



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #555

Approved Minutes

Monday, May 3, 2021

3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: M. Mahon, (Chair), C. Adams, K. Alexander, R. Barendregt, L. Barrett, J. Blum, S. Bubel, N. Buis Deering, P. Cardozo, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, C. Currie, J. Dobbie, A. Dodd, P. Dutt, L. Elias, K. Godfrey, E. Greidanus, M. Helstein, B. Hughes, M. Ingraham, D. Jarvie, P. Kellett, L. Kennedy, H. Kletke, I. Kovalchuk, J. Laurendeau, M. Letts, R. Lindblad, L. Litchke, C. Loewen, M. Magnuson, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, C. Mattatall, A. Mendenhall, M. Mohajerani, C. Nicol, E. Okine, R. Parkkari, T. Patel, K. Peacock, G. Pyle, N. Rebry, J. Rice, G. Robinson, M. Serebryansky, J. Sheriff, S. Spenceley, L. Spencer, C. Steinke, A. Stewart, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, J. Vokey, N. Walker, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood

Regrets: C. Fleischman, I. Genee, M. Kildaw, Y. Li, T. Oosterbroek, P. Shao, D. St. Georges, J. Usher, R. Yalamova

Other: S. Das, K. Fuglerud, J. Gallais, V. Grisack, H. Mirau, M. Moser, S. Nieboer, H. Takahashi, C. Takeyasu, M. Whipple

Oki. The President opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. M. Mahon welcomed the new and returning students. A moment of silence was observed for Mary Wood, former employee and Dr. Wayne Edwards, physician.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2021.05.01

Marynowski/Spenceley

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #555 held Monday, May 3, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2021.05.02

Adams/Patel

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #554 held Monday, April 12, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- Fraud – The media report was released last week. We are not able to make any comments as this is in front of the courts now. M. Mahon acknowledged the stressful and hard work of the people involved in bringing this matter to the police.
- COTW have moved through many of the meetings. Many of you are doing double duty and the President appreciates the amount of work that many of you are putting into this process. There are many questions about Laurentian University - they ran many years of deficit and had large debt which we do not have. We want to make sure that we don't get to the position that Laurentian found itself in. We have some difficult decisions to make. There is a large gap from where we are now to where we need to get. All of the discussions that are taking place are critical in making decisions on how to move forward as a university. The President again acknowledged the hard work that has already gone into this so far.
- Fall 2021 – there is a special working group to determine how to effectively increase the number of people on campus. Significant vaccination over the next couple of months will help our situation. He has heard from other institutions that they also have full intentions of going down our same path depending on vaccinations and the uptake of those vaccines. We have some work to do in order to encourage our faculty and staff to get vaccinated, and positive messaging is important in encouraging vaccination uptake.
- Thanks to Dr. H. Jansen for taking up the role of Interim University Librarian. Dr. C. Nicol is finishing up his role as University Librarian this spring.
- Alberta 2030 – more work is needed to keep Alberta universities vibrant and to position all universities for success.
- Long Service Awards will take place on May 5th
- University of Lethbridge Awards Night will be on May 27th. We will recognize a number of award winners including the President's Award For Service Excellence, BOG Teaching Chair, Speaker Research, and Excellence in Teaching (formerly Distinguished Teaching Award)
- The Chancellor's Reception takes place on June 10th honoring the HDRs & our Volunteer Award winners. For the first time in the University of Lethbridge's history, we will award 5 honorary degrees virtually. Janice Varzari, one honoree is very excited that we are doing this.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- C. Steinke – At a general meeting recently, Brenda Austin-Smith, the CAUT president, came to address the members and spoke about Laurentian University and I know that you have said that the UofL is nothing like Laurentian so not to worry. B. Austin-Smith did say it was a result of a lot of bad management decisions by administration and poor funding by the provincial government at Laurentian. She did say that some administration

may use it as a stick and scare tactic. She talked about Alberta in regards to forcing people to accept decisions and blaming it on government funding cuts. I know that you said the UofL is nothing like that but then again some are saying that but then flipping it behind closed doors. I wondered if you could respond to that at all. M. Mahon responded that he has to be careful at GFC not to discuss things that we may be in discussions with the Faculty Association but he can address this in regards to his comments on Laurentian. The issues that were a challenge for Laurentian is that they had many years of deficits which we are not able to run a deficit. They also have a lot of debt which we don't have. We are going to have to make some difficult decisions so that we don't become like Laurentian. C. Takeyasu and N. Walker will present on the budget later and you will see that we are a bit away from the balanced budget we need for next year. In terms of mentioning Laurentian in challenges, he has been asked a number of times if we are in the same boat.

- L. Spencer – Can you comment more on the in-person experience in the fall and the vaccinations. Can you comment on what has been done and how we are encouraging students to get vaccinated? Can we run vaccination clinics on campus? M. Mahon responded that we have discussed with AHS, and also have discussed the importance of our age population and our ability to be successful in opening in the fall. It is important that we are a highly vaccinated community to feel comfortable in returning to campus. Positive communication on vaccines will unfold over the next few months. We have looked at having prizes for students who get vaccinations. We are using a variety of mediums in thinking through this such as a break on tuition. The President got his vaccine and noted we all have a role to play in getting people vaccinated.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Appointment of Student Members

MOTION: gfc.2021.05.03

Okine/Massey

That General Faculties Council (GFC) approves the appointed student members below to GFC for terms ending on April 30, 2022.

***APPOINTED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS
(Nominated by Students' Union) [8] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints)***

<i>Student (Arts & Science)</i>	<i>Ryan Lindblad</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Arts & Science)</i>	<i>Cayley Fleischman</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Business)</i>	<i>Mark Serebryansky</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Business)</i>	<i>Michelle Kildaw</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Education)</i>	<i>Amy Mendenhall</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Fine Arts)</i>	<i>Alexandra Dodd</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (Health Sciences)</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Student (TBA)</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>

APPOINTED GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBER (Nominated by Graduate Students Association) [2] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints)

<i>Graduate Student</i>	<i>Priyanka Dutt</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>
<i>Graduate Student</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>April 30, 2022</i>

Motion: Carried

The Chair officially welcomed all of the students as members of GFC.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. GFC Strategic Planning Committee Progress and Achievement Report

M. Whipple and M. Moser were present to answer any questions on the report. The full draft report was included for review and it usually goes to the Board of Governors in mid-June so the timelines were moved up. They are looking for any input. M. Mahon reminded members that it goes to the GFC Strategic Planning Committee before coming to GFC for comments and then to the Board for final approval. Thanks to those who worked on this report.

6.2. 2021 – 2022 Budget

N. Walker introduced the draft budget report as they are taking input from a number of groups. The budget input needs to be in by mid-May so it can go to the Board for approval and be submitted to the government by May 31. We have balanced the budget for 2021-22 by using one time funding to balance. This will give us challenges in future years. They do a lot of ratio analysis and management discussion of analysis to the board so that everyone knows our position and where our finances are - \$4.4 million dollars is the amount of funding we will need to cut to balance next year due to our assumptions. There are 20 strategic task forces working on operational efficiencies, budget reductions and revenue generation. Thanks was given to C. Takeyasu and M. Sawa for their dedication and work to get us to this point. C. Takeyasu was introduced and N. Walker asked for input to be sent to them both over the next couple of weeks.

C. Takeyasu gave a brief overview on what is encompassed in our budget. She discussed unrestricted funds; restricted funds are used for a specific purpose such as research and if this is not used completely the unused funds are returned to granting agencies; endowments - we hold the funds in perpetuity and only spend the interest; Ancillary services - have to cover their expenses as well as put funds away for future. Additionally, capital funding is generally received from the government, which this year includes the \$20 million for the replacement of central heating and cooling plant. C. Takeyasu discussed

the various things that go in-to the budget. A pie chart of the reductions in the provincial operating grant – \$3.4 in 2019-20, \$7.1 in 2020-21, and \$5.7 million in 2021-22 with more anticipated in 2022-23 (roughly \$5 million). We have reduced 105 positions beginning in 2019 (9.9% of workforce). We started working on the budget last summer and had to make assumptions on what we think reductions/projections are going to be. If we are off by 1% in our budget assumptions, this means a reduction of \$1.1 million in salaries & benefits, and \$379,000 in the amount of credit hours. She went over the various components of the budget noting that while we are using one time funding - once we use it, it is gone. The board has decided to put 1% from increase of tuition for bursaries for students to help offset the increase. We have a balanced budget for this year but we need to start looking at reductions for the next year. We cannot submit a deficit budget to the government, however, next year we are projecting a deficit without significant reductions or increases in revenue generation. There are some positions that will not be replaced and we have started anticipating costs and savings for next year with some high-level projections – including negotiations with bargaining groups on campus. No decisions have been made from the transformational task force work but we will have to make savings or revenue generation of \$4.374 million. C. Takeyasu stated that we use the budget values on how to make reductions and discussed what they were. As the budget focuses on one corner of the budget values triangle, it will affect the other two. Questions and discussion occurred around investments, one time funding, tuition revenue, enrolment numbers, as well as how retirements will affect savings and how we deliver programming.

6.3. Investment Management Agreement (IMA) Draft

M. Helstein introduced the IMA draft. The document was post agenda with the most recent draft of the document uploaded. It aligns closely with the budget approval. It comes to GFC for input, then to the Board for approval and the minister of Advanced Education must also approve it. We will endeavour to get feedback into the document. There are a number of sections that are dictated by the government as well as other sections with our input being restricted to certain parameters. We have metrics now that are tied into our funding, so a portion is now potentially at risk. This is the second draft that we have sent in. We have done some push back with Work Integrated Learning (WIL) data, for example the tolerance threshold that was 0 we are suggesting 5. We do meet the metric already. The intent, when the government introduced the IMA, was that it was to be a three-year IMA with a number of metrics. We don't know yet what the next metrics will be. M. Helstein thanked N. Freiheit and J. Gallais for their work on the document. The floor was opened up for questions. Editorial changes are asked to be sent to M. Helstein. There was discussion on the definition, opportunities and thresholds of WIL.

6.4. GFC Nominations Committee

M. Stingl reported that the Committee is bringing the vacancies forward to GFC. They are encouraging nominations from GFC members to ensure diversity in the slate of candidates.

6.5. GFC Executive Committee Report – April 26, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

6.6. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes - #534 – April 6, 2021

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2021.05.04

Ingraham/Cummins

That the GFC meeting #555 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried