

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes

Meeting #592
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Theatre 147

Voting Members

E. McCauley, Chair	K. Dang
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	S. Davidson
H. Abbas	G. East
M. Abdelsamie	S. Eaton
S. Alexander	R. El-Hacha
S. Barker	J. Ellis
M. Bauer	M. Fraser
T. Beattie	M. Gavrilova
B. Becker	D. Gereluk
L. Benson	P. Gimby
J. Bergerson	C. Graham for L. Rigg
C. Bousman	B. Halawa
A. Buret	D. Hodgins
E. Carr	I. Holloway
M. Cassis	M. Iskander
M. Chin	F. Jalilehvand
L. Dalgetty	

\$1,398 in their base pay backdated to July 1, 2019. An analysis of the salaries of clinical staff will be conducted next.

4. **Question Period**

There were no questions.

5. **Safety Moment**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), spoke about the University's UC Emergency app, and encouraged members to install this app, and enable notifications, if they have not done so already.

In response to a question, it was explained that the recent glitch with the UC Emergency app occurred because the app was in transition to a new owner, and this is no longer an issue.

6. **Approval of the June 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

In response to a question, it was reported that the GFC meeting room (Science Theatres 147) is set to be renovated before September 2020.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on June 13, 2019 be approved.

Carried

Highlights:

- x In response to a question, it was explained that the EC had two meetings in September 2019, and these are represented by two columns of entries on the EC work plan
- x In response to a suggestion, it was explained that the item “University of Calgary International (UCI) Review” on the RSC work plan is different from the item “International Strategy Unit Review” that appears on other work plans, and that the RSC item would be renamed in order to prevent confusion

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the 2019-2020 Work Plans for the GFC Executive Committee (EC), Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC), Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), and Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), in the forms provided to the GFC, and as recommended by the EC, APPC, RSC and TLC respectively, with the suggested amendment to the RSC workplan.

Carried

9. Statement on Free Expression

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Karen Jackson, General Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

- x The proponents reviewed the development of the University’s Statement on Free Expression and the revisions made from the consultation to date. It was reported that two concerns have arisen during the consultation: 1) that marginalized groups can feel powerless to raise their voices, and these groups may become even further marginalized if dominant groups are emboldened by the statement, and 2) how free expression can be handled within the teaching environment.
- x Discussion included that:
 - o The addition of language in the fifth paragraph, stating that free expression in research, teaching, learning and other settings will be in keeping with an environment of respect and civility, is important and appreciated because it empowers instructors to set boundaries within the classroom
 - o The concept of ‘right’ has significant implications in law, and the use of this word (e.g. “right of free expression” and “right to investigate”) in the Statement should be considered
 - o The fourth paragraph could be reworded to avoid the implication that the University is granting the right to free expression. The proponents requested that proposed alternate wording be submitted to them.
 - o The language in the Ministry’s letter and the Chicago Report reads “..falsely defames an individual..”, but the word ‘falsely’ should not be used in the University’s Statement as it is often not possible to determine whether speech is false or not
 - o It is a broad declaration to say that free expression is limited by law and the University’s operational policies and procedures, and this wording should be further considered
 - o Once finalised, the Statement could be used to help guide decisions about when a speech or a demonstration should be denied the opportunity to take place at the University. The proponents noted that the presence of extra security personnel can be arranged, and

presentations by persons with balancing points of view can be organized, rather than blocking points of view considered to be unwelcome or offensive. It was noted that some situations are complex, and will have to be considered carefully.

- o The University's policies and procedures relating to free expression, such as the Code of Conduct, Harassment Policy, and Sexual Violence Policy, should be linked to the webpage as part of the communication plan when the Statement is posted publicly
 - o It is important to consider the well-being of marginalized groups, and to ensure that alternative points of view are expressed on campus if there is a controversial speaker
- x In response to questions, the proponents reported that:
- o If an event convenor cannot afford to pay for extra security, the University will consider whether or not the event will be permitted to go ahead. Decisions will be made in consideration of safety, and not based on whether the speaker's subject matter is agreeable.
 - o Speech must incite violence in order to be considered to be hate speech
 - o While the Ministry's letter states that an institution may restrict expression in some instances, speakers should not be barred based on what they might say
 - o If something occurs that appears to be in violation of the law, this can be reported to the police and the University. Both the police and the University may investigate an occurrence, but the University may put its investigation on hold until any police proceedings have been completed.
- x It was reported that the Statement will be submitted to the Ministry in November, and the Ministry will review it and provide feedback. The Statement will return to the GFC and the Board of Governors in December, for discussion and approval, respectively, before being posted publicly by December 15, 2019.

10. 2018-19 Academic and Research Plans – Status Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Andre Buret, Interim Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- x The presenters reported on the status of the implementation of the 2018-2023 Academic and Research Plans, and noted that many initiatives have made significant progress. Initiatives requiring action were specifically identified, including equity, diversity and inclusion in awards programs and leadership teams, interdisciplinary research and teaching, innovation and entrepreneurial endeavours, and establishing more collision spaces. The presenters observed that some priority initiatives are not set as goals for the current academic year because other initiatives are taking precedence.
- x Discussion included:

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Highlights:

- x The presenter reviewed the Fall 2019 enrolment statistics, including: the registration for undergraduate, graduate, international and Indigenous students, student demographics, and admission averages
- x In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - o Fall and annual enrolment statistics differ because some programs have Winter and Summer term intakes
 - o The overall increase in registration from Fall 2018 (744 students) does not add up to the individual increases in undergraduate, graduate, international and Indigenous students because, for example, some students are undergraduate and Indigenous, and so appear in the data twice
 - o The University works with the Ministry to examine issues such as grade inflation, but Alberta has diploma exams which aids in standardizing grades
 - o Students self-identify as Indigenous, and this information is also captured from other sources such as scholarship applications
 - o

15. **Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the October 10, 2019 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary