



Monday, September 12, 2022

3:00 p.m. in W646

Present: M. Mahon, (Chair), L. Barrett, Y. Belanger, R. Bello, K. Bhatt, G. Bonifacio, R. Boon, R. Bright, N. Buis Deering, L. Chong, C. Carnaghan, B. Cummins, G. DeSteur, J. Devos, C. Devoy, J. Dobbie, A. Dodd, A. Dymond, S. Findlay, P. Ghazalian, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, K. Haight, M. Helstein, C. Hosgood, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, P. Kellett, L. Kennedy, E. Koo, I. Kovalchuk, O. Kovalchuk, M. Letts, S. Malla, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, I. McAdam, D. McMartin, D. O'Donnell, E. Okine, T. Oosterbroek, N. Patel, J. Pickle, R. Preston, Y. Raza, N. Rebry, J. Rice, J. Sadr, K. Schwartz, D. Scott, Sam Scott, Sh. Scott, C. Skiba, L. Spencer, C. Steinke, D. St. Georges, M. Stingl, N. Thakor, M. Thomas, S. Thomas, S. Urquhart, A. von Heyking, N. Walker, H. Warraich, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, L. Zink, A. Zovoilis

Regrets: D. McIntyre, D. Slomp

Other: J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Mathurin-Moe, M. Whipple

Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. A moment of Silence was observed for the tragedy at James Smith Cree Nation where many lives were lost and affected by this tragedy, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, Dr. A. Barnhill, a former faculty member and donor, Dr. D. Jurisich, a former faculty member, and R. Tworowski, a much-cherished caretaking employee.

The Chair welcomed all the new GFC members and noted that it is a pleasure to have everyone back in person.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the September 12, 2022 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #565 – June 6, 2022 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – September 7, 2022
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #546 – May 30, 2022 & #547 – June 27, 2022 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2022.09.01

Scott/Jansen

That the General Faculties Council approve the September 12, 2022 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

The president introduced the consent agenda and how this works in the meetings. The Board has been using this style for many years.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- Welcome back. Covid has not gone away so we will be carefully watching and managing being back on campus.
- Return to Campus and in person classes with Sept 7th as the first day.
- Very successful New Student Orientation was held in person. Congratulations to K. Massey and her team.
- Fall 2022 total enrolment forecast is currently 8,281 students; this is a 5.7% decrease in domestic student enrolment from the prior Fall enrolment of 8,779 students. 50% of the international students have been able to get their visa. There is a push on the federal government to speed up processing time as we are at risk if the visas are not processed in a timely manner. We may have them start remotely and then come when their visas are approved. This is being monitored closely. Post-covid students are not as inclined to leave the city they are from and the labour disruption last spring has also had an impact.
- ULethbridge Connect – new student newsletter; to share content there is a link in the August 22nd issue of UWeekly; Student Enrolment and Registrar Services (SEARS) is the contact.
- New Academic Staff Collective Agreement – available online
- Dean Gallimore was appointed the Board Chair effective June 29th; Gallimore, who becomes the University's 11th Board Chair after being a board member and chair of the finance committee, spent 28 years with local accounting firm KPMG, the final 12 years as the office managing partner before retiring in 2012. Born and raised in Lethbridge, he quickly made a name for himself in the accounting field. Gallimore was an Alberta bronze medalist and placed on the Canadian Honour Role for the 1986 Uniform Final Examinations (having placed in the top 20 of approximately 3,600 candidates).
- Navitas – As you know we have been exploring a potential partnership with Navitas over the past two years. This is nearing completion.
 - This has included opportunities to hear broadly from all constituent groups on campus, including Faculty Councils, sessions of GFC, student groups, etc.
 - That input directly informed evidence-based assessment and structuring of a proposed partnership
 - At the October GFC, we will be bringing forward the details of a proposed partnership for information and input from GFC.

