

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #602

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

E. McCauley, Chair
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair
S. Abraha
B. Adams
A. Alase

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

Members of the University community are acknowledged for their flexibility and cooperation during this difficult term. Regulations and recommendations relating to COVID-19 are changing in response to current conditions, and the University will maintain awareness and compliance with these.

The town halls for the provincial government's Alberta 2030 initiative have been postponed beyond January 2021 but will still occur. The University's representatives participating in this initiative have been consistent in the messaging to the government and advocating for things such as the continuance of bicameral university governance and autonomy.

The University's Global Engagement Plan was launched today

The University has been ranked #6 among Canada's top research universities in ReSearch Infosource's Top 50 Research Universities list announced this week

The Faculty of Kinesiology has been ranked #1 in North America and #11 in the world in Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

The provincial government's new COVID-19 regulations will be in effect from December 13, 2020 to January 12, 2021, which means that face-to-face classes and some final exams were able to be completed. People are directed to work from home if possible, and any persons working on campus must be named in their unit's work plan. Changes include the closure of the Fitness Centre, the closure of the libraries except for the contactless drop off and pick up of books, and the limiting of the MacEwan Hall food court and the Dining Centre to take out only. The University has applied for three exceptions: to allow by-appointment access to some library study spaces, to hold in-person defenses for some graduate students, and to provide some safe-space seating in the MacEwan Hall food court and Dining Centre.

Members of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee are specifically acknowledged for their participation in recent special meetings dealing with emergent issues, and the University community is thanked for all efforts to make this a successful semester

Faculty, staff and students may be experiencing new or exacerbated mental health issues during this time, and are encouraged to take advantage of the resources offered by the University and to enjoy some down time during the holiday break

A new Tuition Reinvestment Bursary for undergraduate and graduate students in financial need has been announced, with \$3 million available now and more to come in the Winter term

4. Question Period

There were no questions.

5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Denise Howitt, Manager of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Systems and Compliance, provided an overview of the new "Harassment and Violence Awareness Training Course" which must be completed by all faculty and staff. The course will be open to all in January.

In response to a question, it was reported that the 14-day limit to complete the course after receiving the instructional email can be extended if necessary.

6. Approval of the November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

- Some Faculties have not reported academic misconduct data and so are not included in this report
- Efforts to raise awareness about academic misconduct include the production of the Academic Integrity Student Handbook, workshops and online modules for students, workshops for instructors, and the requirement that academic integrity be referenced in course outlines

10. Hunter Hub Mandate and Positioning

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Keri Damen, Executive Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Alice de Koning, Academic Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, and Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

The presenters provided an update on the Hunter Hub, including an overview of its vision, pillars, recent activities, and governance

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Flagship programs, such as Launchpad and the embedded certificate, have been prioritized over hosting events
- The Hunter Hub team is being expanded and will become less STEM focused
- The Hunter Hub can direct students to other units such as Innovate Calgary and the Office of Experiential Learning

Discussion included:

- The meaning of 'entrepreneurial thinking' (ET) and whether people from all disciplines can identify with this. The presenters explained ET as "being creative in finding innovative solutions" and thus inclusive. The presenters noted that the concept of ET was created by the University during the development of the Eyes High Strategy and is now embraced nationally.
- That the Tech Fest event held by the Hunter Hub last year was well received and could be expanded to include guests from broader industry

11. Research Services Office Update

Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), and Bill Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

The presenters provided an update on the Research Services Office (RSO), including recent leadership and structure changes within the RSO and the launch of new support systems. The presenters noted that several University researchers have been successful in the most recent Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) competition and the RSO was instrumental in this.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The RSO does not play a role in matters such as research integrity, research espionage and predatory journals as these fall under the purview of the Vice-President (Research)

office and policies such as the Research Integrity Policy

- The RSO works with the Research Accounting office to set up research accounts, and the Research Management System is meant to facilitate the meeting of turnaround targets

12. Indigenous Strategy Progress Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement), and Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

The presenters provided an overview of the history of the Indigenous Strategy (IS), highlighted recent activities in each of the IS areas (Ways of Knowing, Ways of Doing, Ways of Connecting, and Ways of Being), and reported on current priorities including student enrolment, support for researchers, and inclusivity in the workforce

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- It will be a long journey to reach the goals of the IS
- The numbers of Indigenous students and faculty have been growing, and it is expected that this will continue next year
- Language courses are being developed, but this must be done with care because Indigenous communities are the language experts, and learning and oral traditions must be respected
- There is funding for IS staff salaries and operations, and the priorities set out in the University's Academic Plan and Research Plan will guide the allocation of additional resources

The presenters noted that the University uses metrics to measure its progress toward the goals of its various strategies, but this is not an Indigenous way of thinking and accomplishments like growing and continued connections will be seen as signs of success

13. Standing Reports

The following reports were circulated with the Agenda for information:

- a) Report on the November 25, 2020 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the November 2, November 23, November 30 and December 1, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the November 19, 2020 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the November 17, 2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- e) Policy Development Update

There were no questions.

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Adjournment

The December 10, 2020 meeting of the General Faculties Council was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary