

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #604

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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E. McCauley, Chair	S. Cork	B. Kahanyshyn
D. Marshall, Vice-Chair	L. Dalgetty	P. Khosla 9.96 Tf1 0 0
S. Abraha	S. Davidson	
B. Adams	A. dela Cruz	
A. Alase	J. Dewald	
O. Alp	S. Eaton	
D. Altahsh	A. Estefan	
K. Baral	S. Farheen	
S. Barker	F. Finley	
M. Bauer	M. Fraser	
T. Beattie	D. Gereluk	
S. Benseler	W. Ghali	
J. Bergerson	P. Gimby	
J. Brown	D. Hodgins	
M. Cassis	C. Hurrell	
O. Chapman	M. Husein	
R. Clements	F. Jalilehvand	

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

2. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair included the following in his remarks:

The provincial government's budget will be announced on February 25, 2021. Representatives of the University, including management, student leaders, and others, continue to communicate with the government about the importance of the University.

A recent Calgary Caucus meeting, that was also attended by provincial government Ministers, provided another opportunity to communicate about the University and its impacts on the city and province. Positive feedback and constructive suggestions for what the University could do better were received.

The U15 and Universities Canada have been communicating with the federal government regarding issues with student visas, and it is hoped that an expedited process for international students can be developed

3. Remarks of the Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair included the following in her remarks:

The University's COVID-19 guidelines have been updated to align with provincial and federal guidelines. The University offered to serve as a quarantine hotel, but it was determined that the University is not located close enough to the airport for this.

It is known that stress levels are high at this time, and members of the University community are encouraged to manage their stress, reach out to others, and access resources as needed

The Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) and the Faculty of Arts were congratulated on the impressive roster of speakers for the University's Black History Month event. The Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) and the Faculty of Arts were congratulated on the impressive roster of speakers for the University's Black History Month event.

An initiative to develop a common grading scheme is a priority for the University, and this is tied to another initiative to develop a flexible grading policy. Once a common grading scheme is in place, then changes such as including the median course grade on the transcript can be considered.

5. Safety Moment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Linda Dalgetty, Vice-President (Finance and Services), presented on the topic of "Workplace Mental Health", and encouraged members to follow the recommendations set out in the document.

In response to questions, it was reported that the email messages reminding members of the University community to complete the Harassment and Violence Awareness Training are automatically generated, the training takes less than an hour to complete, individuals may contact the University's Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) team to request an extension to their two-week deadline, and students are not required to take the training at this time. It was noted that this training is mandated by the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act and that the University has a deadline of March 31 for all faculty and staff to complete the training.

6. Approval of the January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on January 14, 2021 be approved.

Carried

Aniela dela Cruz and Osman Alp abstained.

7. Approval

- Gabrielle Lindstrom, a recently-hired TI Educational Development Consultant, and the TI's Indigenous Strategy Working Group can assist units in incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing into curriculum and provide support
- The dossier must include demonstration of support for the nomination from an elder, but the nomination letter does not need to be signed by an elder

The GFC expressed enthusiastic support for the creation of the award

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the addition of a new award entitled 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing' to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards program, as set out in the document provided

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) establish the total number of elected members to be on the GFC and determine and assign to each Faculty the number of members that may be elected by that Faculty, as set out on the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

Carried

10. Recommendation of the Revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book, Legal Counsel, presented this item.

Highlights:

The proponent provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy, including the use of inclusive and supportive language



- Concerns about the lack of diversity in the membership of the GTF working groups have been heard, and revisions to the GTF will include the use of more inclusive language
- The feedback received during the GTF consultation period will be organised and reported to the University community

The presenter encouraged participation in the GTF Congress, as the GTF is an important part of positioning the University to grow despite the current challenges

13. Student Appeals Office 2020 Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Melissa Morrison,

The presenters reported that Dimensions EDI is a Tri-Agency initiative with goals to foster change within institutions by identifying and addressing systemic barriers and inequities faced by under-represented groups in the research community and to support equitable access to funding, increase inclusive participation, and embed consideration of EDI into research. The presenters explained that under-represented groups include women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority/racialized groups, and members of LGBTQ2+ communities.

The presenters reviewed examples of Dimensions EDI activities at the University including EDI



