

## ATTENDANCE

- Members** Annettee Trimbee (Chair); Craig Monk; Maureen Lomas; Lara McClelland;  
Kevin Friesen; Deric Olsen; David Danto; Christy Raymond; Richard Perlow;  
Lisa Rochman; Karen Keiller; Julie Green; Chioma Uzor; Alem Tesfay; Ion Bica;  
Treena Swanston; Shannon Digweed; Robert Wiznura; Eric Legge; Joshua Toth;  
Alain Beauclair; Lynee Honey; Tina Bott; Melissa Hills (*arrived 3:56 pm*); Aimee Skye;  
Tim Williams; Paul Chahal; Hellen Gateri; Murli Muralidharan; Khalaf Al-Jarrah;  
Francoise Cadigan; Paul Kerr; David Laing; Wayne Williams; Travis Hatt;  
Scott Spidell; Debbie Lenton; Melanie Gates; Ed Lorkovic; Chandelle Rimmer;  
Craig Kuziemsky; Terri Cardinal; Allison Drew-Hassling; Jason Fung;  
Cristina Ruiz Serrano; Mohamad El-Hajj; Stefan Cartledge; Katie Biittner;  
Cristina Anton; Andrew Patterson; Barry Williams; Bruce Thomson; Vivian Giang;  
John McMillan; Anna Rissanen; Lun Li; Sharon Johnston; Martin Tucker;  
Robyn Hall; Michael Brundin; Kenneth Ristau; Darren Tellier; Vincent Trinh;  
Olad Ayodeji; Manojna Tumma; Milan Regmi; Kyra Droog
- Secretariat** Sumiko Yip; Leah Stock; Christian Zukowski; Ginikachi Ugwuegbu
- Presenters**
- Guests** Jillian Pratt, Mark B, Erika R, Meagan A, Erika R, Mike A
- Regrets** Annettee Trimbee (Chair); Richard Perlow; Karen Keiller; Chioma Uzor;  
Joshua Toth; Tina Bott; Hellen Gateri; Khalaf Al-Jarrah; Travis Hatt; Terri Cardinal;  
Lun Li; Manojna Tumma

## MINUTES

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### 1.0 Call to Order

C. Monk, as Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm, noting that quorum was present.

### 1.1 Land Acknowledgement

I. Bica provided the land acknowledgment.

## 1.2 Open and Consent Agenda

Highlights included:

- On the request of a member, the September 15, 2025, minutes were removed from the consent agenda and added as agenda item 1.3 – Previous Minutes: September 15, 2025.

The Consent Agenda included the following items for information:

- GFC Executive Committee Minutes: June 8, 2025
- GFC Standing Committee Workplans

**MOTION#GFC-01-10-20-2025/26:**

Moved by L. Honey and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as amended.

**Motion Carried.**

## 1.3 Previous Minutes: September 15, 2025

Highlights included:

- With the consent of the General Faculties Council, the minutes were amended to reflect discussion that had occurred relating to scheduled teaching reductions.

**MOTION#GFC-02-10-20-2025/26:**

Moved by A. Skye and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve minutes from the meeting on September 15, 2025, as amended.

**Motion Carried.**

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## 2.0 Reports

### 2.1 President's Report

C. Monk, as Acting President, reported on the following:

- Administration is pleased with recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness, including flexibility for program differences, reduced red tape, and stronger institutional autonomy, while noting the panel's stance on institutional neutrality and its concern about limiting EDI.
- Clarification was given that reporting on freedom of speech relates to instances of deplatforming, and that the report's recommendations address ensuring robust discussion that includes diverse points of view. While concerns were expressed about increasing tuition and affordability, the panel noted that changes to the funding model could provide students with more certainty and increase government funding for core service.

- While implementation of the panel’s recommendations will depend on government decisions, the President and Vice-Chancellor continues to engage constituents, with possible signals expected in the fall legislative session and budget.
- The University installed Gary Mar as its 2nd Chancellor on September 26, 2025, and is preparing for its largest Fall Convocation on November 18, when Dr. Bryan Kolb will receive an Honorary Doctorate.

## 2.2 Provost’s Report

C. Monk reported on the following:

- Budget now supports hiring 30 new faculty for 2026/27, up from 23. Faculties and schools submitted 52 requests, assessed through departmental, decanal, and academic leadership feedback. Growth areas were prioritized, with some programs seeing enrolment increases of about 50%. Most units had roughly 40–60% of their requests approved.
- Scheduled teaching reductions were allocated according to the number of full-time faculty in each area, along with required qualifications. Fewer applications were received than available slots, though additional reductions may be added if demand spikes. This process will expand in future years as a transparent way to gauge who could meet a five-course load.
- Strategic enrolment management discussions at faculty and school councils reinforced that staffing and curriculum decisions will be tied to enrolment modelling and projected growth. Some confusion about mandate surfaced, underscoring that faculties and schools operate under GFC authority and are required to carry out its objectives and policies.
- Faculty continue to advance *Teaching Greatness: Strategic Vision 2030* by supporting the *Students First* giving campaign and participating in the *Belonging at MacEwan* demographic survey.

## 2.3 GFC Executive Committee Report

I. Bica reported on the following:

- The GFC Executive Committee met on October 14, 2025.
- The Committee approved revisions to GFC standing committee terms of reference, the 2025/26 committee workplans, and the open and closed agendas for the October 20, 2025, GFC meeting.
- The Committee discussed the update on scheduled teaching reductions and changes to the Library Council Bylaws. Productive discussion occurred relating to the Teaching Awards Policy and how to incorporate this item on the GFC agenda.

## 2.4 Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report

I. Bica reported on the following:

- The Committee on Academic Planning and Quality Assurance met on September 22, 2025.

- The Committee's terms of reference and 2025/26 workplan were recommended to the GFC Executive Committee for approval. Revisions to the terms of reference included updates to resource membership language and the removal of delegates for ex-officio members.
- The Committee approved the 2025/26 unit review schedule, noting that this new process aligns with program review practices. It also approved the five-year diploma reviews for Gerontology and Hospice Palliative Care programs, which include external reviewers and an action plan.
- The Committee received Scholarly Activity Reports as part of its academic quality assurance mandate, covering the Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, Faculty of Health and Communications, and the Faculty of Nursing. The School of Business report is delayed due to the transition of the Associate Dean, Research.

## **2.5 Academic Standards, Curriculum and the Calendar Report**

S. Cartledge reported on the following:

- The Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar met on September 22, 2025, and approved revisions to the Bachelor of Commerce admission criteria to broaden the post-secondary pathway to applicants with business degrees.
- The Committee reviewed feedback from faculty and school councils on the academic schedule, including the winter term start date and a possible shift of Fall Reading Break from November to October.
- It was noted that GFC members can access all committee meeting materials through SharePoint and that significant items typically come to GFC for two review cycles.

## **2.6 Scholarly Activity Report**

C. Anton reported on the following:

- The Committee on Scholarly Activity met on October 6, 2025, and recommended minor updates to the Committee's terms of reference and 2025/26 workplan for GFC Executive Committee approval.
- Revisions to the terms of reference for three subcommittees were approved, including clearer guidance on confidentiality in adjudication.
- The Committee received information on introducing tiers to the Chancellor Research Chair program and on a new research agreement process to support scholars working with external or community partners.

## 2.7 Teaching and Learning Report

M. Hills reported on the following:

- The Committee on Teaching and Learning met on September 29, 2025, and recommended minor updates to its terms of reference and 2025/26 workplan for GFC Executive Committee approval.
- The Committee agreed that the student course feedback survey should be reviewed for the first time since 2014, noting the use of the survey is set in the collective agreement, while the survey content is approved by the GFC. The review would look at relevance, usefulness, and opportunities for constructive feedback, with no decisions yet on changes.
- Although data was not available at the meeting, anecdotal comments suggested the survey's response rate varies and is generally below 30%.

### 2.7.1 Teaching Awards Policy

M. Hills presented the item. Highlights included:

- On April 7, 2025, the Committee approved revisions to the Teaching Awards Policy, following earlier discussion on March 3, 2025. This approval was reported to GFC through the committee summary report.
- The revisions were intended to let faculties and schools develop area specific awards, while maintaining accountability and consistency across the University. However, elements of the policy framework were not completed, and the language did not reflect the intended changes. As the revised policy did not follow the proper consultation process, it was retracted by the Provost as the policy sponsor in discussion with the faculty co-chair of the Committee. The original policy is currently active
- The original policy currently in place has enough flexibility to allow faculties and schools to create awards, though there is interest in coordinating this work more consistently. Future policy updates will likely aim to reflect that.
- Although this is the first issue of its kind in the past decade, the secretariat has updated operational procedures to verify that policies have completed all required steps to prevent similar situations. The Office of General Counsel has also hired a policy analyst to strengthen support.
- The discussion noted that questions about delegated authority and communication between committees and GFC are common in academic governance. Items requiring GFC approval will come forward on the GFC agenda, while other matters fall under delegated committee authority. Committees play a key role in good governance, and although the delegating body should stay informed, micro-managing subsidiary bodies is neither necessary nor effective.

## 2.8 Council on Student Affairs Report

B. Thomson reported on the following:

- The Council on Student Affairs met on October 6, 2025.
- The Council recommended the approval of its workplan and revisions to its terms of reference to the GFC Executive Committee. Updates on textbook affordability and scholarships, awards, and bursaries were also brought forward for discussion.

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## 3.0 Other Business

### 3.1 Library Council Bylaws

E. Revitt presented the item. Highlights included:

- While the Library is not a faculty or school, GFC recognizes it as an academic body and provides oversight by approving the Library Council's bylaws.
- Since its establishment in 2014, the Library Council's governance has matured. The proposed revisions align it with other councils by broadening membership to include deans, the University Registrar, the Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement, and non-academic staff; and clarifying that Council meetings will normally be open to the University community.

**MOTION#GFC-03-10-20-2025/26:**

Moved by M. Tucker and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the revisions to the Library Council Bylaws.

**Motion Carried.**

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## 4.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 5:00 pm.

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