
GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

January 21, 2022

VIRTUAL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR	Cynthia Gallop	Akash Parmar
Elizabeth Evans, VICE-CHAIR	Shane Gannon	Aida Patient
Yasmin Ahmed	Geri Lynn Gouglas	Jennifer Pettit
Arianna Borruel	Leah Hamilton	Stephen Price
Meagan Bowler	Sally Haney	Michael Quinn
Fiona Chetty	Travis Imber	Tabussom Qureshi
Peter Choate	Brenda Lang	Kari Roberts
Liza Choi	Michelle LoGullo	Paul Rossmann
Erik Christiansen	Brad Mahon	Peter Ryan
David Clemis	Linda ManyGuns	Marc Schroeder
Christian Cook	Katharine McGowan	Bill Scott
Holly Crowe	Tori McMillan	Robyn Stewart
Trevor Day	Cari Merkley	Spirit River Striped Wolf
Nader Dehghany	Lavinia Moldovan	Michael Uzoka
Doug Doucette	Nabeel Muhammad	Annalise Van Ham
Israel Dunmade	Scott Murray	Paul Varella
Lee Easton	Nancy Ogden	Phil Warsaba
Mohamed El Hussein	Kenna Olsen	Gaye Warthe
Maryam Elahi	Carlton Osakwe	Kelly Williams-Whitt
Angela Galeos	Jill Parnell	Jonathan Withey

Resources:

Amy Nixon, General Counsel and University Secretary
Sheena Jensen, Recording Secretary

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Terri Baker	Cheryl Techentin
Tim Haney	Therese Wiart Jenkinson

T. Rahilly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Amy Nixon opened the meeting with a Territorial Land Acknowledgement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the January 21, 2022 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the November 26, 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.

CURRICULUM

Major Program Change – Sport and Recreation Management

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approves the major program change for Sport and Recreation Management.

Discussion:

- The Chair of APCC gave an overview of the major program change

Motion carried

COVID-19 UPDATES

Winter 2022 Discussion

E. Evans provided a high-level overview of the recent update to the MRU community regarding plans for a phased approach to bring back the MRU community for in-person instruction during Winter 2022.

An open discussion took place to receive input from GFC members. Questions and comments from members were addressed in the following areas:

- The number of sections anticipated to be back on campus and what the next phase includes
 - It was explained that this decision making was completed at the department and program level
 - Deans provided additional information specific to their respective area
- COVID-19 restrictions on campus, including the mask mandate and drinking in non-designated areas (classrooms), and physical distancing
 - The link to the MRU website for information on COVID-19 guidelines was shared with members
 - Clarification was provided that as per direction given to post-secondary institutions from the Government of Alberta, physical distancing is not required in classrooms

Winter 2022 COVID Pass/Fail Grade

P. Warsaba, Vice-Provost and AVP, Students, highlighted areas of the background information and context for the motions provided in briefing note summary for COVID pass/fail grades.

Moved and seconded:

THAT for the Winter 2022 semester only, Mount Royal University adjust the grading system outlined in the Grades and Examination Policy to provide students the choice to receive a final grade earned in each course as “COVID-Pass / COVID-Fail (CP/CF)”

(Amendment to ‘Grades and Examination Policy section C.1 and 1.2)

THAT Students shall have until DATE-TBD by Registrar to indicate their desire to receive “COVID-Pass /COVID-Fail (CP/CF)”; otherwise the letter grade assigned shall stand.

THAT students will notify the Registrar’s Office of which courses they wish to be graded as “COVID-Pass /COVID-Fail (CP/CF)”

THAT Academic Standing Decisions for any student ineligible to remain in or move to Good Standing be suspended for the Winter 2022 semester only.

(Amendment to ‘Academic Standing, Continuance and Graduation Policy’, sections 2.1.b and 2.2.b)

THAT COVID-Pass/COVID-Fail be excluded from consideration in the Dean’s Honour Roll, where students would be required to achieve 12 or more credit hours with non-CP/CF grades with a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher in the Winter 2022 semester to be eligible.

(Amendment to ‘Honour Rolls Policy’, section B.1)

THAT COVID-Pass/COVID-Fail be excluded from the President’s Honour Roll, where students would be required to achieve 24 or more credit hours with non-CP/CF grades with a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher in the current academic year to be eligible.

(Amendment to ‘Honour Rolls Policy’, section B.2)

THAT COVID-Pass/COVID-Fail be excluded for Post-Secondary Applicants for Fall 2022 admission, where applicants will be eligible for admission on the basis of a minimum of 4, and a maximum of 8, non-CP/CF postsecondary courses by June 30, 2022.

(Amendment to ‘Admission Policy’, sections 2.2 and 5.4)

THAT COVID-Pass/COVID-Fail be excluded from a University Entrance Option student’s application to a degree/diploma program for Fall 2022 admission, where applicants will be eligible for admission on the basis of the 4 most recently completed letter grades.

(Amendment to ‘Admission Policy’, sections 3.3.d.ii and 3.3.e)

THAT COVID-Fail be excluded from repeat processing, where a COVID-Pass will be permitted to replace an F in calculating a student’s Grade Point Average and a COVID-Fail will not be permitted to replace any other letter grade.

(Amendment to ‘Grades and Examinations’, section 1.3.b)

Discussion:

- Clarification was provided about the motions related to handling a student’s academic standing, which ensures that a student will not be penalized unnecessarily

- Student members shared support for the motions and that these motions are important for helping to alleviate some pressures students face with the impacts of the pandemic, and that this provides them with options; a suggestion was also offered for advising students of options beyond a CP/CF grade, such as “1” grades
- In response to concerns raised based on experiences the previous year, explanation was given on how students will be supported and advised when considering the option to take a CP/CF grade, and the communication plans and approaches to try to identify and minimize the number of students who could potentially be disadvantaged prior to confirming a CP/CF grade
- In response to feedback, it was explained that students will be advised on the potential impacts of taking a CP/CF grade as it relates to minimum grades for graduation, program continuation or pre-requisite requirements within programs; consideration will be given to customized messaging to students in specific programs
- The matter of handling abstentions when motions are voted on was addressed; Lee Easton stated his intention to submit a formal request to the Executive Committee regarding abstentions

Motions carried (by singular motion)

REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

President and Vice-Chancellor

T. Rahilly gave remarks in remembrance of Andrew Nguyen, an MRU alum, former GFC member and former MRU Board member.

Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Interim)

E. Evans gave remarks in remembrance of Brian Fleming, a retired associate professor at MRU.

E. Evans submitted a written report with academic updates, and updates from the Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic, Vice-Provost and AVP, Students, and AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization. She added that the University Tenure and Promotion Committee approved promotions for five professors and recognized them at the meeting:

- Mark Ayyash
- Christian Cook
- Gwen O’Sullivan
- Jeffrey Pollock
- Jim Brenan

Discussion of Reports from Senior Administration

Senior administration responded to member’s questions and comments in the following areas:

- Decision-making process and oversight for the delivery of courses online (post-pandemic)
- LMS Renewal Project timelines and communication of updates to timelines to the LMS project committee members
- Recruitment plans for the upcoming Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic vacancy
- Pandemic impacts/trends on enrolment numbers

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Executive Committee (EC)

T. Rahilly, Chair of EC, highlighted areas of the written report for the January 6 and 12, 2022 EC meetings, and in response to a question he gave additional information of the nature of the update provided to EC on the MRU COVID-19 Directive. He informed GFC of the number of academic staff members that had been placed on non-disciplinary leave without pay.

Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC)

No report.

Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC)

P. Choate, Chair of APCC, gave an update on the January 18 meeting and focus of work for this semester.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

L. Easton, Chair of ASC, gave an update on the January 19 meeting items.

Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC)

M. Quinn, Chair of RSC, gave an update on the committee's working groups.

Student Affairs Committee (SAC)

P. Warsaba, Chair of SAC, did not have a report, as the committee will meet on January 24.

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC)

C. Cook, Chair of TLC, gave an update on the committee's working groups.

OTHER REPORTS

Report from the Board of Governors

A written report was submitted for the December 2, 2021 open session board meeting.

QUESTION PERIOD

Written Question

M. Schroeder, GFC Member, submitted a written question regarding "2020-2021 Enrolment Report". A written response from Administration was provided in the meeting package.

Questions from the Floor

In response to a follow-up question related to the written question submitted, GFC will receive a copy of the MRU Annual Report and enrolment reports on an annual basis.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items Removed for Discussion

No items were removed for discussion.

Items for Approval

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the Consent Agenda items for the January 21, 2022 Open Session:

- Library Faculty Council Charter Revisions
THAT the Library Faculty Council Charter is approved, as presented.

Motion carried.

Items for Information

The following items were received for information:

- Athletic Therapy Program Review
- Committee Meeting Minutes
- Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

NEW BUSINESS

T. Rahilly thanked GFC and the campus community for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT 10:55AM