

**General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION**

**March 17, 2023 at 9am – 11am**

**Lincoln Park Room J301**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chad London, VICE-CHAIR  
Tala Abu Hayyaneh  
Yasmin Ahmed  
David Bird  
Julie Boone  
Arianna Borrueal  
Vicki Bouvier  
Meagan Bowler  
Christine Brownell  
Fiona Chetty  
Peter Choate  
Liza Choi  
Erik Christiansen  
David Clemis  
Christian Cook  
Evan Cortens  
Anupam Das

Trevor Day  
Lee Easton  
Maryam Elahi  
Cynthia Gallop  
Geri Lynn Gouglas  
Brenda Lang  
Rusna Mahoon  
Colin Martin  
Tori McMillan  
Cari Merkley  
Lavinia Moldovan  
Nabeel Muhammad  
Mary-Lee Mulholland  
Mustansar Nadeem  
Joseph Nguyen  
Guy Obrecht  
Kenna Olsen

Jennifer Pettit  
Katharin Pritchard  
Maggie Quance  
Tabussom Qureshi  
Shelley Rathie  
Luis Rios  
Kari Roberts  
Paul Rossmann  
Peter Ryan  
Marc Schroeder  
Cheryl Techentin  
Joyce Totton  
Deep Upadhyaya  
Connie Van der Byl  
Gaye Warthe  
Kelly Williams-Whitt  
Jonathan Withey

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY

Sheena Jensen, RECORDING SECRETARY

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Troy Burnett  
Adam Cave  
Shane Gannon  
Leah Hamilton  
Sally Haney

Michelle LoGullo  
Moussa Magassa  
linda manyguns  
Elaine Mullen  
Nancy Ogden

Stephen Price  
Tim Rahilly, CHAIR  
Michael Uzoka  
Paul Varella  
Phil Warsaba

C. London, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Tala Abu Hayyaneh opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

**1. Approval of Agenda (*motion*)**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Agenda for the March 17, 2023 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

***Motion carried by unanimous consent***

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

### 2.1. Minutes from February 17, 2023 (*motion*)

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the February 17, 2023 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

***Motion carried by unanimous consent***

### 2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 3. APCC Recommendation: Program Definitions Policy – Indigenous Content (*motion*)

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** GFC supports the approach recommended by APCC reflected in this briefing note to address GFC's direction for APCC to explore amendments to the Program Definitions Policy for Indigenous content.

Discussion:

- The APCC Chair gave a presentation on “*Meeting the Mandate of GFC on Indigenous Course Content – A Report from Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee*” summarizing the approach recommended by APCC to accompany the briefing note in the meeting package
  - The presentation gave an overview of:
    - the original mandate for GFC and what APCC found through their research and discussions of a three-credit pathway;
    - the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action that this approach is trying to achieve and how it can be done at MRU; and
    - the pathway forward through the Program Definitions Policy and other elements
  - In the briefing note, APCC asked GFC to support proposed wording for the Program Definitions Policy to move the Indigenous content requirement forward into application, section 7.4. that reads: *All baccalaureate degrees must integrate Indigenous Content within the Major. This requirement may be achieved through a single Course within the Major or through a combination of modules across multiple Courses*
  - GFC was also asked to support a change in direction from the original motion from 2020 that required a three-credit requirement to a content requirement, as APCC had concerns with that model that was explained in the presentation and the briefing note
- If GFC gives their support, the policy revision would enter into community consultation consistent with the University's Policy on Policies and would come back to GFC for final approval
- Support for the approach was shared with the following comments:
  - the importance of all students to have an understanding of foundational Indigenous knowledge and Canada's colonial history
  - having opportunities to learn and challenge their existing beliefs/knowledge and weaving that through foundational General Education courses
  - lack of these learning pathways in University and in K-12 curriculum, and that students should want it as a part of their university experience

- Comments in support of this approach were shared, as it offers flexibility for programs and addresses the specific TRC calls to action around decolonization and MRU Indigenous Strategic Plan objectives
- The following questions and suggestions were heard:
  - Is the University is prepared to invest in the development of pre-built modules for adding into Foundation Level GNED courses and if there is a financial commitment into those modules
  - That the consultation process for the approach be meaningful and specifically with Indigenous faculty who have expertise and how they see it shaping policy and are able guide the development of content
  - That prior to approving the policy revision, there be a way to recognize Indigenous colleagues being called upon for additional work
  - The TRC calls to action for specific programs, such as the School of Nursing, may require additional support
- The APCC Chair indicated that following GFC's decision, APCC will address the questions and suggestions raised
- In response to the question about funding (and specifically development of the GNED modules), it was explained that discussions have taken place with the President and the Provost who have given their support for the approach and have discussed how to support Indigenous faculty's involvement in this work, and that the ADC has production resources to assist with cost savings
- Further support for the approach was shared as a way to get students to understand colonization and their role as settlers and to provide understanding that implementation should not only be done by Indigenous peoples. Anti-Indigenous sentiments on campus need to be addressed in unison with this approach and resources should be put towards educating all faculty, as well
  - The APCC Chair acknowledged the comment, adding that a parallel EDI conversation also has to take place within curriculum and referencing the work that the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is doing

***Motion carried***

C. London added that planning for implementation of this approach when consultations are underway is happening, and that information can be provided to GFC alongside the final policy revision approval.

**4. Committee Chair Reports**

- 4.1. Executive Committee – T. Rahilly  
A written Committee Chair report of the March 8, 2023 EC meeting was provided.
- 4.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee – G. Warthe  
A written Committee Chair report of the March 9, 2023 APBC meeting was provided.

Confirmation was requested if APBC had an opportunity for discussion of the budget or high-level budget considerations before it went to the Board of Governors for approval, and if not, could it be given more focus in the future. It was confirmed that the Board approved the budget at their March 16, 2023 meeting, and that APBC did not discuss it prior to that. It was explained that APBC's governance role is not part of the budget process, and that consideration is part of the discussion of their Charter.

A follow-up comment referenced the former GFC Budget and Finance Advisory Committee's recommendations for GFC to recommend to the Board to formalize GFC's role in the budget development process and to receive reports, and suggested that it is time to revisit those recommendations, noting that they had previously been opposed.

4.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee – P. Choate  
No additional updates, as item 3 formed the report from APCC.

4.4. Academic Standards Committee – L. Easton  
A written Committee Chair report of the February 15, 2023 ASC meeting was provided, and the ASC Chair highlighted at the meeting that consultations are in progress with Indigenous faculty on making changes to the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria*.

4.5. Research and Scholarship Committee – C. Van der Byl  
A written Committee Chair report of the February 14, 2023 RSC meeting was provided and highlighted at the meeting.

4.6. Student Affairs Committee – P. Warsaba  
A written Committee Chair report of the February 28, 2023 SAC meeting was provided.

4.7. Teaching and Learning Committee – C. Cook  
A written Committee Chair report of the February 23, 2023 TLC meeting was provided.

## 5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions  
No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

5.2. Questions from the Floor

- A comment raised said it has been heard there is grade inflation across all Faculties and universities. Is Mount Royal addressing this, what mechanisms can be used, and is it correlated to the reliance on contract faculty at the University?
  - There have been discussions at the Faculty and Provost level on the topic of grade inflation. A request will be made to the VP, Students for more information.
- What is the status of the development of the Indigenous Strategic Plan, what is the process, and is there a timeframe?
  - The planning process is underway and external community consultations have commenced with the AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization. More information will be shared in due course, as it is still in the early stages. The aim is to bring a plan forward for consideration in the Fall.
- A comment was made that not all students requiring accommodations could be accommodated during the exam period. What plans does the University have for resourcing Access and Inclusion Services to address this?

- It was reminded that this question had been responded to at the February 17, 2023 meeting and work is underway to address this. The VP, Students was not in attendance at this meeting to provide an update.
- As a follow-up to a question raised at a previous GFC meeting for clarification on Covid-19 documentation that would be needed for exams, a question asked if there are plans for communication on the matter to faculty and students.
  - The question will be shared with the Executive Director, Student Affairs.
- What have been the lessons learned from the development of the 2023-2024 Academic Schedule as there had been challenges, such as allocating workload by employment category?
  - The Office of the Registrar is working on addressing all the issues and upgrading the system so it does not happen again.

## **6. Other Reports**

### **6.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report**

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

### **7.1. Items Removed for Discussion**

No items were removed for discussion.

### **7.2. Items for Information**

The following consent agenda items were received for information:

- 7.2.1. Program Review: Bachelor of Science – General Science Major
- 7.2.2. Committee Meeting Minutes
- 7.2.3. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

## **8. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **9. Adjournment 10:02AM**