

Attendance

Ex-Officio Members (voting)			
President:	Annette Trimbee GFC Chair (<i>arrive 3:21 pm</i>)		
Provost:	Craig Monk		
VPs:	Maureen Lomas		
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	Alain Beauclair	Chris Striemer
	Tina Bott	Melissa Hills	Tim Williams
	Gregory Springate	Murli Muralidharan	Khalaf Al-jarrah
	Francoise Cadigan	Caroline Foster-Boucher	Emilene Reisdorfer
	Paul Kerr	David Laing	Dawn Sadoway
	Travis Hatt		
Additional Appointed Members (voting)			
Deputy Provost	Edvard Lorkovic		
AVPs:	Craig Kuziemyky	Terri Cardinal	
GMUFA President:	Bob Graves		
Faculty:	Katie Biittner	Cristina Anton	Bill Thompson
	John McMillan	Lun Li	Martin Tucker
	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	Ginikachi Ugwuegbu
Leah Stock		Christian Zukowski	
Absent, with Regrets			
Jason Fung		Lara McClelland	Sharon Johnson

Chandelle Rimmer	Kelly Morris	Subhadip Ghosh
Guests		
Jason Cobb	Rey Rosales	Larissa Williams
Liam Newbigging	Sarah Barthel	Taylor Witiw
Trevor Buckle	Breena Kruger	

MINUTES: OPEN SESSION		
#	Item	
1.0	Call to Order	
	The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm, noting that quorum was present. Until the President's arrival, C. Monk was designated as Acting Chair for today's meeting.	
1.1	Land Acknowledgement	
	C. Striemer provided a land acknowledgement.	
1.2	Open and Consent Agenda (MOTION)	
	MOTION#GFC-01-02-10-2024/25: Moved by C. Raymond and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as amended. Motion Carried.	
	The agenda was amended to accommodate the President's report based on their arrival time. *The consent agenda included minutes from the meeting on December 9, 2024, for approval; and the Executive Committee Meeting minutes from December 2, 2024, for information.	
2.0	Reports	
2.1	Provost's Report	
	The Provost provided a report. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 34 sessional-extended positions have been approved across key faculties, providing three years of stability. This cohort has grown significantly from the previous group, with seven individuals accepting T9 appointments and others remaining eligible for future consideration. Challenges in international recruitment persist due to federal policies on student limits and attestation letters. Last year, a communication issue resulted in MacEwan initially receiving fewer provincial attestation letters than needed, but this year, the university expects 1,500 letters to support recruitment efforts. The allocation of operating funds to Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (SAB) allows Academic Affairs to reallocate one-time surpluses. Structural surpluses have primarily supported hiring, with most funds directed toward student bursaries. An additional \$300,000 in SAB funding for the Winter Term brings the total to \$5.5 million. 	
	At 3:24 pm C. Monk passed the chair to A. Trimbee.	

2.2	President's Report
	<p>The Chair provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MacEwan remains a cost-effective university, offering affordability compared to other institutions. 74% of students successfully earn credentials that lead to their desired careers, with 27% working full-time and 34% working part-time while completing their studies. While financial sustainability has not relied on international tuition, the university is targeting 10% international enrollment by 2030. The Mintz Review Panel will assess funding mechanisms and the impact of federal immigration policy on post-secondary institutions, influencing future resource allocation. Its findings will shape the 2026/27 Alberta Budget, while the 2025/26 Alberta Budget is scheduled for release on February 27, 2025. The Board of Governors will review and approve MacEwan's 2025/26 budget at its meeting on March 27, 2025. Several campus activities are underway, including C2UExpo 2025 and the Backstage Pass: Country Music Event. These initiatives help raise awareness of the university, support fundraising efforts, and strengthen community relationships.
2.3	<p>GFC Executive Committee Report</p> <p>P. Chahal provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee met on February 3, 2025, to review the Data Science Major, Public Relations Major, the reorganization of the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, and the admissions criteria for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis. The open agenda for GFC was approved without changes. Discussions also covered institutional admission criteria changes for international and out-of-province applicants, as well as the 2026/27 academic schedule planning update. The Office of University Governance is preparing a thought paper on the optimal size and membership of GFC, which will be presented to the GFC Executive Committee at a special meeting later this month. The goal is to bring forward a recommendation for the March GFC cycle.
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 January 13, 2025, and approved the termination of the Bachelor of Engineering Transfer program. Two new majors and a faculty reorganization were recommended for GFC approval.
2.4.1	<p>New Major: Data Science (MOTION)</p> <p>MOTION#GFC-02-02-10-2024/25: Moved by T. William and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed Data Science Major.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>I. Bica presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This multidisciplinary major, ranging from 70 to 84 credits, was developed by a diverse group of faculty within the Bachelor of Science program and incorporates Mathematics and Statistics.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With strong industry demand for graduates in Data Science, the program ensures all students engage in experiential learning, culminating in a capstone project. To support the program's growth, the faculty is hiring two teaching positions specializing in Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Science, along with two computer scientists to accommodate increased demand.
	2.4.2	<p>New Major: Public Relations (MOTION)</p> <p>MOTION#GFC-03-02-10-2024/25: Moved by C. Kuziemyk and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed Public Relations Major.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>I. Bica presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Relations diploma has been offered since MacEwan's inception in 1971. Building on its long-standing success, the department has proposed introducing a major. The Public Relations Major, along with internal consultations across multiple faculties and external input, has helped align the curriculum with industry standards. The new major will also include Indigenous course requirements.
	2.4.3	<p>Reorganization of the Faculty of Health and Community Studies (MOTION)</p> <p>MOTION#GFC-04-02-10-2024/25: Moved by D. Olsen and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed re-organization of the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, as presented.</p> <p>Motion Carried</p> <p>I. Bica presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The faculty is restructuring departmental components to better align with MacEwan's Strategic Vision, creating enhanced opportunities for faculty and students. The change would introduce a degree within each of the faculty's departments, supporting student growth and retention. While MacEwan does not currently offer a health-focused degree, several institutions in Alberta are preparing to launch Bachelor of Health Sciences programs or similar initiatives. The reorganization lays the groundwork for new program development and enhances research potential, positioning the faculty for increased research funding and scholarship opportunities within the new department.
	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 January 13, 2025, and recommended the Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis Admissions Criteria for GFC approval. Changes to the Institutional Admission Criteria for international and out-of-province applicants were approved. and planning for the 2026/27 academic schedule were discussed.

		<div data-bbox="315 180 1469 262"> <p>2.5.1 Admissions Criteria: Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis (MOTION)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="410 262 1469 846"> <p>MOTION#GFC-05-02-10-2024/25: Moved by L. Zidan and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the admission Criteria for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Behaviour Analysis.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>P. Kerr presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This new program is currently undergoing the approval process and is set to replace the Behaviour Certificate of Achievement offered by the Faculty of Continuing Education. • Upon approval, applications will be open from April 1 to July 31, 2025, for students starting in Fall 2025, with admission primarily targeting those with a background in Psychology. • The admissions process includes suitability criteria, requiring applicants to submit a resume, letters of reference, and a letter of intent. Faculty will conduct a holistic review, considering both quantitative and qualitative factors to assess candidates' potential. </div>
		<div data-bbox="315 846 1469 928"> <p>2.5.2 Institutional Admission Criteria Changes Relating to International and Out-of-Province Applicants</p> </div> <div data-bbox="410 928 1469 1377"> <p>P. Kerr presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between the Office of the University Registrar, the Faculty of Arts and Science, and MacEwan International has resulted in updates to the admission criteria for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree programs, effective Fall 2025. • These changes prioritize academic readiness over Alberta high school curriculum equivalents, aligning with the goals of <i>Teaching Greatness</i> by reducing barriers for out-of-province and international students and offering more flexibility in admission requirements. • While institutions in Ontario and British Columbia have already adopted this approach, the University of Lethbridge is currently the only institution in Alberta to do so. </div>
		<div data-bbox="315 1377 1469 1428"> <p>2.5.3 2026/27 Academic Schedule Planning Update</p> </div> <div data-bbox="410 1428 1469 1892"> <p>P. Kerr presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has engaged in multiple discussions, with fall term scheduling compression as the main concern. After reviewing past scheduling options at the last GFC meeting, members provided feedback and identified the top three preferences which are presented today. Any proposed changes may require revisions to academic schedule regulations. • Concerns were raised about an earlier Fall Term start conflicting with student orientations, limiting access, or creating affordability challenges if attendance is required in August. A later Winter Term start was also considered but would delay grade releases until after the break. Additionally, schedule compression and evening exam conflicts were discussed, with suggestions to examine practices from other institutions and determine an acceptable level of scheduling conflicts. </div>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about an earlier start to the Fall Term potentially conflicting with student orientations, limiting student access, or causing affordability issues if students are required to attend in August. The possibility of starting the Winter Term later was also discussed but means students would have to wait until after the break to receive their grades. The Committee continues to evaluate options, and GFC acknowledged the complexity of the issue, appreciating the transparency and effort involved. GFC Members were encouraged to share their thoughts with the Co-Chair to inform future discussions.
	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 January 20, 2025, and approved the Terms of Reference for the Community Engaged Scholarship Adjudication Subcommittee, established to support scholarly in community engagement. Minor revisions to the terms of reference for subsidiary bodies were also approved. Additionally, the Committee appointed one of its members to the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee.
	2.7	<p>Council on Student Affairs Report</p> <p>M. Hills provided a report. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee reviewed the Student Assessments Policy and Deferrals Procedure, which includes the removal of the deferred examination fee, and received positive feedback. The Maroon Folder, a guide for responding to students in distress, was also reviewed. Plans are underway to compile a list of on- and off-campus resources, which will be made available online alongside a student guide. An update was provided on the textbook affordability program, which offers eBook copies purchased by the library. The initiative has received positive feedback from students.
3.0	Other Business	
	<i>(Used for announcements and general questions)</i>	
	No Other Business was discussed.	
4.0	Adjournment of Open Session	
	The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:02 pm.	