
GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

May 28, 2021
Virtual Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Tim Rahilly, **CHAIR**
Elizabeth Evans, **VICE-CHAIR**
Tala Abu Hayyaneh
Yasmin Ahmed
Peter Choate
Erik Christiansen
Christian Cook
Trevor Day
Yasmin Dean
Anna Dinh
Kit Dobson
Doug Doucette
Israel Dunmade
Lee Easton
Mohamed El Hussein
Maryam Elahi
Cynthia Gallop
Shane Gannon
Geri Lynn Gouglas
Leah Hamilton
Paul Jessop
Brenda Lang
Michelle LoGullo
Brad Mahon
Linda ManyGuns
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
Paul Rossmann
Jessy Santos
Bill Scott
Robyn Stewart
Spirit River Striped Wolf
Cheryl Techentin
Annalise Van Ham
Paul Varella
Phil Warsaba
Gaye Warthe
Meg Wilcox
Jonathan Withey

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

REGRETS Julie Booke
Meagan Bowler
Sean Cook
Michelle DeWolfe
Sally Haney
Tim Haney
Brian Traynor
Michael Uzoka
Rena Watchman

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

TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jane O'Connor opened the meeting with a Territorial Land Acknowledgement.

T. Rahilly announced Jane O'Connor's upcoming retirement on June 30 and GFC thanked her for all her contributions to Mount Royal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by I. Dunmade and seconded by B. Lang:

THAT the Agenda for the May 28, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Curriculum: Major Program Change – Education – Elementary, B.Ed.

Moved by P. Choate and seconded by J. Petit:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the major program change for Education – Elementary, B.Ed.

Motion carried.

Delegation of Authority for Approval of Graduands

Moved by M. El Hussein and seconded by J. Pettit:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the delegation of authority for the approval of graduands to the Registrar, effective June 1, 2021.

In response to questions:

- This delegation is practiced at other universities.
- Mechanisms for appeals are in place to address issues prior to the approval of graduands.
- In response to a comment made recognizing the symbolic value for GFC to approve graduands, it was noted that this delegation creates more efficiency for GFC meetings and that GFC could still receive the approved list of graduands as part of their oversight.

Motion carried.

Syllabus Guidelines – Recommendations from TLC

Moved by C. Cook and seconded by S. Striped Wolf:

THAT the General Faculties Council approve the following recommendations from the Teaching and Learning Committee for Syllabus Guidelines:

- (1) The Appendix be used as a way to convey the syllabus guidelines to all faculty members.
- (2) National and provincial legislation needs to be included. Special mention should be made to the consequences of FOIP to the recording of lectures and the protection of the intellectual property of lecture materials.
- (3) ADC will be tasked with the yearly update of the Appendix for distribution.
- (4) The yearly-revised Appendix should be distributed via the relevant Associate Deans and a copy be kept on the ADC website.
- (5) The creation of a permanent storage facility for all syllabi be sought. This would help with the transferability of courses outside of Mount Royal University since all outlines would be easily accessible, be in accordance with the MRFA Collective Agreement (article 19.4), and allow for greater FOIP policy adherence. We recommend that this be completed by a body other than TLC.
- (6) That the syllabus include a statement about “Academic Accommodations for a reason other than Disability”, such as religious accommodations.

- (7) That the Grades and Examinations Policy (C.1.) be adjusted to include a statement about rounding to the nearest .5% for the purpose of consistency across all areas.
- (8) That a site be created that features a list and links to all student resources.

Discussion:

- Questions were responded to for clarification that the Appendix will be accessible via ADC, that the recommendations act as guidelines for policy, how the recommendations will be operationalized, and that grading schemes can be aligned with the respective program (e.g. use of EP/EF for some specific programs).
- Concerns were discussed about Recommendation (5) and if a permanent storage facility would be made public. Comments were made to support a centralized area for internal access only, as it is important for transferability, and advising against public access. These comments will be considered as part of next steps.
- Any accountability aspects for executing the recommendations requiring committee or GFC approval will come forward at the appropriate time, and GFC will receive updates from TLC.

Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Acknowledging Indigenous Ways of Knowing – Recommendations from ASC

Lee Easton, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), summarized the recommendations presented in the meeting package for Acknowledging Indigenous Ways of Knowing, and asked for guidance from GFC to move forward.

Discussion:

- Comments were made in favor of an aggressive approach to moving the recommendations and next steps forward simultaneously, where possible, as this is important work in the context of the impact to current faculty and with the hiring in progress for new Indigenous faculty, and the larger Canadian context for academic institutions to support Indigenous faculty.
- Consideration was noted for ensuring that the work can also apply to non-Indigenous faculty whose work is related, e.g. using language inclusive of non-Indigenous faculty members.

