



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #571

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

**3:00 p.m. in W646**

- Present:** M. Mahon, (Chair), L. Barrett, V. Baulkaran, R. Bello, K. Bhatt, R. Boon (virtually), G. Bonifacio, R. Bright, N. Buis Deering, L. Burckes, J. Burke, C. Carnaghan, G. DeSteuer, J. Devos (virtually), C. Devoy, J. Dobbie, A. Dymond, S. Findlay, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood (virtually), K. Haight, M. Helstein, C. Hosgood, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, P. Kellett (virtually), L. Kennedy, I. Kovalchuk (virtually), O. Kovalchuk (virtually), M. Letts, A. Martin (virtually), R. Marynowski, I. McAdam, D. McMartin, D. O'Donnell, E. Okine, J. Pickle, R. Preston (virtually), Y. Raza, N. Rebry, J. Sadr, D. Slomp, L. Spencer, D. St. Georges (virtually), N. Thakor (virtually), M. Thomas, G. Tian (virtually), S. Urquhart, J. Victor, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath (virtually), J. Youngdahl (virtually), L. Zink (virtually), A. Zovoilis (virtually)
- Regrets:** Y. Belanger, A. Dodd, P. Ghazalian, S. Malla, K. Massey, D. McIntyre, T. Oosterbroek, N. Patel, J. Rice, K. Schwarz, D. Scott, Sam Scott, Sh. Scott, C. Skiba, M. Stingl, S. Thomas, A. von Heyking
- Other:** J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Mathurin-Moe, A. Piekema, M. Whipple  
(other guests were present on Zoom)

*Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. A moment of silence was observed for Dr. Shigeru (Sam) Kounosu, former physics professor, who passed away February 6<sup>th</sup> at the age of 94.*

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### 1. CONSENT AGENDA

#### APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the March 6, 2023 Meeting #571 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #570 – February 6, 2023 Minutes

#### INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – February 27, 2023
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #552 – January 30, 2023

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.01

Bhatt/Marynowski

*That the General Faculties Council approve the March 6, 2023 Consent Agenda with editorial change in the agenda.*

Motion: Carried

There was a short discussion regarding the CCC and ASC reports formats and GFC Executive will discuss this at their next meeting.

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## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

M. Mahon reported:

- AB 2023 Provincial Budget – Operating Grant was not reduced but also not increased; we will receive funds to begin exploring the potential for retrofitting University Hall; Mental Health supports and funding for accommodated learning initiatives stayed the same. The planning for the rehabilitation of University Hall will begin now with a re-envisioning of the building. It is a challenge especially because of the asbestos.
- Provost Search – Fully underway with the first meeting on Wednesday. President Mahon to chair with advice from incoming President Jayas who also will be a voting member as the Board appointee until July 1, 2023. The Board has identified an alternate when D. Jayas would take over as chair.
- Dean Searches – continued work on the various searches; candidate public presentations for Fine Arts, and Education are taking place.
- Indigenous Awareness Week (IAW) - March 6 – 10th
  - March 6<sup>th</sup> - Naming Ceremony for E. Okine, M. Whipple, M. Mathurin Moe, K. Godfrey
  - March 8<sup>th</sup> - Wes Olson, author, on campus; Buffalo Treaty Signing – UL Signatory.
  - Various events around campus (see schedule online); M. Mahon encouraged members to attend events
- Fall 2023 Projected Enrolment - 8,329 (Fall 2022 8,263) which is a 0.8 % change; International has almost doubled enrolment.
- President's Award for Service Excellence – current campaign closes March 17<sup>th</sup> - encourage people to nominate worthy staff members.
- Nominations for SNAC+ Award in EDI Excellence – The Support Network for Academics of Colour Plus (SNAC+) invites nominations for the 2023 SNAC+ Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The award recognizes outstanding contributions of an individual or organization in equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice promotion in the community. Deadline to nominate is March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - Secret 3K run which has been organized by the Lethbridge Rotaract club supporting women's rights. Originally done by Afghan women and the Secret run is done in honour of them.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - RBC Family and Small Business Summit
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Meeting of the Minds – Graduate Students' Association

