

Attendance
Ex-Officio Members (voting)

President:	Annette Trimbee Chair		
Provost:	Craig Monk		
VPs:	Maureen Lomas	Lara McClelland	
Deans:	David Danto	Deric Olsen	Eva Revitt (<i>interim</i>)
	Richard Perlow	Lisa Rochman	Christy Raymond
	Melike Schalomon		
Registrar and AVP, Strategic Enrollment	Julie Green		

Statutory Members (voting)

Students:	Gabriel Ambutong	Darcy Hoogers	
Faculty:	Paul Chahal GFC Vice-Chair	Ion Bica	Treena Swanston
	Brendan Boyd	Robert Wiznura	Eric Legge
	Josh Toth	Travis Hatt	Chris Striemer
	Tina Bott	Melissa Hills	Tim Williams
	Kelly Morris	Gregory Springate	Murli Muralidharan
	Khalaf Al-jarrah	Francoise Cadigan	Caroline Foster-Boucher
	Dawn Sadoway	Paul Kerr	David Laing

Additional Appointed Members (voting)

Deputy Provost	Edvard Lorkovic		
AVPs:	Craig Kuziemy	Chandelle Rimmer (<i>interim</i>)	Terri Cardinal
General Counsel:	Jason Fung		
GMUFA President:	Bob Graves		
Faculty:	Katie Biittner	Cristina Anton	Bill Thompson
	Subhadip Ghosh	John McMillan	Lun Li
	Sharon Johnston	Martin Tucker	Joan Morrison
	Alison Pitcher	Kenneth Ristau	
Students	Layal Zidan	Olad Ayodeji	
Alumni:	Kyra Droog		

Resource Members (non-voting)

Office of University Governance:	Sumiko Yip University Secretary	Marco Turlione Recording Secretary	Christian Zukowski
	Leah Stock		
Absent, with Regrets:	Emilene Reisdorfer	Alain Beauclair	

PRESENTERS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Name	Agenda Item
N/A	N/A

MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

#	Item
1.0	Call to Order
	The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:20, noting that quorum is present.
1.1	Land Acknowledgement
	M. Hills provided a land acknowledgement.
1.2	Open and Consent Agenda (MOTION)
	MOTION#GFC 01-10-28-2024/25: Moved by M. Schalomom and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as presented. Motion Carried.
	*The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the meeting on September 16, 2024, the Executive Committee minutes from September 9, 2024, and the 2024/25 Committee Workplans for information.
2.0	Reports
2.1	President's Report
	The Chair reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MacEwan has a relatively low percentage of international students compared to other post-secondary institutions but aims to increase this number. The university hosted the Chancellor Speaker Series featuring Dr. Craig Earle. As part of the event, students had the opportunity to present innovative solutions to cancer-related challenges to a panel. MacEwan also welcomed Her Excellency, Mary Simon, for a symposium on digital respect. Discussions focused on social media polarization, echo chambers, and the Governor General's personal experiences with online harassment.
2.2	Provost's Report
	C. Monk reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured funding for 50 new hires, distributed across academic faculties and student affairs, with the School of Business receiving the largest allocation due to its expansion, and an additional 20 support roles focusing on student success, Work-Integrated Learning, and career services. Received a record 33 sabbatical applications (historically 12-16 annually), prompting a one-time budget allocation to support more leaves, with peer rankings guiding the review process.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed budgetary pressures through careful expenditure management and maintaining flexibility to adapt as needed, with support from the Vice-President Finance and Administration. Highlighted the importance of GFC service, noting its critical role in senior academic role selection processes.
2.3	GFC Executive Committee Report	
	P. Chahal reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GFC Executive Committee met on October 21. The Committee approved the Student Advisory Council School of Business Procedures and the 2024/25 Standing Committee Workplans and Terms of Reference. The Fall 2024 Graduands list was also approved. 	
2.4	Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar Report	
	P. Kerr reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee recommended minor revisions to the Terms of Reference and the 2024/25 Committee Workplan for approval. The 2025/26 Academic Schedule was also recommended for approval. 	
2.4.1	2025/26 Academic Schedule (MOTION)	
	<p>MOTION#GFC 02-10-28-2024/25: Moved by P. Kerr and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the elimination of the Fall Break from the 2025/26 Academic Schedule, along with the corresponding amendments to the academic schedule regulations, in order to avoid the scheduling of Sunday exams.</p> <p>Motion Not Carried.</p> <p>P. Kerr introduced the item and discussion occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025/26 Academic Schedule focuses primarily on the Fall Term, with Winter and Spring terms seeing minimal changes. The Fall Term begins on the first Wednesday after Labour Day, with New Student Orientation held the previous Tuesday. Efforts have been made to ensure the required 36 contact hours fit within the term, maintaining a one-day gap between the end of classes and the start of an 8-9 day exam period. Faculty are given at least 5 days after exams to grade and submit marks before the end of term. Challenges in balancing instructional and non-instructional days have caused scheduling pressures, resulting in classes extending further into December and compressing the exam/grading period. To address this, Sunday exams were introduced in 2021, which helped retain Fall Break and reading week. The Committee explored alternatives, such as starting the term earlier, though concerns about student accommodation logistics and financial burdens (e.g., August rent) made this option less viable. 	

- SAMU's survey of over 4,500 students showed more than 80% prioritized keeping Fall Break. The break is considered essential to student success and well-being, aligning with MacEwan's focus on Teaching Greatness.
- Discussions emphasized the importance of balancing the needs of students and instructors, with a focus on ensuring both groups can thrive without one group's needs being compromised for the other.
- The Committee plans to bring the Academic Schedule forward earlier in future years.
- A motion was made to eliminate the final phrase from the original proposal.

