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**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION**

**April 23, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Councillors:** Tim Rahilly, **CHAIR** Cynthia Gallop Maggie Quance  
Elizabeth Evans, **VICE-CHAIR** Shane Gannon Michael Quinn  
Tala Abu Hayyaneh Geri Lynn Gouglas Alireza Rezvani  
Julie Boone Leah Hamilton Kari Roberts  
Meagan Bowler Sally Haney Paul Rossmann  
Carly Bullough Tim Haney Jessy Santos  
Peter Choate Paul Jessop Bill Scott  
Erik Christiansen Brenda Lang Robyn Stewart  
Christian Cook Michelle LoGullo Spirit River Striped Wolf  
Sean Cook Brad Mahon Cheryl Techentin  
Trevor Day Micheline Maylor Brian Traynor  
Yasmin Dean Tori McMillan Michael Uzoka  
Michelle DeWolfe Cari Merkley Annalise Van Ham  
Anna Dinh Sarah Micho Paul Varella  
Kit Dobson Elaine Mullen Phil Warsaba  
Doug Doucette Scott Murray Gaye Warthe  
Israel Dunmade Kenna Olsen Renae Watchman  
Lee Easton Carlton Osakwe Meg Wilcox  
Mohamed El Hussein Aida Patient Jonathan Withey  
Maryam Elahi Jennifer Pettit  
John Fischer Stephen Price

**Resources:** Jane O'Connor, **SECRETARY**  
Sheena Jensen, **RECORDING SECRETARY**

**Guests:** Evan Cortens Director, Institutional Research and Planning  
Patricia Kostouros Professor, Department of Child Studies and Social Work  
Linda ManyGuns AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization (*incoming*)

**REGRETS:** Katharine McGowen  
Tonya Mousseau  
Sara Reena

T. Rahilly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and confirmed quorum.

**TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

T. Rahilly opened the meeting with a Territorial Land Acknowledgement.

Elizabeth Evans introduced and welcomed the new Associate Vice-President, Indigenization and Decolonization, Linda ManyGuns, who will be joining Mount Royal University on May 1, 2021.

*L. ManyGuns left the meeting.*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Moved by M. El Hussein and seconded by B. Lang:***

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 23, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

***Motion carried by unanimous consent.***

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

***Moved by M. Elahi and seconded by M. Uzoka:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the March 12, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

***Motion carried by unanimous consent.***

#### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

##### **Curriculum**

***Moved by P. Choate and seconded by J. Booke:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the program termination for the Bachelor of Applied Business and Entrepreneurship – Sport and Recreation Management.

Discussion:

- In response to a question, it was confirmed that students remaining in these programs have been contacted by advisors to discuss their completion in the program and/or other pathways forward. At this time, students are on track to complete the program by June 30.
- The importance of all of these Applied Degrees when Mount Royal was transitioning to a university was recognized.

***Motion carried.***

***Moved by P. Choate and seconded by K. Dobson:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the program termination for the Bachelor of Applied Child Studies.

***Motion carried.***

***Moved by P. Choate and seconded by P. Jessop:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the program termination for the Bachelor of Applied Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership.

***Motion carried.***

***Moved by P. Choate and seconded by T. Haney:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the program termination for the Diploma in Business and Entrepreneurship – Sport and Recreation.

***Motion carried.***

***Moved by M. Elahi and seconded by P. Choate:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the program termination for the Computer Science, B.Sc. (University Transfer).

Discussion:

- In response to a question, it was assured that students have been working with advisors about these changes.

***Motion carried.***

**General Education Exemption for the Bachelor of Child Studies, Child and Youth Care Counsellor (CYCC) major**

***Moved by P. Choate and seconded by G. Warthe:***

**THAT** GFC approves the request for a standing General Education exemption (2 courses) for the Bachelor of Child Studies and Child and Youth Care Counsellor (CYCC) major.

Discussion:

- The Chair of APCC highlighted the context and background information that was provided in the meeting package to support the proposed motion.
- Discussion took place in response to comments that were made in support of and the value of General Education and opposition to exemption requests that reduce these courses within those programs, with the understanding that programs need to meet curriculum requirements for accreditation.
- It was explained that this had been addressed by APCC during their discussions in which the Committee tried to balance the need for the exemption request in order for the program to commit to students that they will be able to meet accreditation requirements alongside the importance of General Education within professional programs. These tensions were recognized by APCC and it supported moving this recommendation forward to GFC.
- Explanation was given for clarification about how curriculum is reviewed by accreditation bodies, including the General Education components.
- Statements were made to recognize the overall importance of General Education at MRU and that considerations should be given to other options for curriculum changes to meet accreditation requirements before lowering the number of General Education courses.

***Motion carried.***

*P. Kostouros left the meeting.*

## **SPoT Form D – Nursing**

***Moved by I. Dunmade and seconded by M. Quance:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the revisions to the SPoT Form D for Nursing.

Discussion:

- The Chair of TLC provided an overview of the context and background information for the motion that was provided in the meeting package to align the grading scheme used within the program on the form.
- In response to a question, it was explained that this change was not deemed urgent and was able to follow the regular process for TLC to recommend to GFC for approval.

***Motion carried.***

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Draft University Strategic Plan Consultation**

A briefing note was provided in the meeting package about the draft University Strategic Plan (USP) and framing questions to facilitate the open discussion. T. Rahilly gave an overview about the development of the plan, including the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that the plan would feed into the development of an overall university planning framework and that the vision, mission, values and strategic directions would inform all other plans, such as the Academic Plan.

An open discussion took place in order to collect GFC's feedback and input on the draft USP. Both support for the foundations of the plan and concern within some specific areas and wording within the plan were shared. Comments were made that the plan should focus on and reaffirm the value and commitment to in-person learning and interactions, teaching and learning, and liberal arts and sciences education at MRU. It was also noted that the plan has a significant focus on students, but does not have strong statements in relation to employees and faculty specifically.

T. Rahilly acknowledged the comments made and expressed appreciation of this consultation with GFC. It was advised that further opportunities to provide feedback on the plan will be available.

### **Planning for Fall 2021 Update**

As a continuation of the discussion at the March meeting, GFC was asked to provide feedback and advice on the current approach to planning for Fall 2021. A matrix outlining the approach was provided in the meeting package, along with additional context and background information, and key considerations.

An open discussion took place with comments and questions in response to the information shared and concerns about returning to campus. It was expressed that fears have been heard about returning in the Fall given the current state of the pandemic, and uncertainty about a safe return with respect to not knowing what the requirements will be for such things as wearing masks, vaccines, social distancing, response to outbreaks, and how those areas will be managed on campus. Conclusions from a survey conducted by SAMRU were highlighted in which students prefer to be on campus, but safety must be the priority, and SAMRU should be consulted in the planning process for providing the student-perspective.

The difficulties with providing specific responses to the questions and concerns raised was noted because of the current state of the pandemic. It was explained how planning for a return to campus in the Fall will continue for when conditions allow for it, with various consultations taking place before then with students, faculty and staff. The feedback and advice from GFC will be used to inform an iterative approach towards Fall 2021 planning. Further discussion will take place at the May 28 meeting.

## **REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION**

### **President and Vice-Chancellor**

No report.

### **Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Interim)**

E. Evans submitted a written report with academic updates, and updates from the Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic and Vice-Provost and AVP, Students. With the announcement of Linda ManyGuns' appointment, Michael Quinn thanked John Fischer for his leadership in the interim role as Executive Advisor, Indigenization.

### **Discussion of Reports from Senior Administration**

In response to a question, clarification was provided about the process followed for the development of the two micro-credentials that were reported on. They were for the external community and it was in response to a Government request. A concern was noted to be vigilant about future related requests for micro-credentials that come from the government.

With respect to the faculty annual reporting update, it was indicated that MRFA will be submitting recommendations for improving the annual reporting system.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

T. Rahilly, Chair of the Executive Committee (EC), submitted a written report summarizing the April 14, 2021 EC meeting.

### **Academic Planning and Budget Committee**

P. Varella, Chair of the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC), advised that the committee has not met since the last GFC meeting. He is working with the Provost to look for opportunities to involve APBC in the development of the Academic Plan and including APBC in the budgeting process.

### **Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee**

No report.

### **Academic Standards Committee**

L. Easton, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), submitted a written report summarizing the April 8, 2021 ASC meeting.

### **Research and Scholarship Committee**

K. Olsen, Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), submitted a written report summarizing the March 16, 2021 RSC meeting. Recognition was given to the RSC working groups for the Research and Scholarship Recognition Awards and Research and Scholarship Days for planning successful events. A thank you was also given to Leah Hamilton and Cari Merkley for their contributions as resources to the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship working group.

### **Student Affairs Committee**

P. Warsaba, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), submitted a written report summarizing the March 22, 2021 SAC meeting.

### **Teaching and Learning Committee**

C. Cook, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), gave an update of the meeting held on April 22, 2021 and activities taking place within the working groups. It was announced that Cheryl Techentin will be joining the LMS Renewal Steering Committee and will Chair the TLC LMS Working Group. An update was given on open registrations for the upcoming Celebrate! Event and current job postings in the Academic Development Centre.

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

### **Written Questions**

No written questions were submitted to GFC.

### **Questions from the Floor**

There were no questions from the floor.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda for Discussion**

No items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

### **Consent Agenda Items for Information**

The following consent agenda items were received for information:

- Bachelor of Health and Physical Education Program Reviews (all 4 majors)
- Committee Meeting Minutes
- Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**10:49am**

**Cook/Dobson**