



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #561

Approved Minutes

Monday, February 7, 2022

3:00 p.m. Zoom

- Present:** M. Mahon, (Chair), K. Alexander, B. Badiuk, L. Barrett, J. Blum, G. Bonifacio, R. Bright, N. Buis Deering, C. Carnaghan, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, C. Currie, S. Dauncey, C. Devoy J. Dobbie, A. Dodd, P. Dutt, A. Dymond, A. Ebenmelu, P. Ghazalian, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, T. Harrison, M. Helstein, H. Jansen, D. Jarvie, S. Johnsrude, P. Kellett, L. Kennedy, H. Kletke, O. Kovalchuk, M. Letts, Y. Li, R. Lindblad, R. Marynowski, M. Magnuson, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Mattatall, I. McAdam, D. McIntyre, D. McMartin, D. O'Donnell, G. Ogilvie, E. Okine, T. Oosterbroek, B. Parker, R. Parkkari, T. Patel, N. Rebry, J. Rice, A. Schultz, D. Scott, S. Scott, M. Serebryansky, P. Shao, J. Sheriff, D. St. Georges, A. Taylor, S. Urquhart, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood, R. Yalamova, A. Zovoilis
- Regrets:** I. Genee, K. Godfrey, H. Jansen, M. Kildaw, S. Malla, M. Nixon, L. Spencer, C. Steinke, K. Walker
- Other:** T. Burg, M. Frank, K. Fuglerud, J. Gallais, V. Grisack, A. Iwaniuk, M. Kavanagh, M. Kienzle, K. Masuda, M. Mathurin-Moe, H. Mirau, C. Nicol, A. Perry, L. Shade, C. Takeyasu, S. Weinkauff, S. Webber, M. Whipple

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2022.02.01

Massey/Schultz

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #561 held Monday, February 7, 2022 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2022.02.02

Dutt/Mattatall

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #560 held Monday, December 13, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- Labour relations – work continues on this, consult bargaining website for more details.
- Return to Campus Update – online classes continue until Feb 28th; Employees encouraged to work from home.
- Spring 2022 Enrolment – as of Feb 1st, 7,952 registrants; compared to Feb 2021 at 8,318 registrants. Numbers are down 831 students from last year at this time. There is a financial impact to this that N. Walker will speak to.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – Diversity Metre survey launched Jan 25th; Feb 1st saw the kickoff to Black History Month. Congratulations to the EDI Scholars – Glenda Bonifacio, Roy Golsteyn, Sandra Dixon; The program was established in 2021 and is designed to acknowledge and support individuals involved in EDI work at the scholarly level.
- Two Canada Research Chairs were recognized – Jean-Denys Hamel in Chemistry/Bio Chemistry; Steve Wiseman in Biological Sciences
- Blood Tribe Department Health – discussion on partnership and memorandum of understanding between us for health science perspectives. The Mastercard Foundation is interested in funding this project.
- Science Commons – LEED Gold Status for the first time for one of our infrastructure projects.
- Presidential Search – committee has been formed and website launched.
- Bob Dhillon (benefactor and honorary degree recipient) was inducted as an Officer to the Order of Canada
- Fine Arts introduces Spirit Award – Terry Whitehead continues to be a big supporter of the UofL with this latest gift for Indigenous Student art; \$2500 award
- Feb 28th Kickoff Indigenous Awareness Week (UL)

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- G. Bonifacio – Thank you for your congratulations. Thank you to M. Mathurin-Moe for the implementation of Black History Month. With decreasing enrolment – what plans do we have for lessons learned from online learning? Can we find different modality for online courses or programs to offset physical enrolment which may have benefits? M. Mahon stated that most of the decrease is due to Covid. There is some merit to looking at online benefits of course delivery. The majority of students are looking for an in-person experience. E. Okine suggested that geography has a big impact. Rural universities have had more issues than institutions like UofA and UofC. We continue to do the best we can to get students to come here to the UofL. K. Massey and her team have been working hard on this.
- B. Cummins - please explain why we moved Navitas off today's agenda. M. Mahon explained that at GFC Executive it was discussed that this is a highly formed data

presentation, and it was determined that we would not have time to have such fulsome discussion as is necessary. It will be presented in March GFC.

