and provost levels.
- G. Bonifacio – Re: application of Bill 74 that is aligned with Alberta 2030 and building skills for jobs. It is problematic in the way how skills are defined. How do we align ourselves in terms of skills for Alberta 2030 metrics or job performances? M. Mahon commented that the government has posed a question in some of the initial documents we have seen – the definition of skills, jobs, how jobs are related to general skills vs subject knowledge. There is much work to be done on our part to align the notion of skills and what a university delivers for skills. How does the government define skills becomes critical in how we align ourselves. This right now is very unclear. We are pushing hard to get definitions for various terms - either there are no definitions or they are very vague definitions. E. Okine stated that at a meeting on Friday with the provosts that the skills and competency are very loosely principled in liberal education. The other universities are coming to the same conclusions that the four pillars of liberal education should be at the core in terms of jobs for the future.
- J. Mather mentioned the Conference Board of Canada's employability skills are often used as the standard. Their skills almost completely align with our four pillars of Liberal Education.
- D. Scott – Can you repeat the six categories of proposed metrics? M. Mahon repeated that the ones that are punitive are work-integrated learning, jobs, admin expense ratio,

domestic enrolment, internationalization, and commercialization and research. We will be pushing back hard and are hoping that some of these categories will be transformed or removed as we moved forward.

- T. Harrison – There is nothing wrong with trying to lobby the government. It is suspected that the government knows the statistics from the Conference Board of Canada and their own departmental statistics show that liberal education is a job winner. It is difficult to lobby the government directly because we are sometimes perceived as the fat cats. We need people in the broader community to help us with the loss of students. We need help in getting the governments attention because they have their own agenda. Is the chair considering writing op eds informing and educating the community at large on what the universities do? M. Mahon commented that it is challenging as presidents to continue to lobby the government as they are often perceived as the talking heads who have vested interest in what we are talking about. We do use board and senate members to help us lobby. We just had a session at the last board retreat where we discussed messaging. He encouraged members of GFC to also engage in lobbying the various people in their networks. There is an unending need to engage with government as there are things that are not in the best interest of our students in this document.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Nominations Committee Appointments

E. Okine went over the needs of the nomination committee. Four (4) Academic Staff Members are needed, who are current members of Council, selected by Council (following Executive Committee election procedures). Council shall try to ensure diversity of Faculty or School representation where possible.

The floor was opened for nominations for the following:

- Yutao Li, (immediately - Nov. 14, 2022)
- Greg Ogilvie, (immediately - Nov. 14, 2022)
- Trushar Patel, (immediately - Nov. 6, 2023)
- David Scott, (immediately - Nov. 6, 2023)

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.03

Marynowski/Rice

That all nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

Thanks to B. Cummins for agreeing to take on the role of chair.

5.2. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Reports

Implementation May 1, 2022

School of Liberal Education

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.04
Wismath/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve the creation of a new minor in Information and Communications.

Motion: Carried

Dhillon School of Business
MOTION: gfc.2021.11.05
Godfrey/Dutt

That General Faculties Council approve the deletion of courses from the Indigenous Governance and Business Management major requirements and minor.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Education
MOTION: gfc.2021.11.06
Bright/Badiuk

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #3 - #6 for the Faculty of Education from the CCC report for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Arts and Science
MOTION: gfc.2021.11.07
Letts/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the major in Indigenous Studies/Indigenous Studies Education for the B.A./B.Ed.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Health Sciences
MOTION: gfc.2021.11.08
Wood/Oosterbroek

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #8 - #10 for the Faculty of Health Sciences from the CCC report for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

School of Graduate Studies

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.09

Rice/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #11 - #21 for School of Graduate Studies from the CCC report for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

Student Enrolment and Registrar's Services

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.10

Buis Deering/Kildaw

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #22 - #29 for Student Enrolment and Registrar's Services from the CCC report for implementation May 1, 2022.

Motion: Carried

Implementation May 1, 2023

Student Enrolment and Registrar's Services

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.11

Buis-Deering/Godfrey

That General Faculties Council approve the adjustment to registration limits for the Dhillon School of Business.

Motion: Carried

Pending Ministerial Approval

Faculty of Arts & Science

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.12

Letts/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve the introduction of a new Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) degree program with a major in Agricultural Infrastructure Engineering, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

School of Graduate Studies

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.13

Rice/Dutt

That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #2 - #5 for School of Graduate Studies from the CCC report pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

Student Enrolment and Registrar's Services

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.14

Buis-Deering/Helstein

That General Faculties Council approve addition of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Data Science; Graduate Diploma in Management Research to the Resident Requirements and Time Limits chart in the Academic Regulations section in the Graduate Calendar, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

5.3. GFC Admission Standards Committee Report

School of Graduate Studies

MOTION: gfc.2021.11.15

Rice/Kovalchuk

That GFC approve the implementation of three intakes per year for the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical study of Addiction, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. Faculties Structures Update

E. Okine introduced that he and M. Helstein will be giving an update at each GFC meeting. They are still in the process of preparing for the presentations. The information that they will present will be projected savings and other intended benefits of the recommendations as well as the pros and cons of the recommendation. It will be on the structure and not on the programs of studies. The presentations will start in November and end in December. The zoom links are on the GFC SharePoint site and any updates will be added there. The information gathered will be added to the SharePoint so that you have access to them there. The Provost followed this information with a discussion with GFC members. Clarification was asked for regarding the Liberal Education presentation dates. The Dean responded that

E. Okine and M. Helstein will come speak to the people who teach liberal education courses on November 17th. They will then present to the whole faculty council on December 15th. There was robust discussion on who, how and what type of feedback is being sought and if there will be any information given before the presentations. Questions were also asked about the type of documents relating to the presentation being circulated to the various faculty councils before the meetings take place with suggestions that it be circulated like agenda materials. Concerns on the gathering of feedback were noted, especially in relation to groups that may not feel comfortable in some of the methods discussed. M. Mahon commented that the purpose of having this session every GFC meeting is to gather the feedback from each meeting. Administration needs to refine the process and the goal is to listen to your input and synthesize what they have heard and refine the process. The form for feedback was brought up with M. Helstein adding that this created more questions on how to gather the input. What is the most appropriate way to get feedback? Where should it be vetted through? These were some of the pieces that they were hoping to get answers for at the faculty council meetings. They are working on a template but did not want to finalize it before the presentation because they did not want to close the door on the breadth of the conversations. Another member noted that the inclusive approach to gathering information was appreciated especially as a non-academic member of council. There was another discussion on feedback to close the discussion. It was asked if there would be some sort of forum for students to add their thoughts to the process. E. Okine commented that there are representatives on all the faculty councils and they want to ensure that they meet the mandate for our students. We need to hear from both graduate and undergraduate students. It was noted by the Chair that once we process the feedback, that the intent is that the information will come back to GFC for information and discussion prior to it coming to GFC for approval of the final recommendation. M. Helstein ended the discussion by commenting that this will be a regular item on the GFC agenda and that they are filling members in as they go through the process. This process is developing as they move forward and they will continue to keep GFC informed.

6.2.GFC Executive Committee Report – October 25, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.3. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes - #539 – September 27, 2021 and #540 October 7, 2021 Meetings

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

gfc.2021.11.16

Scott/Mather

That the GFC meeting #559 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried