

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	
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
	Robert Woznura	Eric Legge	Alain Beauclair
	Chris Striemer	Tina Bott	Melissa Hills
	Tim Williams	Gregory Springate	Murli Muralidharan
	Francoise Cadigan	Caroline Foster-Boucher	Emilene Reisdorfer
	Paul Kerr	David Laing	Dawn Sadoway
	Travis Hatt	Kelly Morris	
Additional Appointed Members (voting)			
Deputy Provost	Edvard Lorkovic		
AVPs:	Craig Kuziemyky	Chandelle Rimmer (<i>interim</i>)	
General Counsel:	Jason Fung		
GMUFA President:	Bob Graves		
Faculty:	Cristina Anton	Subhadip Ghosh	Lun Li
	Martin Tucker (<i>arr. 3:25 pm</i>)	Joan Morrison	Alison Pitcher
	Kenneth Ristau		
Students	Layal Zidan	Olad Ayodeji	
Alumni:	Kyra Droog		
Office of University Governance			
Sumiko Yip, University Secretary	Marco Turlione, Recording Secretary	Christian Zukowski	
Ginikachi Ugwuegbu	Leah Stock		
Absent, with Regrets:	Christy Raymond	Melike Schalomon	Brendan Boyd
	Josh Toth	Terri Cardinal	Bill Thompson
	Khalaf Al-jarrah	Katie Büttner	John McMillan
	Sharon Johnston		

PRESENTERS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Name	Agenda Item
Jason Cobb	N/A

MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

#	Item
1.0	Call to Order
	The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm, noting that quorum was present.
1.1	Land Acknowledgement
	I. Bica provided a land acknowledgement.
1.2	Open and Consent Agenda (MOTION)
	MOTION#GFC-01-12-09-2024/25: Moved by C. Kuziemyky and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as presented.
	Motion Carried.
	*The consent agenda included the minutes from the meeting on October 28, 2024, for approval; and the Executive Committee Meeting minutes from October 21, 2024, for information.
2.0	Reports
2.1	President's Report
	The Chair provided a report. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mintz Panel will review sector funding amid federal policy changes. MacEwan aims to influence the panel's report while addressing funding needs and targeting 10% international enrollment by 2030 in response to demographic growth. The Board will be considering tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees in December. The new School of Business Building will support Teaching Greatness by driving enrolment growth, but strategies like optimizing time, virtual resources, and space will also need to be explored. Despite the government's focus on trades, AI, and machine learning, MacEwan has secured funding for the new building and targeted enrolment, demonstrating success relative to other institutions.
2.2	Provost's Report
	C. Monk provided a report. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty and School Councils have requested more updates on GFC activities, with GFC Members encouraged to share information across MacEwan. A total of 33 sabbatical applications were submitted, with sabbatical approvals reaching a record 20, exceeding the budgeted amount. Future budgeting will need to consider trends and establish the ideal approval number. Enrolment has grown by 5.4%, with a 6.4% increase in Full-Load Equivalents. Academic Affairs has expanded sections by 8% to accommodate growth, though Winter Term enrollment is not expected to exceed 20,000.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and enrollment data confirm growth projections. Plans to hire 50 faculty and support staff annually aim to maintain class sizes and teaching quality as Alberta experiences a demographic surge.
2.3	GFC Executive Committee Report	<p>P. Chahal provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 2, 2024, the Committee met and approved Joan Morrison's appointment to the Honorary Doctorate Selection Committee. Discussions included the Research Institute on Immersive Learning and the GFC budget presentation.
2.3.1	GFC Bylaw Update (MOTION)	<p>MOTION#GFC-02-12-09-2024/25: Moved by M. Tucker and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the proposed revisions to the GFC Bylaws, effective immediately.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>P. Chahal presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Bylaw revisions include adding the AVP, Student Support and Accountability, updating the Registrar's title, and adjusting the total number of appointed members from faculties and schools. Associate Vice-Presidents are appointed to the GFC. These appointments, along with additional faculty, comprise the ongoing reapportionment process, following the earlier appointments of the Deputy Provost and Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement.
2.3.2	GFC Reapportionment Review (MOTION)	<p>MOTION#GFC-03-12-09-2024/25: Moved by D. Olsen and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the reapportionment of Elected Academic Staff members and Additional Appointed Academic Staff Members according to faculty and school population as presented, effective July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>P. Chahal presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Post-Secondary Learning Act requires a membership review every three years, as outlined in the Bylaws, to reflect population distribution. With faculty and administrative membership growth since the last review, reapportionment will ensure accurate representation. Elected academic staff must total twice the number of ex-officio members, resulting in 24 elected members distributed across faculties and schools by population. The GFC follows a 2:1 ratio for appointed ex-officio members and additional appointed faculty. Student growth prompted a request to add three student representatives, addressing MacEwan's comparatively lower student representation on GFC. The GFC Executive Committee will examine this issue, considering factors such as representation on the Council of Student Affairs. Reapportionment promotes good governance, ensures a balanced GFC, and aligns with institutional changes.

2.4	<p>Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report</p> <p>I. Bica provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee met on November 4, 2024, and reviewed the program evaluation for the Bachelor of Social Work degree, with the program's Dean and self-study committee chair in attendance. Feedback was provided by the Committee and communicated to the Dean through the Chair to support the development of an action plan.
2.5	<p>Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar Report</p> <p>P. Kerr provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee met on November 4, 2024, and approved the Pathway to Post-Secondary proposal, offering conditional acceptance into programs a year in advance, contingent on completing requirements. The pilot will involve three programs across two faculties, with ongoing student support and mentorship. Additional solutions for inclusion in the 2026/27 schedule are being explored, with efforts focused on early preparation. The Committee's complex role and the importance of consultation were emphasized, with a recommendation to narrow options for GFC consideration.
2.6	<p>Scholarly Activity Report</p> <p>C. Striemer provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee met on November 18, 2024, and received an update from the AVP, Research, on the tactical plan's progress, focusing on data collection, talent development, and support for early-career researchers. The Internal Grants Survey results highlighted research support priorities divided between interdisciplinary funding and thematic research areas. A new research assistant support fund was established, complementing the Undergraduate Student Research Initiative and other funding programs.
2.6.1	<p>Research Institute Proposal: Immersive Learning Institute (MOTION)</p> <p>MOTION#GFC-04-12-09-2024/25: Moved by E. Legge and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the establishment of the Immersive Learning Institute effective January 1, 2025, for a five and a half-year term. Motion Carried.</p> <p>C. Striemer presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal involves University-wide departments, external partnerships, and designated space for the institute in Allard Hall. Dr. Farzan Baradaran Rahimi, a newly appointed Tier 2 Canada Research Chair, will serve as the Institute's Director. Funding has been secured through the Canada Research Chair program and Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada. The institute will create immersive learning opportunities for both students and faculty.

2.7	Teaching and Learning Report
	<p>M. Hills provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee met on November 18, 2024, and received the final report from the Accessibility and Universal Design Working Group. An update on the 3M Fellowship Incubator indicated that the pilot is being refined to better support applications. A Pathways to Teaching Excellence program is being developed to engage and retain faculty in teaching. The Committee also received progress updates from the Teaching Awards Subcommittee and the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee on their workplans.
2.8	Council on Student Affairs Report
	<p>K. Morris provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council met on November 25, 2024, and discussed the development of a new Exam Centre model with administration of deferrals returning to faculties and schools. This process will be addressed through consultations. An overview of scholarships, awards, and bursaries over the last four years highlighted a steady increase in award fulfillment and ongoing efforts to enhance communication and revise awards with restrictive criteria.
3.0	New Business
3.1	Presentation: Overview of 2025/26 Budget
	<p>M. Lomas presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The operating budget, unchanged for three years, makes up 42% of the total budget. With FLEs nearing 15,000, funding per FLE has decreased. Proposed increases include 2% for domestic tuition, 5% for international tuition (reflecting provincial subsidies for domestic students), and 2% for mandatory non-instructional fees. The three-year financial plan accounts for the School of Business Building's opening and key budget drivers such as enrolment, provincial funding, salaries, and utilities. The student technology fee is waived for 2025/26 using restricted funds, while residence rates, frozen for affordability, are expected to rise next year to align with the market. Nearly 80% of spending covers staffing and utilities, with the remainder allocated to growth, projects, scholarships, bursaries, and research funding. Recent surpluses, averaging 3-5% of the budget, are reinvested to support teaching, as MacEwan cannot run a deficit under provincial rules.
4.0	Other Business
	<i>(Used for announcements and general questions)</i>
	No Other Business was discussed.
5.0	Adjournment of Open Session
	The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:27 pm.