
GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

February 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

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

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

REGRETS: Tim Haney
Paul Rossmann
Annalise Van Ham

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

1. TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alireza Rezvani opened the meeting with a Territorial Land Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2021

MOTION: Dunmade / El Hussein **THAT** the Agenda for the February 12, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

3.1. Minutes from January 15, 2021

MOTION: Lang / Dobson **THAT** the Minutes of the January 15, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1. Curriculum

4.1.1. Major Program Change – English, BA

MOTION: Easton / Choate **THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the major program change for the English, BA.

- A brief overview of the change was given.

MOTION CARRIED

4.1.2. Major Program Change – English, BA (Honours)

MOTION: Choate / Patient **THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the major program change for the English, BA (Honours).

MOTION CARRIED

4.1.3. Major Program Change – Policy Studies, BA

MOTION: Choate / Bullough **THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the major program change for the Policy Studies, BA.

- A brief overview of the change was given.

MOTION CARRIED

4.1.4. Major Program Change – Policy Studies, BA (Honours)

MOTION: Roberts / Choate	THAT the General Faculties Council approve the major program change for the Policy Studies, BA (Honours).
---------------------------------	--

MOTION CARRIED

4.1.5. New Minor – General Science for Elementary Education, Minor

MOTION: Choate / Price	THAT the General Faculties Council approve the new minor for General Science for Elementary Education, Minor.
-------------------------------	--

- It was explained that this new minor would be more achievable within the Education program.

MOTION CARRIED

4.1.6. New Minor – Geoscience Minor

MOTION: Choate / DeWolfe	THAT the General Faculties Council approve the new minor for Geoscience Minor.
---------------------------------	---

- A brief overview of the benefit to students with this new minor was given.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

5.1. President and Vice-Chancellor

5.1.1. President's Report

T. Rahilly submitted a written report with updates on planning for the future, the President's EDI Advisory Committee, and budget.

5.1.2. Alberta 2030

An update was provided about the Alberta 2030 review and plans for a panel discussion with the broader MRU community about the review.

5.2. 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.

5.3. Questions

Questions were responded to and discussed about Alberta 2030, the change to the fiscal year end, and the budget process:

- It was explained why the budget year changed and that it will align with the government's budget year, which was a major factor to change MRU's year end.
- Concern was raised about the GFC Executive Committee's decision to not bring a discussion of the Alberta 2030 review to GFC, and a statement was made that EC reconsider their decision after more reports from Alberta 2030 have been released.
 - This concern was responded to with an overview of EC's rationale to make their decision and to support discussion with the broader MRU community instead, including allowing for more opportunities for time to discuss, hearing from multiple voices and input into these discussions.
 - A point of personal privilege was made with respect to an ongoing narrative that only a few voices are heard at GFC meetings, and that comments made about this sound personal. This point was noted for EC to address at their next meeting.

6. Committee Chair Reports

6.1. Executive Committee

T. Rahilly, Chair of the Executive Committee, submitted a written report and reiterated EC's decision regarding the Alberta 2030 review.

6.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

P. Varella, Chair of the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC), submitted a written report.

6.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

P. Choate, Chair of the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC) did not have a report.

6.4. Academic Standards Committee

L. Easton, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), submitted a written report and highlighted areas of the report at the meeting.

6.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

K. Olsen, Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), submitted a written report.

6.6. Student Affairs Committee

P. Warsaba, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), gave an overview of SAC's meeting on January 25, 2021.

6.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

C. Cook, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), submitted a written report.

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

No written questions were submitted to GFC.

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A question was discussed regarding the move to incorporating performance based budgeting into the academic

area, with concerns about how this model will impact popular programs and minors with low graduation rates. There is a group looking at all the considerations for implementing this model. It was asked how the Academic Planning and Budget Committee may be involved, and it was explained that APBC is currently discussing their mandate and role in the budget process.

In response to a question about the statement in the Provost and Vice-president, Academic's report about grade distribution, discussion took place with respect to various factors contributing to the increase in A and A+ grades in the Fall semester, and to the issue of academic integrity within the online learning environment. This is an area also being addressed by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

A question was responded to about the report of the survey results conducted in the Fall semester about online learning and future plans for the survey in terms of having comparative data in a non-pandemic year for understanding the online learning environment. It was explained the areas addressed within the Provost's report were specifically related to grade distribution and that the survey referred to was conducted by the Institutional Analysis and Planning office and a response to the question about future plans was not able to be provided at the meeting.

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

10. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following consent agenda items were received for information:

- 10.1. GFC Election Information
- 10.2. Program Review – Bachelor of Child Studies, Child and Youth Care Counselling major
- 10.3. Program Review – Bachelor of Child Studies, Early Learning and Child Care major
- 10.4. Committee Meeting Minutes
- 10.5. Faculty Approved Curriculum

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought forward. An announcement was made that the Calgary Policy Service's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee membership includes two MRU graduates, Adam Massiah and Lissy Snowdon.

12. ADJOURNMENT

10:15AM

Gannon / El Hussein