- O. Kovalchuk commented that regarding enrolment, reaching out globally is a viable alternative for us. Before Covid, there was interest from Russia and Ukraine to have an exchange program. The interest is still there, and she would be willing to help facilitate conversations. We have a strong program here and there is lots of interest to bring students in. M. Mahon responded that we are interested and that M. Helstein and P. Pan will follow up to see how we can activate that conversation.
- B. Badiuk – on the declining enrolment, is it tied to specific faculties or is it across the board. K. Massey responded that the decline is among domestic students at the undergrad level and cuts across all faculties. Most of our students come from outside of Lethbridge and some transferred back to institutions in their hometowns or larger urban institutions. M. Mahon commented that it is less about programming and more about Covid. Students are choosing not to go away to school, taking a gap year or staying close to home
- P. Wilson mentioned that his comment may not be appropriate here but he is concerned that financial compensation, protocols and procedures for elders needs to be addressed. We are developing the Iniskim Governance Process and part of that governance model will be a GFC committee to look at these questions. The process has evolved but hasn't addressed yet what you are asking about.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. Budget Update

N. Walker gave a very short presentation beginning by thanking the financial planning/services team for their work on the budget. Enrolment is a concern of everyone on camps and everyone is working hard to get this to bounce back. Covid has hit the university hard. We now must find \$6.4 million in savings/reductions to balance the budget. We have some ideas on strategies and N. Walker reported that we are using all strategies so that we can maintain the workforce that we have. N. Walker went over the various strategies and the benefits of how they can benefit us. There was a suggestion of a hiring restraint and once we can realize the savings in the budget task forces, we can replace the vacant positions. E. Okine mentioned that the budget cuts, the system review, and Covid have all impacted us. We must look at sustainability and have a balanced budget. Four new members were added to the budget advisory committee – this information was emailed out to everyone. There was discussion on recent meetings with the government, funding reserves and what we can expect for metrics.

5.2. Iniskim Governance Process

E. Okine introduced the new process with some background information. H. Mirau introduced the Iniskim Governance Process document that was recently approved by the GFC - Iniskim Education Committee. Both the President and Provost were thanked for their support as well as M. Frank, L. Shade and S. Webber for their work on the document. We want to increase indigenous governance process on the campus. M. Frank commented that the UofL has been the centrepiece of Blackfoot education – the governance model is reflecting the core beliefs of teaching and learning at the university. L. Shade spoke to the process and thanks to H. Mirau for her work in aligning our

processes here at the UofL. We want to make sure that our Indigenous students are set up for success. S. Webber commented that the Governance process will provide the framework for moving forward in a holistic way. This is a living document, and we don't want to miss any pieces that we have done in the past while moving forward with the process. There was discussion by the committee of where Iniskim is placed in the organization chart. There was strong support to bring forward a motion of endorsement of the document.

MOTION: gfc.2022.02.03

Scott/Wismath

That GFC endorse the submitted document as attached.

Motion: Carried

5.3. Delegated New Program Approval Status

M. Helstein introduced the new program approval status thanking N. Freiheit and K. Masuda for their work. Campus Alberta Quality Council is giving some institutions the ability to bypass the approval status if they have a review process in place. The UofL is one of those institutions. It will be similar to the academic quality assurance process and will audit the programs every seven years. A new programming review committee will be created and it doesn't change any of the existing internal structures. They will be charged with ensuring the CAQC processes have been met so that we don't have to submit the materials to the CAQC. The members discussed the timelines for establishing the committee and where GFC fits into the structure.

5.4. Faculty Structures Update

E. Okine gave a brief update on the faculty structures process. All the presentations are done, and the draft fair summary is being worked on which will then go to GFC Executive as well as to the three other members who are representing those non-academic staff groups. There were 487 responses in total and the general timeline will be at least another two weeks before it goes to GFC Executive and the others for review to make sure it is a fair summary. Today is mostly a process update on where we are at.

5.5. GFC Executive Committee Report – January 31, 2022

The report as well as the GFC Meeting Schedule for the next year were received as information. No questions raised. M. Mahon thanked J. Gallais and V. Grisack for getting things together in a timely manner.

5.6. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes - #541 – December 6, 2021 Meeting

Received as information. No questions raised.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2022.02.04

Massey/Schultz

That the GFC meeting #561 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried