
GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

November 26, 2021

VIRTUAL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR	Angela Galeos	Stephen Price
Yasmin Ahmed	Cynthia Gallop	Michael Quinn
Terri Baker	Shane Gannon	Tabussom Qureshi
Arianna Borruel	Geri Lynn Gouglas	Sara Reena
Meagan Bowler	Leah Hamilton	Kari Roberts
Fiona Chetty	Tim Haney	Paul Rossmann
Peter Choate	Brenda Lang	Peter Ryan
Liza Choi	Michelle LoGullo	Marc Schroeder
Erik Christiansen	Brad Mahon	Bill Scott
David Clemis	Katharine McGowan	Robyn Stewart
Christian Cook	Tori McMillan	Spirit River Striped Wolf
Holly Crowe	Cari Merkley	Michael Uzoka
Trevor Day	Lavinia Moldovan	Paul Varella
Yasmin Dean	Nabeel Muhammad	Phil Warsaba
Nader Deghany	Elaine Mullen	Gaye Warthe
Doug Doucette	Scott Murray	Therese Wiart Jenkinson
Israel Dunmade	Nancy Ogden	Kelly Williams-Whitt
Lee Easton	Kenna Olsen	Jonathan Withey
Mohamed El Hussein	Akash Parmar	
Maryam Elahi	Jennifer Pettit	

Resources:

Amy Nixon, GENERAL COUNSEL AND UNIVERSITY SECRETARY
Sheena Jensen, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Elizabeth Evans, VICE-CHAIR	Carlton Osakwe
Sally Haney	Cheryl Techentin
Linda ManyGuns	Annalise Van Ham

T. Rahilly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Therese Wiart Jenkinson opened the meeting with a Territorial Land Acknowledgement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the November 26, 2021 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 October 22, 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

Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Recommendations with Respect to Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Ways of Knowing and Indigenous Scholarship in the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria*

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the following recommendations of the Academic Standards Committee as presented in its report submitted to GFC in May 2021:

- Recommendation #1 - Working in concert with the AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization, arrive at an institutional understanding of Indigenous Knowledge and that this understanding be reviewed at regular intervals to account for its on-going development. An MRU-specific understanding of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) must be grounded in the expertise of Indigenous faculty and Indigenous knowledge holders and working with them will be a pivotal step in implementing any changes contemplated to meet the terms of the MOU on Recognizing Indigenous Ways of Knowing.
- Recommendation #2 – The Academic Standards Committee work alongside and with the AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization to refine an understanding of Indigenous Knowledge with insights from MRU Indigenous faculty and from Indigenous community knowledge-holders. We recommend Appendix C in ASC Report (attached) provide a starting point for arriving at this institutional understanding.
- Recommendation #3 - That as an institutional understanding of IK takes shape, the Academic Standards Committee make the necessary changes to incorporate this understanding into the Institutional Criteria for Tenure and Promotion and the Faculty-level Scholarship Criteria documents. Changes should be made to the Tenure and Promotion Handbook to support this addition.
- Recommendation #4 - The Academic Standards Committee request that Faculty Councils work with the academic units to expand types of evidence and illustrative examples of Indigenous research/scholarly activity as follows:
 - For tenure at the assistant, associate professor categories to include knowledge; mobilization and/or oral presentations in Indigenous community settings;
 - Recognize and support work published in Indigenous languages;
 - Recognize that Indigenous scholarship includes and emerges from oral teachings, narrative pedagogies, and artistic endeavours;
 - For promotion to professor to include knowledge mobilization and/or oral presentations in Indigenous community settings;
 - That for research/scholarly activity in tenure and promotion applications to include written comments from Indigenous organizations, Elders, and/or traditional Knowledge Carriers about a

candidate's contributions to knowledge.

- Recommendation #5 - Academic Standards Committee should work with the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Indigenization and Decolonization to explore how best to recognize IK in relation to required academic credentials.
- Recommendation #6 – The Academic Standards Committee in consultation with the Associate Vice-President- Indigenization and Decolonization should consider establishing institutional parameters for Indigenous scholarship in the Institutional Tenure and Promotion Guidelines recognizing the specific dimensions of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Ways of Knowing, including the importance of oral culture.
- Recommendation #7 – The Academic Standards Committee expand the tenure criteria and examples of evidence of service for assistant and associate professor to include but not be limited to:
 - Service in regional, national, and/or international Indigenous communities/organizations.
 - Service to Indigenous communities
 - Mentorship of Indigenous and priority population students
- Recommendation #8 – The Academic Standards Committee expand the criteria and evidence of service in promotion to professor to include but not be limited to:
 - Service in regional, national, and/or international Indigenous communities/organizations.
 - Recognition by regional, national, and/or international Indigenous communities/organizations.
 - Service to Indigenous communities
 - Mentorship of Indigenous and priority population students
- Recommendation #9 – That GFC make submissions to both the Board of Governors and the MRFA to arrive at an agreement to effect the changes to the Collective Agreement to effect these changes. (See attached Report).

Discussion:

- Lee Easton, Chair of ASC, highlighted background information and context from the briefing note provided in the meeting package on the development of the set of recommendations. He explained that approval of these recommendations provide ASC the opportunity to work towards fulfilling the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Questions were responded to with respect to the capacity and support from Dr. Linda ManyGuns, AVP Indigenization and Decolonization, her involvement with these recommendations, and consideration of additional external consultations.
 - There have been ongoing conversations and will continue with the ASC Chair, Dr. ManyGuns and Dr. Michael Quinn, Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic, with respect to her involvement and support with this process. It was clarified that Dr. ManyGuns is not expected to lead the process.
- If the recommendations are approved, ASC will work on a roadmap for implementation, which will include other external consultations.
- It was encouraged for ASC to also consult directly with those in the discipline of Indigenous Studies who have extensive knowledge in this area. The Chair of ASC indicated ASC will include this consideration in the planning for consultations with various stakeholders.
- Individual members expressed their support for the recommendations.

Motion carried

REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

President and Vice-Chancellor

T. Rahilly submitted a written report with updates on COVID-19 vaccine verifications, VP Finance and Administration search, AVP Equity Diversity and Inclusion search, Universities Canada, celebrating top achievements of alumni and supporters, and end of semester recognition.

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.

Discussion of Reports from Senior Administration

Questions and comments were responded to on the following areas of the reports from Senior Administration:

- MRU's COVID-19 Directive, including questions related to non-compliance and appeals
- Themes discussed at the Universities Canada meeting
- Plans for enrolment increases and the development of the Faculty Hiring Plan as it relates to GFC and keeping GFC informed
- Student application numbers for Winter 2022
- Learning Management System (LMS) data transfer planning and supporting contract faculty through the process
- New system for Tenure and Promotion dossiers and training and support during the data migration process
 - A Point of Information was raised stating that this particular issue affects GFC because there are changes specific to the system in the Tenure and Promotion Handbook that will be necessary, which is under the stewardship of GFC
 - T. Rahilly referred the question for consideration by the the GFC Executive Committee

COMMITTEE ANNUAL PLANS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Executive Committee (EC)

T. Rahilly, Chair of EC, submitted the EC Annual Plan for 2021-22 and a written report for November 17, 2021 EC meeting, and drew GFC's attention to various areas of the report.

Clarification was requested about EC's next steps for discussing the Academic Planning and Budget Committee's mandate. T. Rahilly anticipated bringing clarification of APBC's Charter forward to EC, noting that it would not preclude an opportunity to meet with APBC members to get their input.

Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC)

No report.

Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC)

P. Choate, Chair of APCC, submitted the APCC Annual Plan for 2021-22.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

L. Easton, Chair of ASC, submitted the ASC Annual Plan for 2021-22.

Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC)

M. Quinn, Chair of RSC, submitted the RSC Annual Plan for 2021-22.

Student Affairs Committee (SAC)

P. Warsaba, Chair of SAC, submitted the SAC Annual Plan for 2021-22.

Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC)

C. Cook, Chair of TLC, submitted the ASC Annual Plan for 2021-22.

QUESTION PERIOD

Written Questions

A written question was submitted by Marc Schroeder, GFC Member, concerning the MRU Institutes annual reports received by GFC at its October 2021 meeting and reporting obligations under MRU policies and procedures. Michael Quinn, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic responded to the question at the meeting and his response is attached to the minutes.

Follow-up questions and comments were made and responded to, as per the information provided in the written response, regarding the following areas:

- Funding support for the Institute of Environmental Sustainability (IES) to allow for it to continue
 - Funding of IES is being addressed and this institute will have to come back GFC next year with a sustainable financial plan
- Clarity on the Trico Changemakers Studio (Trico) as an element of the Institute for Community Prosperity (ICP), and additional information that M. Quinn will work with the Institute Director to provide more clarity to GFC
- The MRU Institutes Financial Statements for the past three years will be shared with GFC members following the meeting, and the financials will now be available in time to be included with the annual reports presented to the Research and Scholarship Committee and GFC

A question was raised with respect to the Executive Committee (EC) Chair's Report and EC's discussion of GFC involvement in responding to emergency situations. EC discussed various issues and reflected on learnings with the communications throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions from the Floor

There were no additional questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items Removed for Discussion

No items were removed for discussion.

Items for Information

The following items were received for information:

- Call for Nominations – Honorary Degree Candidates
- Committee Meeting Minutes
- Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

10:37AM

ATTACHMENT: Written Question – Response from by M.Quinn, Vice- Provost and AVP Academic

“Thank you very much for the question. Institutes at Mount Royal University play a critical role in enhancing our capacity to conduct applied research. We currently have 4 Institutes and one of these, the Miistakis Institute, is an affiliated Institute. Collectively, the institutes conduct applied research, provide opportunities for faculty collaboration, provide experiential learning and work opportunities for students and greatly enhance our institutional reputation in the community. Guided by the Institutes at Mount Royal University Policy and Procedures, the Institutes are financially self-sufficient and operate through grants, contracts and donations. Affiliated institutes report to a governing body external to MRU and manage their finances external to the institution.

The annual reports of the Institutes are presented for review and discussion at the Research and Scholarship Committee every September. The Institute Directors are members of RSC and are available to address any questions arising from the annual reports. In addition, a more extensive review is conducted every five years when the Institutes apply for renewal. The 5-year reviews provide an opportunity to more comprehensively address the alignment with the charter, the overall activities of the institute, the value to the institution and the sustainability of the financial model. The last one of these 5-year reports for renewal came to GFC in 2020 for the Institute for Community Prosperity and the next one will be from the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The third question implies that there are corrective actions required to ensure that institutes are meeting their obligations under MRU policies and procedures. I don’t believe that there are any corrective actions required as the institutes are reviewed as per policy on an annual and cyclical basis. I am happy to work with the Institute Directors to ensure that there is transparency in their annual reports on alignment with the activities specified in their respective charters. The financial self-sufficiency of Institutes is managed annually through the budget process and is reported via the annual audited financial statements. As an affiliated Institute, the Miistakis Institute includes its financial statements in its annual report. A summary financial statement for the other institutes is provided to the Board of Governors annually as specified in the policy. I have included these statements for the last three years as an addendum to my response for the minutes (note this includes the financials for the former Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning).

The Trico Changemakers Studio is formally a subset of the Institute for Community Prosperity. Its activity was consistent with the ICP Charter and no amendments were required. Functionally, the Trico Changemakers Studio occupies a separate space and conducts its activities on a cost-recovery basis so it is managed as a project under the ICP. The nature of the activity and connection to changemaking more broadly on campus makes it useful to have it report separately.

As mentioned above, but to specifically address the 5th question, Institutes operate entirely through funds raised externally and do not draw on institutional operating dollars. Moreover, Institutes contribute through the payment of indirect costs as per MRU grant and research policies.

To address the final question, aside from the financial reports that will be included in the minutes of this meeting, I am not aware of any missing information in the Institutes’ reporting processes as specified by the policies and procedures (1.2 of the Institutes at Mount Royal University Procedures: “The Report will include an executive summary that summarizes and assesses the Institute’s operations, activities and financial status.”). I encourage GFC members to ask any questions they might have during the presentation of these materials either through RSC or directly at GFC.

Finally, I want to recognize that the Institutes at Mount royal University Policy and Procedures are currently under review by a working group of RSC. I expect that revisions to those documents will come to the MRU community for review in the winter 2022 semester.”

Addendum: MRU Institutes Financial Statements 2019-2021 (available to GFC Members in the GFC Shared Drive)