- Following that, information and input on the proposed partnership will sought from the Board.
- Final sign off a partnership contract with Navitas would fall to me (as President) as per our governance. The input of GFC and the Board will affect how and if the President decides to move forward with an agreement.
- Should a partnership be signed, there will be additional consultative work to do with ULFA (if they wish) and the ULSU (if they wish)
- Detailed information on the proposed partnership will be provided in the October GFC agenda package, in advance of the meeting.
- May 22nd Mayor Hyggen visited Campus to understand more about the research that is happening at the UofL.
- June 20th Pride Flag Raising which was a wonderful event.
- Aug 26th Community Stadium Dedication; New Turf that includes high school and university logos
- Sept 14th Welcome Back BBQ SC Atrium
- Sept 16th Horns Golf Tourney, men's and women's basketball
- Sept 17th Horns Triple Header – Men's & Women's soccer; Women's Rugby
- Sept 22nd Grand Opening of Iikaisskini Gathering Space; off UCA Atrium – we have been waiting to open this so he encourages all of you to attend the opening.
- Sept 30th National Day for Honouring Truth and Reconciliation; and to provide space and time for reflection, there will be no classes and University offices will be closed on Sept. 30th. As this is federally proposed, there are different approaches to how to celebrate the day.

3. QUESTION PERIOD

- D. Scott – any updates on the status of the PSLA? The President commented that the membership has been announced and they are beginning to do the work. The first focus is to look at transferability for all students to all institutions. Work around deconsolidation of institutions around the province which gives them more autonomy in their boards. The government is still looking at who may meet their criteria; however, we have not seen the criteria yet.
- D. O'Donnell – June 28th memo about the Dean searches that will be happening internally. Is that still on track? M. Mahon commented that the searches will be starting this fall. The committees will be struck and there is a strong recommendation to stay internal, but it will be left to the committee to decide if we need to go external. The decision is made by the fiscal situation of the university and that we have many talented people here to draw from. We need to be able to continue to be fiscally stable and that there are people on campus which have good leadership skills. E. Okine commented that we have created shared leadership positions such as K. Godfrey taking the leadership responsibilities of the Calgary campus. The consolidation of the Associate Vice-President Research and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. There was further discussion if we are doing this before the new president, will they be in place for the whole term of the president. The president responded that this will be a decision by the committee that if there isn't a strong candidate, that they will move to external. This is the result of us having to make difficult decisions from the budget.

- J. Mather – if we promote deans from internally, will the vacant position be filled. E. Okine stated that if the dean feels that their position needs to be filled, it will be filled. J. Mather followed up with the comment that we say that internal candidates will have priority. M. Mahon commented that this is a good advice.
- G. Bonifacio – as we move to hybrid, do we have a meeting resource to capture everyone in the room and mentioned the owl camera they are using in Japan. What are the aspirations of Lethbridge College to become a polytechnic – what is the challenge to the UofL? Are they doing something to increase programming and enrolment? M. Mahon reported that the implications of Lethbridge College being a polytechnic is that programming that has been collaborative could become potential competitive and that could be challenging. Related to that we continue to explore new and innovative programming. The motivation to do this if they were a polytechnic, it would be challenging and the collaboration would decrease if we are competing for the same students. If we are trying to promote collaboration, this is going against that. N. Walker responded to the first comment saying that we have tried various bits of technology in this room to make the experience better for members.
- O. Kovalchuk – This is working really well with the technology. Thank you for all the discussions/help etc. with displaced people from the Ukraine. We as a university can make a large contributions and bring more people to our classes as people are interested in what we have to offer. Thank you for being supportive of that.
- D. O'Donnell – there is a strong argument for looking outside of Lethbridge for candidates. At what point are you planning on asking for input. M. Mahon commented that we are at GFC and so is looking for input. The committee's perview is in selecting committee members and finding strong candidates that are internal.
- R. Preston - We are looking at reducing some costs that are not teaching related and putting those resources back into teaching. The commitment by the government to continue to see less resources go to post-secondary institutions and have them come up with more money on their own. Small student to faculty ratios are a concern as it is a major draw for new student recruitment. If these ratios get larger, the UofL then has no draw over other universities in the province.
- L. Barrett – What are the bylaw changes being made? J. Gallais commented that it is mostly clean up in language for clarity in some areas, adding Diversity, GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee requested a change, some committee membership and editorial changes. L. Barrett asked for an update on ethics person. D. McMartin mentioned there will be a new ethics officer as one individual moved into a new position. By February next year, the Vice-President (Research) will want feedback on repatriating the ethics officer here or working with the UofA but either way, we will be keeping ARISE. The new position will be focussing on animal ethics.
- L. Zink – with regards to MACCHES (government PSLA advisory body to Minister) – there is no process for any student input to get our voices heard. The president commented that they have lobbied hard to have student representation. M. Mahon stated that a student voice would be effective. There is such a challenge with this government being Edmonton, Calgary and north centric. E. Okine has asked for an audience with the Deputy Minister to discuss membership emphasizing that we need student voices at the table.

