

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #629

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Zoom

***Voting Members***

E. McCauley, Chair	T. Comrie	Y. Kim	E. Rezaei-Afsah
S. Al-Khaz'Ally	A. Dambrowitz	A. Knight	T. Risling
D. Anderson	S. Davidson	R. Lauer	S. S. Saaka
T. Anderson	J. Dinh	S. LeBlanc	B. Salami
G. Assefa	G. Dziegielewska	A. Mac Namara	U. Sandhu
J. Ayala	T. Elbert	M. MacKenzie	A. Schmal
K. Baetz	V. Gabriel	R. McCorkell for R. Weller	D. Scollnik for K. Donlevy
T. Beattie	D. Gereluk	L. Mazzino	C. Seneviratne
A. Belikova	E. Girma	A. Morris	R. Sheldon
W. Benoit	W. Ghali	A. Musgrove	D. Slater
J. Bergerson	G. Grandy	A. Nygren for W. Rosehart	J. Spangler
W. Bridel	C. Heggerud	K. O'Keefe	P. Toohey
J. Brown	C. Hogan	T. O'Neill	M. Van Hee
W. Cai	N. Holt	E. Perrault	W. D. Walls
O. Chapman	M. Husein	G. Petrie	C. Willness
T. T. Chowdhury	J. Jenkins	Q. Pittman	J. Winter
L.-F. Chu	B. Jones	T. Poffenroth	
C. Cloutier	V. Jones	J. Poissant	
	H. Kim	J. Priest	

***Guests***

S. Bryant, Academic Lead for Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the Vice-President (Research) – for Item 9  
 A. Buret, Associate Vice-President Research – for Item 10  
 J. Edge, Manager, Due Diligence – for Item 11  
 S. Lavoie, Senior Communications Specialist, Provost's Office – for Item 7  
 H. McIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants – for Item 9  
 K. Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research – for Item 9  
 M. Moon, Team Lead, WellBeing and WorkLife – for Item 7  
 J. Rendell, Associate Vice-President - Facilities Management – for Item 3  
 C. Rieder, Manager, Industry Engagement (Research) – for Item 10  
 M. Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the Vice-President (Research) – for Item 9  
 A. Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy – for Item 7  
 J. Thannhauser, Counsellor, Student Wellness Services – for Item 7  
 R. Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research – for Item 11  
 M. Wallace, Director - Research Security – for Item 11  
 J. Wheeler, Academic Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – for Item 8  
 K. Wiens, Director, Student Wellness, Accessibility and Support – for Item 7  
 R. Yates, Administrative Co-Chair, Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group – for Item 8

***Observers***

J. Alho, Associate Vice-President (Government Relations)  
 S. Cunningham, Acting Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement)  
 C. Johns, Provost's Office  
 J. Lacasse, General Counsel  
 S. Luthy, Provost's Office  
 S. McKenzie, Faculty Association  
 M. Turlione, Governance Officer, MacEwen University  
 C. Zukowski, Governance Coordinator, MacEwen University

***Secretary***

C. McVie

***Scribe***

E. Sjogren

***Staff***

M. Speta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts were declared.

**2. Inclusive Practice Moment**

Nick Holt, Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, presented the Traditional Land Acknowledgment and then shared:

- The Faculty of Kinesiology hosted an all-girl Indigenous high school basketball tournament the weekend of May 4-5, 2024. Twenty teams from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia participated, and a documentary about the event will air on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) later this year. The event helped to have these youth feel that a university is a place that they are welcome, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.
- The Kinesiology atrium currently has an exhibit celebrating women in sport, in tribute to Joan Snyder who was a longtime supporter of women's sport and the Faculty of Kinesiology

**3. Safety Moment**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. James Rendell, Associate Vice-President (Facilities Management), presented the Safety Moment on the topic of coyote safety, including:

- Calgary is home to many coyotes, and there is a well-established family around the main campus
- Spring is denning season, with pups born mid-April. When pups are moved to larger dens there is an even greater chance for interaction with humans.
- What to do if you see a coyote:
  - Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact
  - Make yourself appear larger by waving your arms overhead and throw rocks, sticks or other objects toward the coyote
  - If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move towards buildings or human activity
  - Do not turn away or run as this will encourage the coyote to chase you
- An [educational video](#) is available for further learning

**4. Remarks of the Chair**

Ed McCauley, Chair, included the following in his remarks:

- Andrea Morris, Vice-President, Development and Alumni, Corey Hogan, Vice-President, Communications and Community Engagement, Saaka Sulemana Saaka, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, Alexandria Poppendorf, GSA Vice-President (Academic), Kaylee MacLean, GSA Vice-President (Finance and Services), Nadia Ghazanfari, GSA Vice-President (Student Life), Ermia Rezaei-Afsah, Students' Union (SU) President, Jessie Dinh, SU Vice-President

(Academic), and several new SU Faculty representatives were welcomed on this occasion of their first General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting

- Sandra Davidson was congratulated on her appointment as Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and the members of the advisory selection committee were thanked for their work. Penny Werthner, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), was acknowledged for her leadership and significant contributions to the University.
- The Creating Tomorrow, All Kids Thriving: A Vision for Child Health and Wellness, was held May 8, 2024 at the downtown Central Library. This public, family-friendly event was open to all ages, showcasing the One Child Every Child health and wellness initiative, and included storytelling, a round dance, and a panel discussion.
- Representatives of the University continue to communicate about the need for greater investment in postsecondary education and research in Canada, and the benefits that universities bring to society. In the last month, conversations have been occurring with persons in the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Premier's Office regarding Bill 18, the Provincial Priorities Act, including about the scope and possible consequences of this if applied to federal research funding. Representatives of the University and third-party champions have been sharing data, including about the number of jobs supported by research, and underscoring that the federal research funding landscape is primarily peer reviewed. The University is also coordinating with other Alberta post-secondary institutions about this. Conversations about this matter are ongoing, and it is hoped that a positive resolution will be reached since post-secondary institutions were not the main focus of Bill 18. The four asks that the University put to the provincial government in writing are: 1) full exemption of postsecondary institutions from Bill 18, 2) exemption from Bill 18 of research programs without provincial match funding, 3) having a reporting obligation that achieves the provincial government's goals without creating an administrative burden or red tape, and 4) the provincial government could play a greater role in research by funding research itself building on initiatives like the Major Innovations Fund in priority research areas. At this time, representatives of the University are taking the approach of trying to work with the provincial government on this matter and are engaging in a way that is solutions-focused and not adversarial. As the situation evolves, the approach may be altered.
- An encampment was set up in the Taylor Family Digital Library/MacEwan Student Centre quad overnight. This protest joins other encampment-based protests occurring across Canada and North America at this time. Members of the campus community have the right to free expression at the University of Calgary, and this includes the freedom to critique and contest the expression of others. However, these rights and freedoms are limited by the need for the University to maintain a safe and functioning environment. Temporary structures and overnight protests are not allowed on campus, and the protesters were advised this morning that they are free to protest but cannot camp. The protesters have been provided documentation of the University's policies and procedures relating to this and individuals have been trespassed. The Calgary Police Service (CPS) has been called, and CPS will determine the course of action going forward.

## 5. Question Period

In response to comments and questions, it was reported that:

- It is understood that Tri-Council funding already awarded will not be impacted by Bill 18. If Bill 18 passes, implementation will require regulations and protocols, and representatives of the University have been calling for a light touch, such as taking a 'trusted institution' approach and minimizing the administrative burden.

- Effort is being made to explain the complexity of the research funding landscape to the provincial government, such as that some research programs receive funding from multiple sources. It is being emphasised that research funding is peer reviewed and competitively awarded.
- Institutions have been researching and discussing the legality of Bill 18
- An email from pro-Palestine protestors was received, but the University administration cannot address many of the demands in this communication. Overnight encampment is a risk and not allowed at the University. The CPS will determine how to enforce the trespass order against the encampment protesters.

#### 6. Approval of the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

##### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on April 11, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

Saaka Sulemana Saaka abstained

#### 7. Recommendation of the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy: Renewal of the Campus Mental Health Strategy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Szeto, Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy, Michele Moon, Team Lead, WellBeing and WorkLife, Kevin Wiens, Director, Student Wellness, Accessibility and Support, Jennifer Thannhauser, Counsellor, Student Wellness Services, and Sasha Lavoie, Senior Communications Specialist, Provost's Office, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to renew the Campus Mental Health Strategy (as the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy), presented a summary of the feedback received during the consultation process and the changes made as a result, and reported that an action and evaluation plan will be developed. Once approved by the Board of Governors, the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy will be officially launched at the University's UFlourish event in November 2024.
- There were no comments or questions

##### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy (the strategy), in the form provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee, and authorize the proponents to make non-substantive changes to the strategy prior to the Board's approval.

**Carried**

## 8. Approval of Revisions to the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Deputy Provost and Administrative Co-Chair of the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook Working Group (ASCPHWG), and Justine Wheeler, Librarian and Academic Co-Chair of the ASCPHWG, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, noting that there have been no substantive changes made since GFC reviewed the proposal at its April 11, 2024 meeting
- There were no comments or questions

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the revisions to the Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook, effective July 1, 2024, as set out in the document provided to the GFC and as recommended by the GFC Executive Committee.

**Carried**

Maen Husein abstained

## 9. VPR Funding Programs

### a) Catalyst Grants Program

### b) Postdoctoral Match Funding Program

### c) Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) (VPR), introduced this item, noting that these funding programs relate to the *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategy goals and are part of its implementation plan.

### Catalyst Grants Program

Hector McIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants, presented.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that:
  - The Catalyst Grants program launched in Fall 2020, and is designed to catalyse research initiatives that will lead to substantial external funding and is intended to support well-defined early-stage research activities
  - The program has quarterly intakes (November, February, May, and August) and the grants usually range in value from \$1,000 to \$15,000
  - Data relating to the program was shown, including that there have been 14 rounds of Catalyst Grants to date with a 61% success rate
  - The program has a 'getting to yes' paradigm, and unsuccessful applicants are assisted so that they can resubmit to a later intake

- The Catalyst Grants program and the Transdisciplinary Connector Grants program are similar but different. The Catalyst Grants are for growing a body of work and the Transdisciplinary Connector Grants are for creating and growing connections.
- A program review will be undertaken soon, including evaluation of the success of the program
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Engagement with the program is being seen
  - It appears that the program is leading to some Tri-Council funding success

#### Postdoctoral Match Funding Program

Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, presented.

#### Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the history of the Postdoctoral Match Funding program and presented data relating to the current program, including the funding success rate, fellowships awarded by Faculty, and immigration numbers
- Discussion included that:
  - The federal government recently announced an increase to the stipend for postdoctoral fellowships, to \$70,000. The presenter noted that this is for Tri-Council fellowships, but the University has been a competitive destination and so this will be evaluated.
  - It would be good to increase the amount of the stipend provided through the Postdoctoral Match Funding program as some institutions are providing more. The presenter noted that there is no maximum and so a supervisor can choose to provide more to their postdoctoral scholars if their resources allow for this.

#### Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program

Steven Bryant, Academic Lead for Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the VPR, and Mariska Span-Smeelen, Manager, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the VPR, presented.

#### Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program, explaining that its goal is to socialise and enable a variety of transdisciplinary work, and presented data relating to the program including that there have been four rounds to date, with all Faculties and many external organizations involved
- Discussion included that:
  - The grant values (\$10,000 for Initiating grants and \$20,000 for Consolidating grants) are not a lot of funding. The presenters noted that this granting program is meant to enable the growing of research teams and is not a standalone research project funding program, and that it is expected that the teams will go on to apply for and receive other funding.
  - The grant duration is short (6-12 months), and it can be difficult to reach publication stage in that length of time especially if there is an ethics approval component. The presenters noted that funding is not clawed back if the timeline is not met.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Researchers seeking guidance on applying to internal research funding programs can reach out to the VPR office
  - An example of a transdisciplinary research initiative funded through a combination of external and internal funding is the Azrieli Accelerator

#### **10. Industry Engagement (Research) Update**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andre Buret, Associate Vice-President Research, and Carmen Rieder, Manager, Industry Engagement (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on industry engagement at the University, including that:
  - The Industry Engagement Team has three focus areas:
    - Strategy - Strategic planning and identification of key institutional partners
    - Operations - Cultivation, development, and management of institutional partnerships
    - Coordination - Coordination and advice on Faculty or unit-level relationships with industry
  - The team engages with industry in part through attending events hosted by attended by companies and organizations and by joining industry associations
  - The team supports faculty by introducing them to companies that are seeking their expertise, advising on industry engagement plans and pitch materials, inviting industry partners to University events, and through a company database for matching research interests
  - Ways to grow awareness of industry-partnered research have included an industry outreach panel event hosted on November 15, 2023, several informational presentations to units in 2023-2024, meeting with Associate Deans Research, and a mailman list. A SharePoint site will be launching in May 2024.

#### **11. Research Security Division Update**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research, Martha Wallace, Director, Research Security, and Jessica Edge, Manager, Due Diligence, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on research security at the University, including overview of the federal policy timeline, the role of the Research Security Division in supporting researchers, and that the Research Security Division has three teams:
  - Due Diligence team – Provides assistance with the completion of risk assessment forms, vetting potential research partners, assessing sensitive research areas for risk,

preparation of risk mitigation plans, and adhering to federal research security requirements

- Compliance and Investigations team – Provides assistance with adhering to sanctions, export controls, and controlled good regulations, providing travel security briefings, completion of requirements such as attestation forms, and the government of Canada Contract Security Program
- Outreach & Education team – Offers workshops and information sessions about research security, facilitates research security training, and provides educational resources
- In response to a question, it was reported that there is not a formal agreement with the Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies (CDL) at this time regarding direct research security services but a CDL representative does have connection to the Research Security Division and a more formal relationship can be explored. There is a formal memorandum of understanding with the TRIUMF national particle accelerator centre to provide direct research security support.

## 12. Standing Reports

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda as 'In Package Only' for information:

- a) Report on the April 17, 2024 GFC Executive Committee Meeting
- b) Report on the March 25 and April 15, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Meetings
- c) Report on the April 18, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee Meeting
- d) Report on the April 16, 2024 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
- e) Report on the April 18, 2024 Senate Meeting

## 13. Other Business

There was no other business.

## 14. Adjournment

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the General Faculties Council adjourn the May 9, 2024 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary