

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL – OPEN SESSION

September 11, 2020

Virtual Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

ABSENCES

Regrets: Trevor Day
Katharine McGowen

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

1. TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

MOTION: Mahon / Dunmade

THAT the Agenda for the September 11, 2020 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3. GFC ORIENTATION PRESENTATION

T. Rahilly and J. O'Connor gave an orientation about General Faculties Council and university governance, and responded to questions for clarifications. The presentation will be made available on the GFC website.

R. Stewart left the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

4.1. Minutes from May 21, 2020

MOTION: Choate / Olsen

THAT the Minutes of the May 21, 2020 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1. Acknowledgement of the harm done to Indigenous peoples by colonization and by the trauma inflicted by the residential school system

MOTION: Hamilton / Varella

THAT Mount Royal University acknowledges the genocide done to Indigenous peoples by colonization and the trauma inflicted by the residential school system, and supports the ongoing work of reconciliation, including the objectives set out in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This acknowledgement brings a responsibility to provide a culturally-safe learning and work environment in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings and MRU's Indigenous Strategic Plan. MRU is committed to strengthening our commitment to decolonization, as stated in the five goals of our Indigenous Strategic Plan. We will: 1) Cultivate respectful and welcoming environments that prevail over the legacy of colonization; 2) Foster respect for Indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge production to increase capacity for Indigenous scholarship; 3) Build strong connections by forging mutually supportive and productive partnerships with all stakeholders in Indigenous education; 4) Work with our communities to enhance

the academic, personal and cultural experience of Indigenous learners; 5) Promote culturally responsible and respectful curricula that integrates Indigenous pedagogies and ways of knowing.

Discussion:

- Comments were made to summarize the intent of the motion and in regards to academic freedom.
- A request to amend the main motion was made to strike the word “harm” from the first sentence and replace it with the word “genocide”, referencing excerpts from the final report by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and sharing lived experience stemming directly from residential schools and other government policy (suicide, addictions and violence) as rationale for the request.

MOTION: Striped Wolf / T. Haney **THAT** the main motion be amended to strike the word “harm” from the first sentence and replace it with “genocide”.

Discussion:

- Comments were made supporting the amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

- Statements were made in advocacy of the motion that expanded upon areas addressed in the motion and academic freedom, shared the impacts from residential schools and systemic racism (including historical facts and personal experiences), and commented about the reasons and importance for MRU to make this acknowledgement.
- Concerns were expressed about negative impacts if the motion was not passed and if the University did not make the acknowledgement.
- Requests were made for next steps, if the motion passed:
 - To bring the motion to the Board of Governors to endorse
 - To make the motion available across the institution for dissemination

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

Next steps: President T. Rahilly will bring this motion forward as a recommendation to the Board.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1. COVID-19

6.1.1. General Update and 6.1.2. Winter Semester 2021

The GFC received an update on University planning activity related to the COVID-19 pandemic for information and the response to restrictions imposed by the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta. Initial feedback for consideration when planning for the winter semester was provided. However, due to time constraints in the meeting, it was requested that GFC members provide feedback for input into

planning for the delivery of courses in the Winter 2021 semester directly to Steven Price, Elizabeth Evans and Jane O'Connor.

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

7.1. President and Vice-Chancellor – T. Rahilly

T. Rahilly highlighted the areas submitted in his written report and expanded upon his membership on the Guiding Coalition for the System Review Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs.

7.2. Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Interim) – E. Evans

E. Evans submitted a written report with academic updates, and updates from the Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic and Vice-Provost and AVP, Students.

8. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

8.1. Executive Committee – T. Rahilly

T. Rahilly, Chair of the Executive Committee, submitted a written report for the September 2, 2020 Executive Committee meeting and highlighted areas of the report at the meeting.

9. OTHER REPORTS

9.1. Report from the Board of Governors

A written report was submitted on the open session board meeting on May 25, 2020 and the Governance and Nominating Committee meeting on June 25, 2020. Additionally, it was announced that three new board members had been appointed to the board.

10. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

No written questions were submitted to GFC.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A question was responded to with additional information about the new board members.

12. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

No items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

13. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

MOTION: Dobson / Dunmade	<p>THAT the consent agenda items for information be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1. Summary of Items Approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of GFC 13.2. Universities Canada Reaffirmation of Adherence to Criteria for Membership 13.3. Committee Meeting Minutes 13.4. Faculty Council Annual Reports
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MOTION CARRIED

14. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought forward.

15. ADJOURNMENT 11:45am Uzoka / Patient

The confidential Closed Session meeting followed.