- G. DeSteur – where is the decrease in enrolment. K. Massey reported that enrolment stands at 8260 with international enrolment up 31% and Calgary enrolment is up as well. The Lethbridge campus is the place where we are feeling the pinch. Indigenous enrolment is down 7% as well. Graduate enrolment is also down slightly. M. Mahon reported that our partner Red Crow College is opening their brand new building in October and one of their goals is to have more of their students to stay on their campus. Indigenous student numbers are increasing but the funding for these students has not increased in decades.
- C. Steinke – we are not mentioning the non-academic staff like we need to. We need to be careful to not burn out the people who are left. M. Mahon stated that it is an important point. We reduced our workforce by ten percent. We need to look at how and when we offer programming.
- R. Preston – Navitas is nearing completion and we are looking at internal decanal searches- the disconnect is frustrating and is very concerned. M. Mahon commented that the intent is to present the benefits and costs of Navitas – we believe the benefits outweigh the costs. We know that we are far below other institutions on international students. We believe that they will bring sources of income to increase resources. M. Mahon wants to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to look at the information.
- L. Spencer – can there be a discussion on the internal searches at the October meeting.
- D. O'Donnell – Could we propose a motion that GFC has input in the October meeting or will it be too late to influence the committee. M. Mahon said the committee won't meet until after GFC meets in October.
- A. Zovolis – in discussion that some people are leaving the universities. How serious is the issue of leaving the universities. M. Mahon and E. Okine will get some information.
- J. Mather – has a decision been made on Navitas. M. Mahon said no, we will be bringing our findings and data collection back to GFC and then the Board. Members will have an input to whether the President will sign off or not.
- K. Massey added that with so many new members, she wanted to let them know that this conversation about Navitas has been discussed at GFC many times and will come again. This has been an ongoing conversation for a long time now.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1. GFC Appointed Members

MOTION: gfc.2022.09.02

Okine/Zink

That General Faculties Council approves the following slate of appointed members:

APPOINTED MEMBERS [13] 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, 2024</i>
<i>Arts & Science</i>	<i>Javid Sadr</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>Gloria Tian♦</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
	<i>♦Hamza Warraich July 1 – Dec 31, 2022</i>	
<i>Business</i>	<i>Vishaal Baulkaran♦</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
	<i>♦EunJun Koo July 1 - Dec 31, 2022</i>	
<i>Education</i>	<i>Richelle Marynowski</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>David Slomp</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>Rolf Boon</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>
<i>Health Sciences</i>	<i>Robert Williams♦</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
	<i>♦Claudia Steinke July - Dec 31, 2022</i>	
	<i>♦Janice Victor Jan – June 30, 2023</i>	
<i>Liberal Education</i>	<i>Kaylan Schwarz</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>
<i>Library</i>	<i>David Scott</i>	<i>June 30, 2024</i>

♦Denotes Leave replacements

Motion: Carried (2 opposed)

It was asked if the faculties appoint these people. It was indicated that these people are appointed by each faculty process.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. GFC Nominations Committee – Nominations Needed

B. Cummins introduced the topic and mentioned that some weblinks were problematic and the form will be sent out again. He highly encouraged members to talk to other committee members to have input on the committees. The Chair stated that at times we struggle to get these vacancies filled so he also encourages nominations. B. Cummins asked that GFC make it hard for the committee by having numerous nominations to discuss.

5.2. GFC Executive Committee – Members Needed

J. Gallais reported that GFC Executive is staffed in a different process. We ask for nominations from the floor at GFC. There will be a call for three positions at the October meeting. We encourage you to come forth with nominations that are willing to let their names stand. People were encouraged to have discussions with member prior to the meeting and the President stated when the process happens, if only the number required comes forth, they will be acclaimed but if there are more, then there will be a vote. J. Gallais asked that members make sure that they are mindful of the member's term left on GFC.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

K. Massey reminded members of the first in person career fair happening on September 22nd. We are excited to do this in person after such a long break. There are lots of jobs available.

G. Bonifacio commented that the boardroom is too small and asked if we could we look at a bigger room.

S. Findlay mentioned that the Calgary campus members do not have the opportunity to join the meetings so could this be looked at to accommodate virtually if requested.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2022.09.03

Massey/DeSteur

That the GFC meeting of September 12, 2022 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried