



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #579

Approved Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** D. Jayas, (Chair), A. Akbary, S. Alam, T. Andersen, K. Anderson-Bain, L. Barrett, V. Baulkaran (virtually), Y. Belanger (virtually), N. Buis Deering, L. Burckes, C. Burton, J. Cunningham (virtually), H. Davis-Fisch, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, A. Dymond, A. Ebenmelu, S. Findlay, E. Galway, K. Godfrey, K. Haight (virtually), M. Helstein, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, I. McAdam, D. McMartin, D. McNeill (virtually), A. Mukherjee, L. Ochieng (virtually), J. Oldfield, N. Patel, R. Patel, R. Preston, N. Rebry, J. Reiter, J. Rice, K. Schwarz, E. Scott, D. Slomp, D. Smither, L. Starr, R. Sutherland (virtually), M. Thomas, G. Tian (virtually), P. Visentin (virtually), L. Vogelsang, N. Walker (virtually), P. Wilson (virtually), F. Wright, J. Youngdahl
- Regrets:** C. Carnaghan, P. Ghazalian, K. Greenwood, M. Hill, K. Ito, M. Letts, S. Malla, C. Mattatall, D. McIntyre, Y. Sackey-Forsen, J. Sadr, N. Thakor, S. Urquhart, A. von Heyking, R. Williams
- Other:** G. DeSteur, V. Grisack, C. Kanashiro, M. Mathurin-Moe, M. Okeowo, D. Schell (virtually), H. Takahashi, R. Westlund, M. Whipple
(other guests were present on Zoom)

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

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the February 5, 2024 Meeting #579 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #578 December 11, 2023 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Strategic Planning Committee Consultation Invite
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Report – January 29, 2024
- 1.5. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #561 – December 4, 2023

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.01
Marynowski/Preston

That the General Faculties Council approve the February 5, 2024 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Jayas referred to the President's Report that was included in the agenda package.

A few highlights and additions were noted:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – in relation to Lethbridge College's request to become a Polytechnique. On January 26th, an MOU was signed with the College to avoid any future program duplication.
- Appointment of Dr. Rebecca Schiff as the deputy provost starting on May 1, 2025.
- Government Announcement on International Student Caps – We are assessing this newly announced change stating that as of Sept. 1, 2024 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada (IRCC) will implement an annual cap of 360,000 international study permits nationwide. Navitas is not impacted by this announcement as it is a partnership and not a licence. D. Jayas gave some background on the changes surrounding visas and work permits. This will greatly affect private colleges. The college sector is advocating for rescinding the announcement. The university sector is waiting for the province to develop a process for attestation letters. New visas are not being processed until March 31st to allow time for development of the process. The government will process any visas from before the announcement but are returning any submitted after the date. There could be a major impact on Ontario, BC and Nova Scotia as the allocation is done by population. Alberta has the potential to increase international student numbers. It could be positive news but the attestation letter is a challenge. There is no impact on current students and they would be allowed to complete their programs. At this stage, we should assume few students coming in September for budget purposes. We need to be conservative in our assumptions. We are unsure if Navitas students are counted as UofL students or Navitas students.

3. QUESTION PERIOD

One question was submitted in advance.

- The question from J. Mather - All of us are aware of the shortage of doctors, I was without a GP for a year but the clinic I attended before she left found a replacement for my doctor and I have one now. However, new Faculty members coming from elsewhere are not able to find a physician. We have a Health Center on campus, last year I was told that Faculty and Staff could only use it in the summer when there are not many students around (which I did). But the restricted access is not good enough for new Faculty members, who might find their work impaired if they cannot get medical assistance and diagnosis (as a colleague recently did). Will the President make plans to open the Health Center to all who need it and not just students? M. Helstein – this is a question we can all relate to. The UofL has 5 physician and 3 psychiatrists, and they have their own practices outside of the University. They get to request what type of patients they see and are currently booked solid with students. In the summer, they will see other patients on a one-time basis only. This conversation is one that we are

regularly having with the city and the provincial government and is the action behind the rural medicine program.

- J. Oldfield – can these issues surrounding Health Centre access be built into the proposed model for interns to serve the campus faculty? M. Helstein stated that the preceptorship spaces and would include a clinic within the rural medicine program.
- M. Thomas – Post-secondary institutions can access low-cost loans for housing for students. Does the university have any plans to access this program? D. Jayas noted that it does not give us any benefit as our credit rating is already high. We were hoping that we could get a grant to build housing. There is also an opportunity with the Federal government (Indigenous Services) for funding for housing off reserve. The details are not out yet. We will work with our Blackfoot community to develop off reserve housing on campus.
- C. Burton – requested to give feedback on the Respect in the Workplace training. The program is not geared to post-secondary. There were a lot of questions on the training such as expected vs mandatory training which has been cleared up. There is no designated person in Human Resources so the burden is placed on the victim to report. It was noted that M. Mathurin-Moe and H. Takahashi are taking feedback with the goal to develop something further that is tailored to the university.
- J. Mather – is M. Mathurin-Moe going to work on an appropriate model for us? M. Mathurin-Moe stated that we are aware that there are gaps. We are looking at progress not perfection because we needed a starting point. All the feedback will help to build a Respect 2.0. The current program is very generic as it is geared to all employees groups. We need to have something to start with so the feedback is welcome. This is better than nothing and helps to bring a common language to the table. J. Mather further commented that what worries her is that it is about justice and not care. M. Helstein noted that we need to start at a place where everyone has some common language. The Chair suggested that M. Mathurin-Moe and H. Takahashi have a further conversation with J. Mather.

Some questions arose from the information shared in the President's Report:

- A. Ebenmelu – what supports are in place for international students? M. Helstein reported that we have added positions for the areas that we think will need supports. We have a working group with K. Godfrey, K. Massey and P. Pan on how we can increase supports.
- J. Oldfield – is there any mention of when the student numbers will be allocated. This could be an economic boom for the province. How do we know they will stay in Alberta for their whole degree – are there stipulations? D. Jayas noted that there is no clarity from the government yet. The question is whether they will track as Alberta students if they move.
- S. Alam – will the College be allowed to offer graduate programs. D. Jayas noted that there will be a discussion between the provosts and they have agreed not to duplicate any programs we have. They probably will try to move into graduate programs. (It was later clarified that polytechniques cannot offer graduate programs.)

- C. Burton – the increase in the potential number of students and the lack of an announcement from the government. They don't seem to have planned for the students who are here. The Chair concurred and suggested that the government seems to be looking at private colleges to fill the need.
- R. Preston – there are four international student advisors. If we increase the number of students, what is the plan to increase advisors. M. Helstein responded that they are supplementing the faculty advisors. It used to be three advisors and we have increased that by one.
- S. Findlay – how are we defining credit but also are we looking at potentially leveraging the two plus two programs. D. Jayas commented that the program is the assembly of courses that result in a credential. It could be a 2- or 4-year program. We are having discussions regarding partnership programs. M. Helstein noted that they are probably going to get the Polytechnique status so what can we do to collaborate with them. Relationships with the college are getting better.
- S. Alam – will the university be allowed to offer a 3-year degree program. The Chair responded that this discussion has to happen at the unit or department level as Administration will not dictate that.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report

4.1.1. Report 1 - Implementation May 1, 2024

Faculty of Fine Arts

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.02

Davis-Fisch/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve the change to the Music Education concentration in the Bachelor of Music for implementation May 1, 2024.

Motion: Carried

A question was raised on consultation with the Faculty of Education regarding the changes. R. Marynowski responded that it was done because Faculty of Education cancelled their courses.

4.1.2. Report 2 - Pending Ministerial Approval

Faculty of Health Sciences

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.03

Doan/Buis Deering

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the courses required for the Aboriginal Health major in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

The question was raised of why it is pending ministerial approval. It was reported that there is a substantial change in the language and so needs ministerial approval.

4.2. GFC Nominations Committee Appointments

J. Rice left the room for this item.

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.04

Marynowski/Slomp

That GFC Nominations Committee met on January 26, 2024 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees:

Associate Vice-President (Research) & Dean, School of Graduate Studies Search and Review Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member who holds an appointment in the School, appointed by General Faculties Council.

- Christopher Hopkinson
- Nehal Thakor (Alternate)

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.05

Marynowski/Thomas

Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science Search and Review Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member who holds an appointment in the Faculty, appointed by General Faculties Council.

- Tabitha Spagnolo

Motion: Carried

J. Rice returned to the meeting.

4.3. GFC Bylaw Revisions

4.3.1. GFC Research Planning Committee

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.06

Helstein/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve the proposed Bylaw revisions to the GFC Research Planning Committee.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

This item was previously discussed and went back to the GFC Research Planning Committee after a question was raised at GFC. It has come back with the addition of options to widen the pool. The question was raised of why we are removing options such as the director of an institute. D. McMartin noted that this is redundant as to be a director, you would meet all the other criteria.

4.3.2. GFC Nominations Committee

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.07

Helstein/Thomas

That the General Faculties Council approve the proposed Bylaw revisions to the GFC Nominations Committee.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

This came from previous work from GFC with the diversity statement, so it is now being embedded into the bylaws.

5. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

5.1. Update on Multi-Sport Dome Proposal

There were no questions regarding the information in the agenda package.

5.2. Enterprise System Presentation

D. Schell, C. Kanashiro, H. Takahashi, N. Buis Deering were introduced. D. Schell gave background on the software delivery and deployment. There are upcoming changes for Student Services, IT, Financial Services as well as Human Resources. This is an opportunity to be proactive with the upcoming change. This is a highly complex project with a lot of risks. Based on scale of change, this project will require much time and resources to educate our staff and students so this was coming to GFC early to engage support from GFC for this project that will transform and impact all areas of the university. An Enterprise System Advisory Committee is being proposed with D. Schell, C. Kanashiro, H. Takahashi, N. Buis Deering and K. Massey, as well as two GFC faculty members, 2 non-academic members and the ULSU and GSA presidents or designates. Currently, we are in the consultation stage. We are looking to engage a consultant to develop transformation plan as well as the RFP with completion of the RFP by the fall and hope to start the project in early 2025. Implementation and timelines were discussed with a final completion tentatively being in 2031.

Some questions arose on consultations and the advisory committee will be looking at that, Some discussion occurred on committee membership and GFC Nominations

Committee will be tasked with this. It was noted that it is exciting news to be working towards a system that can work better for us.

5.3. Adjunct Professor Guidelines

M. Helstein stated that these are here for information and feedback. The totality of what we had for guidelines related to adjunct professors was in the GFC Bylaws. C. Hosgood worked on this draft which is here for feedback. Feedback can come at any time. There was discussion on the different type of appointments. Other changes included removing lecturers from the definition of academic staff as we no longer have that category. We are proposing to remove adjunct professors from the GFC Bylaws and use these guidelines. It was asked why we are doing this. M. Helstein noted that this is the total direction that we have and we need to have a stand-alone piece with consistency across the university. It was asked that a link be added to item 4.5 for research funding. M. Okeowo will follow up with the request.

5.4. New Program Review Committee – Update

M. Helstein reported that this came last year to GFC. The only change in the membership is that the Chair position is changed to Provost or designate from Deputy Provost. No questions were raised.

5.5. Campus Sustainability Strategy & Action Plan (2024 – 2030)

D. McMartin reported that this is a long time coming. There were a number of open houses and surveys sent out resulting in some really good discussions. We are now ready to move this forward. It is still rough form and please provide feed back and comments. This will come back to GFC in March and then for approval by the Board in April. It was noted that members are happy to see progress with the plan. There was discussion on the implementation timelines, possible water usage ideas, as well as budget needs.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2024.02.08

Preston/Buis Deering

That the GFC meeting of February 5, 2024 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried