General Faculties Council
March 23, 2026 Minutes
3:13 – 5:03 pm
Room 9-201

ATTENDANCE

Members	Annettee Trimbee (Chair); Travis Hatt (Vice-Chair); Craig Monk; Maureen Lomas (*left: 4:31*); Lara McClelland; Jason Fung; Christy Raymond; David Danto; Deric Olsen; Karen Keiller; Kevin Friesen; Lisa Rochman; Richard Perlow; Allison Drew-Hassling; Chandelle Rimmer; Craig Kuziemsky; Julie Green (*left: 4:36*); Alain Beauclair; Andrew Patterson; Aimee Skye; Barry Williams; Bruce Thomson; Cristina Anton; Cristina Ruiz Serrano; David Laing; Ed Lorkovic; Eric Legge; Ion Bica; John McMillan; Kenneth Ristau; Khalaf Al-Jarrah; Lun Li (*left: 4:29*); Lynne Honey; Melanie Gates; Martin Tucker; Melissa Hills; Michael Brundin; Murli Muralidharan; Paul Chahal; Paul Kerr; Robert Wiznura; Sharon Johnston; Stefan Cartledge; Scott Spidell; Tim Williams (*left: 3:23*); Tina Bott; Vincent Trinh; Vivian Giang; Wayne Williams; Darren Tellier; Alem Tesfay; Chioma Uzor; Manojna Tumma; Milan Regmi; Olad Ayodeji (*arr:3:38*); Kyra Droog
Secretariat	Sumiko Yip; Angela Miao; Austin Hohlbein; Christian Zukowski; Cameron McCubbing
Guests	Meagan Auer; Breanna Kruger; Zoey Shaw; Larissa Williams; Parvin Sedighi
Regrets	Treena Swanston; Shannon Digweed; Joshua Toth; Hellen Gateri; Francoise Cadigan; Debbie Lenton; Terri Cardinal; Mohamad El-Hajj; Katie Biittner; Anna Rissanen

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm, noting quorum was present.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

T. Hatt provided the land acknowledgement.

1.2 Open and Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the adoption of the following motions:

- That the General Faculties Council approve the minutes from the meeting on February 9, 2026, as presented.

The Consent Agenda included the following items for information:

- Executive Committee Minutes from November 24, 2025.
- 2026/27 General Faculties Council Meeting Schedule

MOTION#GFC-01-03-23-2025/26:
Moved by B. Thomson and seconded by M. Tucker that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

2.0 Reports

2.1 President's Report

The Chair reported on the following:

- The base operating grant budget was maintained, with continued funding for the School of Business and a modest increase related to bargaining. Ongoing discussions with the Minister included a review of the funding formula, with a focus on enrolment, impact, and base costs, as well as preparing students for an AI-driven future. Key advocacy priorities remain student mental health, planning for a future science building, and sustainable operating funding.

- Campus events such as International Women's Day, Pride Week, and the *Faces of Exile* exhibit were highlighted, alongside national discussions in Ottawa regarding the role of universities in democracy. These efforts reflect a continued focus on student support, including initiatives addressing food and housing security, such as the $5 value meal program.
- Fundraising and engagement efforts continue to progress, including a successful *Grateful Gathering* event that brought together donors and students. Ongoing engagement with government and external partners supports alignment with community needs and future workforce priorities.

2.2 Provost's Report

The Provost reported on the following:

- The expansion of the Chancellor's Chair Program has strengthened the University's internal research chair program, supporting faculty retention through the addition of Tier 1 and Tier 2 positions. Eight faculty members were recognized, alongside a $0.5M investment in faculty initiatives.
- A calendar change enabled the allocation of $900K from the 2025/26 budget to student bursaries. By aligning the fiscal calendar more closely with budget operations, the University was able to support this strategic investment without creating a deficit.
- Work is underway to explore an athletics initiative involving a potential hockey tournament partnership with the University of Alberta at Rogers Place. Modeled after the MRU–UofC Crowchild Classic, the initiative aims to enhance engagement, community visibility, and fundraising opportunities.

2.3 GFC Executive Committee Report

T. Hatt reported on the following:

- The Executive Committee last met on March 16, where it approved the Open Agenda for the March 26 GFC meeting.
- Discussion also took place regarding the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Accounting Diploma, with an emphasis on improving access to accounting education, as well as the Student Course Feedback Survey report, particularly how it frames enhancements to the student learning experience.

2.4 Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report

I. Bica reported on the following:

- The Committee last met on February 23, where it approved two items and submitted required reports to the Campus Alberta Quality Council. These reports support annual compliance and contribute to a repository of scholarly activity data for program improvement and self-study processes.
- The Committee also reviewed and completed the 2025 Bachelor of Commerce Post-Baccalaureate Program Report. All program scholarly activity reports for the 2023/24 cycle have now been completed and archived to support compliance and future program reviews on the seven-year cycle.
- A simplified process for the development and management of program minors across faculties and schools was approved. This approach allows a single minor

to apply across multiple programs, enhancing student access, supporting flexibility in curriculum planning, and aligning with the University's strategic vision.

2.4.1 New Program: Post-Baccalaureate Accounting Diploma

I. Bica reported on the following:

- The proposed Post-Baccalaureate Accounting program is targeted for implementation in Fall 2027 and is designed for individuals with non-accounting undergraduate degrees who wish to pursue CPA accreditation.
- The program builds on existing, vetted courses within the School of Business and can be completed in approximately 20 months. its structure is intended to provide flexibility for working professionals and those seeking a career transition.
- Initial CPA requirements have been met, enabling graduates to enter the most advanced stages of the CPA program. The design aligns with professional standards and considers emerging areas, including artificial intelligence.

MOTION#GFC-02-03-23-2025/26:

Moved by C. Kuziemsky and seconded by K. Al-Jarrah that the General Faculties Council approve and recommend the Board of Governors approve the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Accounting Diploma.

Motion Carried.

2.5 Academic Standards, Curriculum and the Calendar

S. Cartledge reported on the following:

- The Committee last met on February 23, where it approved two items and received the academic schedule. Fall 2026 classes will begin before Labour Day.
- The Committee approved the existing academic definitions as presented, with no changes from prior discussions.
- Updated admission criteria for the Bridge to Nursing Program were also approved, effective Fall 2027. Eligibility will be limited to applicants who earned their degrees within the past 10 years. Program capacity has been increased to 150 students, with admissions offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

2.6 Scholarly Activity Report

C. Anton reported on the following:

- The Committee received the Immersive Learning Institute Annual Report, which highlighted its first year of work with emerging technologies and AI.
- Growth in research funding was also noted, including $2.5M in external grants, and continued support for faculty-led research initiatives.
- Members discussed changes to dissemination grants, which will be managed by faculties and schools beginning in 2026/27. The discussion also included the Canada Foundation for Innovation review process and access to two major infrastructure grants.

2.7 Teaching and Learning Report

M. Hills reported on the following:

- The Committee last met on March 2 and reviewed the scope of the Student Course Feedback Survey questions, with a focus on centering student learning experiences and reducing redundancy while maintaining key Likert-scale and written feedback questions used in faculty evaluations.
- Proposed revisions include a shorter survey, opportunities for faculty to add customized questions, and the use of a question bank to provide greater flexibility.
- The revised survey will be brought forward to GFC in June 2026 for approval.

2.7.1 Student Course Feedback Survey Review: Draft Report

M. Hills reported on the following:

- The Committee focused on refining survey questions to center on the student learning experience and reduce redundancy. Faculty will continue to have the option to add customized questions, with standard questions organized within a question bank to support flexibility.
- Proposed revisions include shortening the survey for clarity and ease of use, adding a “not applicable” option for online courses, and encouraging student reflection on learning practices. Additional recommendations outside the immediate scope were also identified for future consideration.
- Discussion also considered survey timing, including closing dates, opportunities for in-class completion to improve response rates, and maintaining longitudinal comparability. Final decisions on timing will be addressed through administrative planning.

2.8 Council on Student Affairs Report

B. Thomson reported on the following:

- The Council last met on January 26 and discussed Student Academic Integrity Policy/Procedure, Non-Academic Policy/Procedure, Students with Disabilities Procedure, and a Mental Health Week overview.
- Discussion noted that policy consultations include a minimum 10-day online period, with additional consultation at the sponsor’s discretion. Broader discussion also considered policy governance processes, including the complexity of policy development, the distinction between minor and major revisions, the importance of faculty and student engagement, and ongoing efforts to streamline, combine, and regularly review policies.

3.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:03 pm.