

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

November 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

ABSENCES

Regrets: Kenna Olsen
Absent: Sean Cook
Annalise Van Ham

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

1. TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2020

MOTION: Easton / Lang	THAT the Agenda for the November 27, 2020 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.
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Discussion:

- Two items were proposed for section 12. New Business for consideration to be added at that point in the agenda:
 - Temporary Suspension of Interview Requirement for Applicants – Information Design & Public Relations Programs
 - Proposal to Delay Start of Winter Classes 2021

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

3.1. Minutes from October 23, 2020

MOTION: Patient / Dean	THAT the Minutes of the October 23, 2020 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.
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Discussion:

- The MRFA and MRU have reached a memorandum of understanding for extending the reporting timelines for the faculty annual reports. Dr. E. Evans was thanked for working with the MRFA to make this happen.
- It was confirmed that a survey was sent to students regarding the Fall semester, but results have not been received yet.

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. New Program/Major – Bachelor of Social Work

MOTION: Dean / El Hussein	THAT the General Faculties Council approve the new program/major for the Bachelor of Social Work.
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Discussion:

- The APCC Chair provided a high level summary of the revisions made to the proposal by the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee.

CARRIED

4.2. Status of the Academic Plan Implementation Committee (APIC)

MOTION: Uzoka / Varella	THAT the General Faculties Council disband the Academic Plan Implementation Committee (APIC) and THAT the members of APIC be recognized for their significant contributions on the important work of this committee.
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Discussion:

- E. Evans gave an overview of the background and rationale for the motion, which was provided in the briefing note in the meeting package.
- A suggestion was made to split the main motion into two motions in order to discuss each part separately.

MOTION: Easton / El Hussein	THAT the motion be split into two motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● THAT the General Faculties Council disband the Academic Plan Implementation Committee (APIC). ● THAT the members of APIC be recognized for their significant contributions on the important work of this committee.
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MOTION CARRIED

MOTION SPLIT

MOTION: Uzoka / Varella	THAT the General Faculties Council disband the Academic Plan Implementation Committee (APIC) and that all of its records and documents be forwarded to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee.
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Discussion:

- A suggestion was made that the main motion be amended to add wording that APIC’s minutes and relevant documents are shared with the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC).

MOTION: Easton / Osakwe	THAT the motion be amended to add the words <i>“and that all of its records and documents be forwarded to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee”</i> .
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Discussion of amendment:

- It was explained that the amendment to the motion ensures the work of APIC is forwarded to the committee that is now responsible for academic planning (APBC).

- The Chair of APBC informed that he has already collected the APIC documents (minutes, report cards) for sharing with the APBC members, along with documentation from the former budget committee, as well.
- A comment was made with respect to including the white paper produced for APIC in the documentation to be provided to APBC.
 - In response, it was recollected that APIC had not received the white paper from the working group.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED, as amended.

MOTION: Uzoka / Varella

THAT the members of APIC be recognized for their significant contributions on the important work of this committee.

Discussion:

- Remarks were made in support of the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

5.1. President and Vice-Chancellor

T. Rahilly submitted a written report on the following areas:

- Planning for Winter 2021 Semester and COVID-19 Update
- President’s Advisory Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Convocation
- System Review Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs
- Senior Leadership update regarding the Provost and Vice-President Academic position

T. Rahilly expressed his gratitude for the work of GFC Councillors to help the university during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion of the report:

- A concern was raised about the use of the results from the survey sent to students about their experiences during the pandemic. It was cautioned that the data from the survey results should not get misused as an informal evaluation of classes/instructors work, which would contravene the Collective Agreement.
 - In response, T. Rahilly explained that the results have not been received yet, and assured the University will adhere to the Collective Agreement.

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.

6. Committee Chair Reports

6.1. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

P. Varella, Chair of the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC), submitted a written report about the November 5, 2020 APBC meeting.

6.2. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

P. Choate, Chair of the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC), highlighted areas of the written report submitted about the November 10, 2020 APCC meeting.

6.3. Academic Standards Committee

L. Easton, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), submitted a written report about the November 12, 2020 ASC meeting.

6.4. Executive Committee

T. Rahilly, Chair of the Executive Committee, submitted a written report about the November 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

6.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

K. Olsen, Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), submitted a written report about the November 17, 2020 RSC meeting.

6.6. Student Affairs Committee

P. Warsaba, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), gave a verbal report with updates on the October 26 and November 23, 2020 SAC meetings.

6.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

C. Cook, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), submitted a written report for the October 29, 2020 TLC meeting.

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

No written questions were submitted to GFC.

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Questions were responded to regarding the following items:

- Next steps for the report from APCC with a recommendation on the “Three-Credit Indigenous Component”
 - The Executive Committee discussed moving APCC’s recommendation forward as part of the establishment of the Academic Indigenization Committee (AIC), which is in progress. Moving the

- recommendation forward will need to be considered in coordination with AIC's mandate (once established) and with other groups at the university.
- Additional information on the status report on the launch of F180, as noted in the Provost's Report
 - Per the report, it was explained that the issues raised by GFC were related to operational aspects and they will be addressed by the appropriate areas responsible.
 - An overview was provided about the challenges that occurred with the launch and how they have been addressed to ensure the system is now functioning as it should.
 - Steve Sutcliffe and Andrew Reil were thanked for their outstanding work in supporting faculty members in completing their annual reports.
 - Concerns that have been brought forward with the AVP, Indigenization and Colonization position's reporting structure
 - It was explained that representation on the selection committee for this position is representative of the University, and consultations have been well reflected in the posting for this position and in the way this position has been set up
 - Directed to TLC, an update about the Learning Management System (LMS), in response to concerns that have been expressed about a new LMS and the consultation process
 - Information was provided about the University's reasons and plans to implement a new LMS, planned for implementation in Fall 2022 at the earliest. This has been planned for years, with multiple consultations with faculty and students. Deans' Council recently approved a request for proposals for a new LMS, and the procurement of an LMS is operational for University administration. In terms of function of the system, the TLC has struck a working group to discuss overall communication and a roll out plan for an LMS.
 - A suggestion about structuring the discussion of reports separate from the question period so questions and responses are addressed for one report at a time
 - The agenda structure will be considered for the next meeting.
 - With respect to ASC's plan to look at the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria*, as reported in the ASC Chair's Report, a suggestion to engage former/current Associate Dean's to assist ASC with this work.
 - It was explained that a large scale consultation had been done to develop the criteria. ASC is in the early stages of reviewing the criteria, and will consider if additional consultations will be necessary.
 - Communication of the approval of the Fall semester withdrawal date deadline extension, and consideration to do this for the Winter semester
 - It has been communicated to students, and the university is working with students through the Registrar's Office to provide accommodations if they were negatively impacted by this extension.
 - For the Winter semester, it would be considered as part of the proposal to delay the start of winter classes.

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

MOTION: Murray / Rossman	THAT the following Consent Agenda Items for Approval be approved, as presented: 10.1. Academic Schedule 2021-2022 THAT General Faculties Council approve the 2021-2022 Academic Schedule. 10.2. Teaching and Learning Committee Charter THAT the Teaching and Learning Committee Charter is approved, as presented.
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MOTION CARRIED

11. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following consent agenda items were received for information:

- 11.1. Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 11.2. Faculty Approved Curriculum**

12. NEW BUSINESS

T. Rahilly provided an additional update about new recipients of the Order of Canada Appointments who are related to Mount Royal.

- 12.1. Temporary Suspension of Interview Requirement for Applicants – Information Design & Public Relations Programs**

MOTION TO CONSIDER: Dunmade / Dean	THAT the General Faculties Council add “12.1 Temporary Suspension of Interview Requirement for Applicants – Information Design & Public Relations Programs” to the Agenda as new business.
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MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Pettit / Quance	THAT given the COVID-19 challenges to our current process, the General Faculties Council approve the suspension of the interview requirement for applicants to the Faculty of Business and Communication Studies’ Information Design and Public Relations programs for the current admission intake process for Fall 2021. This is a temporary measure to address the limitations of the online environment in conducting admission interviews. Students would not be notified of this change, but this requirement would be
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removed from the process for all Information Design and Public Relations applicants for admission Fall 2021.

Discussion:

- The background and context for the motion provided in the briefing note was highlighted, including the benefits to students.
- It was explained that Enrolment Services supports this motion and that because it is an admission requirement, it requires GFC approval.

MOTION CARRIED

12.2. Proposal to Delay Start of Winter Classes 2021

MOTION TO CONSIDER:
Easton / Fischer

THAT the General Faculties Council add “12.2 Proposal to Delay Start of Winter Classes 2021” to the Agenda as new business.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Dunmade / El Hussein

THAT GFC endorse the delay of start of classes to begin January 11, 2021 and approve the delegation of authority to the GFC Executive Committee to make the decision to delay the start of the first day of classes for the Winter 2021 semester to January 11, 2021 and to approve temporary exemptions to the policies required to enable this change.

Discussion:

- It was explained why this delegation to the Executive Committee is required. As it was important for GFC to understand what this specific delegation is for, the rationale for this proposal that was provided in the meeting package was further explained.
- Further information for the temporary exemptions to policies would be provided to EC within the week for their decision.
- It was clarified that some programs would need to be exempt from a delay and those programs will be identified via the Registrar’s Office.
- Remarks were shared in support of this motion, including that it would provide support for student’s workloads and mental health as impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A question was asked with respect to supporting students in the current semester to address assessment and mental health concerns. MRU has been responding to concerns and is still collecting data to determine if further changes would be required. Remarks were also shared about how faculty are providing support for students in this regard.
- It was discussed if the motion should be amended to help clarify the intent of this motion that a delay to the start date of classes is supported by GFC, pending the additional information to be provided to EC to assess all possible impacts of a delay.

- Comments were made that a decision would need to be communicated as soon as possible to faculty and students. It was explained that the ADC has been, and will continue, to work with faculty for planning for next semester.
- It was further clarified that EC will make the final decision about a delay to the start of classes. It was suggested that GFC could formally endorse a delay in order for EC to include their endorsement as part of their consideration when making the final decision.

MOTION: Easton / Dobson

THAT the motion be amended to add the words “GFC endorse the delay of start of classes to begin January 11, 2021” to the beginning of the motion, and to remove the words “on whether or not” from the sentence “*and the delegation of authority to the GFC Executive Committee to make the decision on whether or not to delay the start of the first day of classes...*”.

MOTION CARRIED

Further discussion:

- In response to a question, the EC would be receiving information about accommodations with respect to the number of instructional days impacted by a delay in the start of classes.
- It was clarified that a special meeting of EC would be required as soon as possible and that the additional information to be provided for their review would be assembled over the next few days.

MOTION CARRIED, as amended.

The individuals involved in presenting this motion to GFC were thanked for bringing it forward with background and rationale to GFC on short notice.

13. ADJOURNMENT 10:48AM Gannon / Roberts