Planning for Fall 2021 Update

E. Evans gave updates on planning for Fall 2021 since the April GFC meeting. Key updates included program delivery decisions, space requirements and allocations, Campus 21/22 Committee roadshows, communications, and new guidance from Alberta Health Services.

Discussion:

- It was indicated that the planning team will also be meeting with MRSA to discuss impacts to staff. Acknowledgement was given to the employees who have remained on campus throughout the pandemic.
- Comments were made with respect to the negative impacts to staff from the pandemic and the COVID Impact Survey results from staff that indicate concerns from staff, in addition to general comments heard from staff, about returning to campus and the desire for remote working arrangements post-pandemic.

- Resources for returning to campus are available on the MRU website for faculty and staff, students, and the public, including an Instructor Toolkit.
- Concerns were discussed about the communication and process for the decisions made about program delivery in the Fall (online or in-person), suggesting that there should be more flexibility around remote delivery in order to address the concerns.
- The following motion was put forward:

Moved by L. Easton:

THAT GFC approve an increase to the upper limit of remote delivery to 40% and that at least 30% be remote delivery.

- The Chair ruled the motion out of order as it is not within the purview of GFC to make decisions on remote program delivery methods.
 - The Chair's ruling was challenged.
 - A vote was conducted and the ruling of the Chair was upheld.
- The following recommendation was put forward:

Moved by L. Easton and seconded E. Christiansen:

THAT GFC recommends that Administration consider an increase to remote delivery limits to 40%.

- Discussion took place around equity of the decisions for program delivery in the Fall, if there could be more flexibility, and impacts and communication to students. Explanations were provided on the processes used to make decisions about program delivery.

Motion defeated by tie vote.

Moved by S. Murray and seconded by P. Choate:

THAT the General Faculties Council Open Session meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

Motion carried.

Budget Presentation

T. Rahilly and A. Van Ham gave an update on the Budget 2021/22 plan.

REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

President and Vice-Chancellor

President's Report

T. Rahilly submitted a written report with updates on planning for the future, Alberta 2030 system review and the Provost search, and noted that the GFC Executive Committee will act on behalf of GFC for any required urgent decisions during the summer break.

Investment Management Agreement Update

T. Rahilly provided a written update on the status of the Investment Management Agreement and highlighted areas of the update at the meeting. It was noted that some performance based metrics are anticipated to fall within the purview of GFC and would be brought forward for consideration.

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.

Questions on Reports from Senior Administration

In response to a question, it was assured that impacts of performance based funding on making academic decisions are being raised at the Board with the support of T. Rahilly and K. Olsen (who is the GCF-nominated Academic Staff Member on the Board).

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Executive Committee

T. Rahilly, Chair of the Executive Committee (EC), submitted a written report summarizing the May 19, 2021 EC meeting and the EC Annual Report for 2020-21.

Academic Planning and Budget Committee

P. Varella, Chair of the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC), submitted the APBC Annual Report for 2020-21.

Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

P. Choate, Chair of the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC), submitted the APCC Annual Report for 2020-21, and thanked APCC members and the outgoing members for their contributions this year.

Academic Standards Committee

L. Easton, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), submitted the ASC Annual Report for 2020-21, and thanked ASC members for their work this year.

Research and Scholarship Committee

K. Olsen, Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), submitted a written report summarizing the May 11, 2021 RSC meeting and the RSC Annual Report for 2020-21, and thanked the Vice-Chair and RSC members for their work this year. In response to a question, it was clarified that the consultation process will be followed for the Research Integrity Policy, aiming for early Fall, and that there will be training and resources provided to accompany the policy.

Student Affairs Committee

P. Warsaba, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), submitted a written report summarizing the May 17, 2021 SAC meeting and the SAC Annual Report for 2020-21.

Teaching and Learning Committee

C. Cook, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), submitted the TLC Annual Report for 2020-21. M. Quinn, Vice-Chair to TLC, gave an update about the Learning Management System Renewal Project.

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.

Consent Agenda Items for Information

The following consent agenda items were received for information:

- Notice of Motion – Revision to GFC Bylaws
- Program Review – Social Work Diploma
- Miistakis Institute Renewal
- GFC and Committee Annual Election Results
- Committee Meeting Minutes
- Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved by M. El-Hussein and seconded by S. Striped Wolf:

THAT the Minutes of the April 23, 2021 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

T. Rahilly thanked GFC for their work this year and thanked the outgoing members for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

11:14am

K. Roberts / B. Lang