## **3. QUESTION PERIOD**

- B. Hughes – questioned funding on targeted areas of enrolment. M. Mahon noted there will be new hires in those areas where there are funds. M. Helstein reported that there were 3 proposals – supply chain, nursing, and computer science which were

included. B. Hughes asked how this affects retirements. M. Mahon commented that it allows us to look at replacement funding. E. Okine commented that those are targeted so if you don't have the competencies then you have to hire. You will have the resources to recruit in that area. If we have competencies, we can use the money to other areas. N. Walker reported that the government has extended that program to a fourth year for a three-year program. M. Helstein stated that the funding has not rolled into base funding so it was nice that we were able to get a fourth year to finish a four-year program. B. Hughes asked if this is for new hires or replacements. His department is losing 2-3 people who they don't know if they are going to be replaced. There have been discussions with the deans who are meeting with departments to see which areas need replacements. M. Mahon commented that we are lobbying to get new money to replace positions but that this is a tough lobby.

- G. Bonifacio – re: budget implications for student enrolment - are we expecting increases in students and international education? M. Mahon replied that the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) vision document still stands. The challenge in looking at enrolment funding is only part of the solution. Funding only covers a third of the cost so it is a balancing act to recruit and then support students. We need to maintain the previous vision for the university which is a collective vision.
- R. Boon – re: delaying the request for the staffing plan - it is March and by the time we go about the staffing process it will be April which only gives us four months to hire. It is not a good search to be limited in that way. E. Okine commented that there are areas of opportunity in timelines. There were consultations with the deans to see what they need in their area. We will try hard to make the decisions as quickly as we can.
- K. Bhatt – what the effects on the students and tuition - the Students' Union is engaged in conversation with all 26 institutions in the province. There are long term solutions for short term problems. The cap is not enough when the government isn't investing enough to keep the programs good.
- G. DeSteuer – accommodated learning funding has remained stagnant but the program is growing - what is the plan for the UofL? The funding has remained stagnant but we are looking at other ways to help. Accommodated Learning needs are rising, mental health needs are rising, recruiting of staff is a challenge. The money all goes into one bucket and the challenge is in covering everything. We have lost a quarter of our budget in the last four years. The lobbying has been falling on deaf ears. M. Mahon encouraged people to talk to the MLAs, friends and family. N. Walker commented that the funding hasn't increased significantly; however, the university is investing in the accommodated learning centre with capital.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

##### **4.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report Implementation May 1, 2024**

##### **Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION:

gfc.2023.03.02

Godfrey/DeSteuer

*That General Faculties Council approve the addition of FINC 3600 to the list of Finance electives.*

Motion: Carried

**School of Liberal Education**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.03

Wismath/Bhatt

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #2 – #4 for the School of Liberal Education for implementation May 1, 2024.*

Motion: Carried

The changes will help manage the list requirements that are coming forward.

**Implementation pending ministerial approval.**

**Faculty of Fine Arts**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.04

Dobbie/Thomas

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 – #2 for the Faculty of Fine Arts, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

In regards to the suspension of Arts major, there was discussion if there were other ways to save the program. J. Dobbie commented that neither department has the resources for this but the Faculty still offers a MFA.

**4.2. GFC Admission Standards Committee Report**

**Immediate Implementation**

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.05

Godfrey/Helstein

*That General Faculties Council approve changes to admission requirements for the Certificate in Management in the undergraduate calendar.*

Motion: Carried

For this Certificate in Management you need prior qualifications but now students can do direct entry.

**School of Graduate Studies**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.06

Buis Deering/Marynowski

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #2 - #3 for the School of Graduate Studies, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

**Student Enrolment and Registrar Services**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.07

Buis Deering/Bright

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #4 - #7 for Student Enrolment and Registrar Services, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

**Faculty of Arts & Science**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.08

Letts/Buis Deering

*That General Faculties Council approve corrections to the campus of delivery for the Arts and Science Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Data Science pending approval at the Arts and Science and Graduate Councils. \*\**

Motion: Carried

*\*\* Graduate Council approved this on February 22, 2023 and it will go to Arts & Science Council for approval on March 29, 2023. The deadline for applications to this program has been extended to March 31, 2023 to accommodate the approval process.*

There was a discussion on whether this sort of change is precedent setting and how the online campus was approved. N. Buis Deering reported that she felt that the online campus was defined when therapeutic recreation was approved. She will look for clarification and bring information forth.

There was further debate on why this is coming to GFC before it gets approved at all the councils. M. Letts stated that it is to expedite the program moving forward but if the council doesn't approve it, it doesn't move forward as it is pending approval. Also,

because it is an error correction the Dean is comfortable with this decision. In this case, it is a simple correction of an administrative error. It was commented that this happens on occasion when one faculty needs approval from another council. It is a timing issue. We need to be flexible with our colleagues and not hold things up. It would take at least six months if we waited on each step. If the proposal changes, then it would come back to GFC. There was a friendly amendment to state that it is a correction to the in-person as it was always intended to be in-person or online.

## **5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **5.1. Equity Diversity and Inclusion Survey**

M. Mahon introduced M. Mathurin Moe who reported on the survey results to the members. This is a preliminary snapshot of the data. The EDI Office is working on the Student Survey. The student survey will be launched in the fall as well as the EDI council. It is a collective strategy of people across the institution. The draft plan will be launched in 2024. There was robust discussion on how the demographic of the survey is compared and some comments on how the slides could be misused in showing how well we are doing. M. Mathurin Moe discussed the need to create an EDI policy. We are working on a hiring framework on how to hire diversity. You want to see change and we are looking at shifting institutional culture. There are two phases – build a strategy and correct some of the challenges. The Vice-Provost EDI stated that to help correct the institutional culture, the university community has to participate in the change. It was commented that we should all be working towards this. We need champions to move this difficult file forward and we need to do this collectively. There was further discussion on supports for marginalized individuals and the transition plan for the changes in senior administration. M. Mahon commented that there is a very robust transition plan for the new president. We are focussing on all elements of the transition. As it relates to the deans, there was discussion of the transition for the deans. We need to develop a more robust process for internal and external people. E. Okine reported that we have sent deans out to external places to get training. This is part of the plan for the deans coming to the new positions.

M. Mahon thanked M. Mathurin Moe stating that she has had an amazing impact on campus.

### **5.2. Academic Staff Count**

J. Gallais explained how the annual academic staff count is calculated. There are no changes to statutory seats for this year and this staff count doesn't affect the appointed seats. The one addition to the agenda is the five-year comparison chart illustrating what the academic staff counts and past seat allocations have been.

### **5.3. GFC Meeting Schedule**

J. Gallais reported that this had been discussed at GFC Executive. Modifications have been made to try get agendas out to GFC members sooner. The GFC agenda deadline will be moved up to noon instead of end of day to give the Governance Office more time to get the agenda out. Working with GFC Executive members, it was approved that their meetings will be moved to the morning to also ensure more time in getting the GFC agenda out in a timely manner. There was a short discussion on when the agenda should

go out. It was noted that as things have gotten more complex at GFC, GFC Executive has more responsibility in vetting the agenda items so they too need to allocated sufficient time to review the materials as well.

5.4.GFC Nominations Committee Update

K. Bhatt filled in for D. Scott and updated GFC on the vacancies that need to be filled.

There was a call for nominations circulated and the deadline is March 8<sup>th</sup>. GFC Members were encouraged to nominate others or themselves.

5.5. Student Discipline Policy – Academic Offences Graduate Student Policy Revisions

E. Okine gave some background on the work being proposed. This request is coming from Dr. M. Roussel. He is looking for 2-3 other members. Contact [governace@uleth.ca](mailto:governace@uleth.ca) and if you have any questions, contact Marc Roussel.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2023.03.09

DeSteur/Bello

*That the GFC meeting of March 6, 2023 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried