
No conflicts were declared.

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience), presented a Territorial Acknowledgment and then highlighted the University's Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) program, which provides university experiences to students with developmental disabilities. It was reported that the IPSE program embodies the University's values of inclusion and independence, that IPSE students attend convocation in a special hood and receive a certificate of completion, and that some IPSE students progress from non-credit courses to for-credit courses.

Ed McCauley, Chair, included the following in his remarks:

Kristin Baetz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Aziz Akbari, Management and Professional Staff representative, and Matthew Herring and Megan Raivio, Students' Union representatives, were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting

The impact of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has led to adjustments to the delivery of the first part of the Winter 2022 term, and members of the University community were thanked for their flexibility

The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) has prepared an EDI Dashboard and Community Report, and these will help the University to make advancements in this area

The Faculty of Kinesiology has been ranked as the top sports science school in North America in the Shanghai Ranking for the third straight year, and also rose to 10th from 11th in the world rankings. The Kinesiology leadership, faculty, staff, and students, who also contribute to the University's transdisciplinary initiatives in addition to disciplinary initiatives, were congratulated on this tremendous achievement.

The search for a Chancellor for the University has launched, and the Senate will elect the new Chancellor in the spring

Representatives of the University continue to engage with all levels of government. In the lead up to the provincial budget, representatives are communicating about the University's contributions to society and advocating for a reduction in post-secondary cuts and for infrastructure funding. Federally, the University is pursuing Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) and other funding, and is collaborating with other institutions to become a Prairies hub in biomanufacturing.

Teri Balsler, Vice-Chair, included the following in her remarks:

COVID-19 continues to impact the University, and everyone's flexibility and patience as we continue to try to move out of pandemic mode is appreciated. Administrators are in the process of deciding the go forward plan past January 31 and a message will be sent to the University community as soon as possible.

Virtual workshops on transdisciplinary scholarly lines of inquiry and the results of the recent survey on institutional priorities were held in December, and the Provost's office has teams working to move the University forward in these matters

Searches for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Dean of the Cumming School of Medicine, and a Vice-Provost (Student Experience) are underway, and information on these is available on the Provost's website

In response to a question, it was explained that proper process was followed in determining to proceed with the discussion of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) Working Group's report at today's GFC meeting. This is an important topic and the USRI Working Group is ready to gather the GFC's valuable feedback on this. The grievance relating to the use of the USRI results is considered to be separate from the GFC's role in improving the USRI instrument, and it was emphasised that the report is only being presented for discussion by the GFC at this time.

Mike Van Hee, Interim Vice-President (Finance and Services) - Services, presented on the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Dashboard Project, including that the EHS dashboard of incident and injury data and training and inspection completion data was rolled out in 2021 and that this data has been reviewed with several Faculties.

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. One amendment to the Minutes was reported.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

When an answer to a question is provided directly to a GFC member, outside of a GFC meeting, it is not appropriate to append the correspondence to the GFC Minutes

The submission to the provincial government in the summer of 2021 regarding the University's partnerships in China was from the Chair of the Board of Governors in response to a request from the Minister of Advanced Education, and it is considered inappropriate for a copy of this correspondence to be provided to the GFC. Briefing notes and presentations relating to this matter were provided to the Research and Scholarship Committee and the GFC in September and October 2021, respectively.

<p>That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on December 9, 2021 be approved, with the reported amendment.</p>

Jennifer Winter and Kristin Baetz abstained.

- The anonymity of responses is important, and so a questionnaire would not be administered in classes with a population less than 8 students
- Efforts to increase questionnaire response rates can include reminder messages and increasing awareness of the value of the feedback. The USRI Working Group is gathering information on what other institutions are doing to increase response rates.
- Most institutions have moved to an online questionnaire rather than a paper questionnaire, for accessibility and sustainability reasons, and this will be considered for the University
- It is expected that it will take 2-3 years to reach implementation of the overhauled student feedback system

Discussion included:

- There is appetite at the University to provide and receive meaningful feedback on student experiences
- It is important that the purpose of the questionnaire be made clear
- Having a customisable questionnaire is desirable for a number of reasons, including because some disciplines may be seeking the effective evaluation of program-specific student experiences. Being able to have different questions for undergraduate and graduate students would also be useful.
- The new questionnaire must be accessible to all, including students with disabilities, and providing the option to give oral feedback would be valuable
- The questionnaire should give a student the opportunity to express what is going well in their course as well as what could be improved
- The University is one of the last institutions to revamp with USRI and AIBG/52

the SEA (STEMM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine] Equity Achievement) Change initiative, which have similar goals to advance post-secondary EDI, and further reported that:

- Dimensions is fostering transformational change by recognizing institutions that are committed to working to remove barriers and inequities
- Dimensions identifies five equity-deserving groups (Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ2+ persons, persons with disabilities, visible minorities/racialized groups, and women) and assesses participating institutions on progress made in each of these areas
- The University is one of 17 institutions piloting the Dimensions program
- The Dimensions pilot involves development of the criteria to receive a Dimensions award, a thorough institutional self-assessment, and preparation of an institutional action plan towards having robust EDI practices
- The University's Dimensions team includes senior administrators, a Dimensions Executive Committee, a Dimensions Steering Committee, and seven Equitable Pathways Working Groups

- It appears that the hiring of persons from equity-deserving groups is improving, but