MOTION#GFC 02A-10-28-2024/25: Moved by J. Toth and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the elimination of the Fall Break from the 2025/26 Academic Schedule, along with the corresponding amendments to the academic schedule regulations.

Motion Not Carried.

Discussion occurred:

- The original motion does not express GFC's position on Sunday exams but instead provides context for the issue. Including explanatory language ensures clarity for future reference.
- Students highly value Fall Reading Break for catching up on schoolwork, resting, and spending time with family and friends. It also supports student affordability, as many use this time to work and earn income.
- Faculty members strongly support keeping Fall Break, emphasizing its importance for overall well-being and work-life balance.
- Eliminating Sunday exams would require immediate decisions to avoid delaying the upcoming academic schedule, though some members suggested revisiting alternatives in the future.
- Concerns were raised about student mental health, noting that while reading breaks offer rest, some studies indicate post-break stress increases.
- Childcare challenges, other job commitments for faculty, and the Faculty Association's grievance regarding Sunday exams under the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) were noted. However, it was acknowledged that the CBA could be renegotiated.
- If the motion is approved, MacEwan would become the only institution without a Fall Reading Break, which could negatively impact the university's student-first focus and reputation.

MOTION#GFC 03-10-28-2024/25: Moved by P. Kerr and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the 2025/26 Academic Schedule, along with the corresponding amendments to the academic schedule regulations, acknowledging that the retention of the Fall Break may require the continued scheduling of Sunday exams to maintain the existing academic schedule structure.

Motion Not Carried.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member proposed an amendment to remove the phrase: “acknowledging that the retention of the Fall Break may require the continued scheduling of Sunday exams to maintain the existing academic schedule structure.” • The amended motion should still clarify that the Academic Schedule includes the Fall Break. <p>MOTION GFC #03A-10-28-2024/25: Moved by C. Anton and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the 2025/26 Academic Schedule, along with the corresponding amendments to the academic schedule regulations, acknowledging the retention of the Fall Break.</p> <p>Motion Carried as amended.</p>
2.5	Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report	
	I. Bica provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended the Terms of Reference, Workplan, and a revised Student Advisory Committee Policy for the School of Business to the GFC Executive Committee for approval. • The Committee also reviewed the documents related to the Bachelor of Social Work program. 	
2.5.1	Environmental Sciences Major (MOTION) <p>MOTION#GFC 04-10-28-2024/25: Moved by R. Wiznura and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed Environmental Sciences Major.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>I. Bica presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multidisciplinary Bachelor of Science major emphasizes experiential learning, including capstone and Work-Integrated Learning components, with coursework applicable to multiple professional accreditations. • Students can select from an approved list of courses, leveraging existing resources within the Faculty of Arts and Science. • The program addresses labour market demands and has received endorsements from students, employers, professional bodies, and academic experts. 	
2.5.2	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis (MOTION) <p>MOTION#GFC 05-10-28-2024/25: Moved by E. Legge and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>I. Bica introduced the item. Highlights included:</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This new certificate replaces the Behavioural Intervention Certificate of Achievement (BICA) program within the School of Continuing Education, building on its established success. • It includes field placements, experiential learning opportunities, and paid positions that can count towards certification hours. • The program has received strong support from BICA graduates, employers, and independent academic experts.
	2.5.3	<p>Baccalaureate Degree Program Proposal: Bachelor of Public Safety and Justice (MOTION)</p> <p>MOTION#GFC 06-10-28-2024/25: Moved by A. Pitcher and seconded that General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the program proposal for the Bachelor of Public Safety and Justice. Motion Carried.</p> <p>I. Bica introduced the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program focuses on crime, justice, and public safety through a social justice lens, with significant potential for community impact, particularly for marginalized populations. • The program offers interdisciplinary teamwork, problem-solving opportunities, and flexibility with 13 core courses and a wide selection of electives, supported by existing resources. • It has received endorsements from provincial agencies, with plans to hire three faculty members starting Fall 2026 (one per year) and potential to scale up sessional instructors if needed.
	2.6	<p>Scholarly Activity Report</p> <p>C. Striemer reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended the Terms of Reference and Workplan to the GFC Executive Committee for approval and approved a renaming of the Distinguished Researcher Award. • At its next meeting, the Committee will review common themes and data from the Internal Grants Survey. • December 1 is the submission deadline for the Thematic Funding Call, the Chancellor's Research Chair, and the Distinguished Researcher Award.
	2.7	<p>Teaching and Learning Report</p> <p>M. Hills reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended the Terms of Reference and Workplan to the GFC Executive Committee for approval. • An update on mēskanās governance was received, and the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee Workplan was approved. The subcommittee will focus on developing an AI conceptual framework, a mēskanās mobile app, and a technology assessment framework.
	2.8	<p>Council on Student Affairs Report</p>

	<p>K. Morris reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended the Terms of Reference and Workplan to GFC Executive Committee for approval. • Key items in the Workplan included student affordability, student mental health, and receiving updates from the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity.
3.0	Other Business <i>(Used for announcements and general questions)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFC occasionally faces challenging decisions that may not be unanimous but reflect overall consensus. • While GFC did not accept the recommendation of its standing committee, members can take pride in knowing their work is valued and appreciated. • Appreciation was expressed for the respectful engagement of student guests who attended the meeting. • Members wishing to share information with GFC are encouraged to contact the Office of University Governance, as only communications shared through this office will be retained as part of GFC's official repository.
4.0	Adjournment of Open Session The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm.