



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #583

Approved Minutes

Monday, June 3, 2024

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** D. Jayas (Chair), A. Akbary, S. Alam, V. Baulkaran (virtually), Y. Belanger (virtually), N. Buis Deering, L. Burckes (virtually), C. Burton, C. Carnaghan, J. Cunningham, H. Davis-Fisch(virtually), Y. Dixit (virtually), J. Doan, A. Dymond, A. Ebenmelu (virtually), A. Enigbokan (virtually), S. Findlay, E. Galway (virtually), P. Ghazalian (virtually), K. Godfrey, K. Haight (virtually), M. Helstein, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, M. Letts, R. Marynowski (virtually), K. Massey, J. Mather, I. McAdam, A. Oblak (virtually), N. Patel, N. Rebry (virtually), J. Reiter, J. Rice, Y. Sackey-Forson (virtually), J. Sadr, R. Schiff, K. Schwarz (virtually), E. Scott, D. Slomp, L. Starr (virtually), J. Sumbera (virtually), R. Sutherland (virtually), N. Thakor (virtually), M. Thomas (virtually), S. Urquhart (virtually), L. Vogelsang (virtually), A. von Heyking (virtually), P. Wilson (virtually), J. Youngdahl (virtually), D. Zalesak (virtually)
- Regrets:** L. Barrett, J. Dobbie, J. Ford, K. Greenwood, K. Ito, S. Malla, C. Mattatall, S. McDougall, D. McIntyre, D. McMartin, D. McNeill, L. Michael, J. Oldfield, D. Smither, G. Tian, P. Visentin, N. Walker, R. Williams
- Other:** G. DeSteur (virtually), J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Mathurin-Moe, M. Whipple
(other guests were present on Zoom)

Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. Numerous academic staff members terms were ending June 30, 2024, even though some may be renewed by their Faculty/Council or through other mechanisms, but the President wanted to acknowledge and thank them all individually.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #583 June 3, 2024 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #582 May 6, 2024: GFC Meeting #582.1 – May 13, 2024 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – May 27, 2024
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #565 – April 29, 2024; #566 – May 9, 2024 Meetings

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.01

Reiter/Mather

That the General Faculties Council approve the June 3, 2024 Consent Agenda with change to CCC report 2.

Motion: Carried

One change was noted in the President report was that K. Alexander was the second recipient of the Graduate Mentorship Award. Recommendations #26-28 were pulled from Report 2 due to members not having enough time to look at the information sent out. They will be brought back to the next GFC meeting in the fall.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Jayas referred to the President's Report that was included in the agenda package.

A few highlights and additions were noted:

- Thrilled to attend convocation. The students were excited to celebrate with their families. D. Jayas was pleased to see that some Indigenous students had honour songs sung for them.
- Saturday morning after convocation was the Ahead of the Herd with many families attending.
- Multi-sport dome – GFC passed a motion that he shared with the board. D. Jayas has received a letter from the Board Chair which he read to the members (see Appendix 1).
- Bill 18 has received royal assent and is awaiting proclamation. All university presidents who spoke at the government meeting made sure that the premier and the ministers understood the negative impact this bill will have. We have asked that post-secondary be exempt. Because the bill has passed, we will now provide input to the regulations. We hope that the government will exempt the tri-agencies funding which is decided by peers and not government. We will continue to make the case for full exemption for PSI and at the very least for tri-agencies.
- On a personal note. The President gave his thanks for all of the support for his first year. He thanked his team and the admin support staff. He feels like part of the community.

3. QUESTION PERIOD

One question was submitted in advance:

- K. Haight - Can we receive an update on the Dome Project and where it is at with the Board of Governors. This question was addressed in the President's Report by the letter from the Board Chair.
- C. Carnaghan asked for an update on the MOU with the City. They are still discussing the details. It was reported that we are looking at what sort of things we can do to support the students and how we can keep them in the city.
- J. Mather reported that Facilities have installed the handrails. She asked that something be done for the automatic door to the main area of the Science Commons. D. Jayas will bring this to facilities attention. Thank you was given to the Vice-Provost EDI for working to improve accessibility.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report Report 1 - Immediate Implementation

Student Enrolment & Registrar Services

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.02
Buis Deering/Scott

That General Faculties Council approve the updates to the undergraduate Leave of Absence policy.

Motion: Carried

Once the Leave of Absence policy was approved, we needed to tweak items in our procedure.

Report 2 – Implementation May 1, 2025

Faculty of Arts & Science

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.03
Letts/Findlay

That GFC approve Recommendations #1 - #10 for the Faculty of Arts & Science from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 2, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

Dhillon School of Business

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.04
Godfrey/Carnaghan

That GFC approve Recommendations #11 - #16 for the Dhillon School of Business from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 2, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Education

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.05
Starr/Rice

That GFC approve Recommendations #17 - #18 for the Faculty of Education from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 2, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Fine Arts

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.06
Davis-Fisch/Dymond

That GFC approve Recommendations #19 - #23 for the Faculty of Fine Arts from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 2, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

School of Liberal Education

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.07
Jansen/Reiter

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Liberal Education List II: Social Science Courses.

Motion: Carried

School of Graduate Studies

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.08
Rice/Jansen

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Graduate Calendar relating to the doctoral comprehensive examination.

Motion: Carried

Student Enrolment & Registrar Services

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.09
Buis Deering/

That GFC approve Recommendations #29 - #31 for Student Enrolment & Registrar Services from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 2, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

Recommendations #26 - 28 were removed from the report and recommendation #29, 30, 31 are approved.

Report 3 – Pending Ministerial Approval

Faculty of Arts & Science

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.10
Letts/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve the addition of a course-based Master of Arts (Economics) program.

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Fine Arts

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.11
Davis-Fisch/Jansen

That General Faculties Council approve the program changes to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dramatic Arts).

Motion: Carried

Faculty of Health Sciences

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.12
Doan/Findlay

That GFC approve Recommendations #3 - #4 for the Faculty of Health Sciences from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 3, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

Dhillon School of Business

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.13
Godfrey/Carnaghan

That GFC approve Recommendations #5 - #10 for the Dhillon School of Business from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report 3, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

4.2.GFC Admission Standards Committee Reports

4.2.1. Report 1 – Implementation May 1, 2025

Faculty of Health Science

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.14

Doan/Scott

That GFC approve updates to the Spoken English Language Proficiency (SELP) requirements for Bachelor of Health Sciences programs.

Motion: Carried

School of Graduate Studies

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.15

Rice/Slomp

That GFC approve updates to the graduate deferral policy.

Motion: Carried

Dhillon School of Business

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.16

Godfrey/Findlay

That GFC approve Recommendations #3 - #6 for the Dhillon School of Business from the GFC Admission Standards Committee Report, effective May 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

4.3. GFC Nominations Committee

4.3.1. GFC Nominations Committee Slate

MOTION: gfc.2024.06.17

Marynowski/Findlay

That GFC Nominations Committee met on May 24, 2024 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees:

Destination Project Phase II Steering GFC Ad Hoc Committee
(members will stay until the conclusion of the work of the committee)

- *Yllias Chali*
- *Sean Fitzpatrick*
- *Brenda Leung*

- *Josephine Mills*
- *Daniela Sirbu*

Budget Advisory Committee (Sept. 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026)

- *Vishaal Baulkaran (Dhillon School of Business, Finance)*
- *David Scott (Library)*

GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)

- *Peter Visentin*

GFC Research Planning Committee (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026)

- *Kaylan Schwarz (School of Liberal Education)*

GFC Strategic Planning Committee (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026)

- *Richard Delisle (School of Liberal Education)*

Motion: Carried

There were no questions or comments on the slate.

4.3.2. Open Floor for Nominations

R. Marynowski noted that there were several vacancies that are still not filled and are noted in the package. The floor was opened for nominations and the following positions were filled:

Destination Project Phase II Steering GFC Ad Hoc Committee

Two (2) Academic Staff Members (members will stay until the conclusion of the work of the committee) *Social Sciences and Humanities representatives who currently reside in University Hall are specifically encouraged.*

- Tara Million, Indigenous studies
- Julie Young, Geography & Environment

GFC Research Planning Committee

Three (3) Academic Staff Members*

- Robert LeBlanc (Faculty of Education)

MOTION: gfc.20204.05.18
Jansen/Massey

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

gfc.2024.06.19

Massey/Findlay

That the GFC meeting of June 3, 2024 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried

Appendix 1

As you are aware, at its meeting on May 29, 2024, the Board of Governors passed a motion to approve the design and construction of a multi-sport dome contingent on a portion of the project funding to be from external sources. I am writing today to ask that you share this information with members of the General Faculties Council (GFC). I want to be sure that governance body knows that the Board seriously considered their feedback, including the failed GFC motion, as it deliberated on this decision. I want to thank them for their input and share with them the major factors in the Board's decision. I also note that the GFC feedback resulted in some positive changes not only to the project itself but to university processes as well.

The Board is charged with the institution's financial sustainability, and it foregrounded this responsibility in making this important decision on the multi-sports dome. The Board considered the ability to address several important high-level institutional risks through the project, including the need for sustainable funding in the context of less reliance on increasingly reduced government grant funds, student enrolment (recruitment and retention), and community support.

Specifically, the project allows us to:

- diversify our revenues and monetize some land assets
- leverage funds from external sources
- leverage new facilities for student use and recruitment
- use strategic priority funds wisely:
 - by balancing the significant strategic priority funds already committed to important academic and student initiatives with the use of a portion of these funds for revenue generation
 - including the ability to use these funds twice, as the internal loan is repaid back to the strategic priority funds
- The project does not draw on the University's operating budget for either construction or operation, but rather contributes to diversifying our strategic use of funds.

Additionally, the Board considered internal and external community impact, including:

- an identified need for increased facility capacity for students and employees
- an acknowledgement that not everyone will benefit directly in terms of potential facility use; but that reinvestment of the repaid loan into other strategic priorities areas will serve the institution broadly
- that the land gifted to the University of Lethbridge by the City should support and open our doors to our City and surrounding communities.
 - This has positive impacts on community familiarity and support for the institution and on recruitment.

Importantly, as a result of the feedback on the project that came from GFC and other consultations, administration has provided a clarifying document to the University of Lethbridge Students' Union (ULSU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA), establishing clear parameters for student consultation on the Athletic & Recreation Services (ARS) fee, and the following process changes have resulted:

- Establishing a Student Advisory Committee: This committee, developed in collaboration with the ULSU and GSA, will provide students with a platform to contribute to the strategic direction of recreation facilities, services, and programs.
- Annual Capital Plan Review: The capital plan will now be reviewed annually by the GFC Strategic Planning Committee and GFC to incorporate perspectives and ideas throughout the plan development cycle.

- Increased Academic Staff Representation on the Budget Advisory Committee: Starting in the 2024/2025 academic year, the committee will include four academic staff members (two elected by GFC and two appointed by the President's Executive). This is up from one academic appointment.

The Board expects the University Administration will be working with government and potential donors to achieve external funding for this project. We are hopeful for the success of the external funding, so we can break ground as early as possible.

Again, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank GFC for their input as we remain committed to collegial governance.