

## Attendance

### Ex-Officio Members (voting)

President:	Annette Trimbee GFC Chair		
Provost:	Craig Monk		
VPs:	Lara McClelland	Maureen Lomas	
Deans:	Deric Olsen	Eva Revitt ( <i>interim</i> )	Richard Perlow
	Christy Raymond	Melike Schalomon	Lisa Rochman
	David Danto		
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	Josh Toth
	Alain Beauclair	Chris Striemer	Brendan Boyd
	Melissa Hills	Tim Williams	Gregory Springate
	Murli Muralidharan	Khalaf Al-jarrah	Francoise Cadigan
	Caroline Foster-Boucher	Paul Kerr	Dawn Sadoway
	Travis Hatt	Kelly Morris	Tina Bott
	Emilene Reisdorfer	David Laing	Bill Thompson

### Additional Appointed Members (voting)

Deputy Provost	Edvard Lorkovic		
AVPs:	Craig Kuziemyky	Chandelle Rimmer ( <i>interim</i> )	Terri Cardinal
General Counsel:	Jason Fung		
GMUFA President:	Bob Graves		
Faculty:	Katie Biittner	Cristina Anton	Subhadip Ghosh
	John McMillan	Lun Li	Martin Tucker (arr. 3:28)
	Sharon Johnston	Joan Morrison	
	Kenneth Ristau	Alison Pitcher	
Students	Layal Zidan	Olad Ayodeji	
Alumni:	Kyra Droog		

### Office of University Governance (non-voting)

Sumiko Yip University Secretary	Marco Turlione Recording Secretary	Christian Zukowski	Ginikachi Ugwuegbu
Leah Stock			

**Absent, with Regrets:**

Maureen Lomas	David Danto	Lisa Rochman	Darcy Hoogers
Brendan Boyd	Tina Bott	Emilene Reisdorfer	David Laing
Bill Thompson			

**PRESENTERS FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Name	Agenda Item
N/A	N/A

**MINUTES: OPEN SESSION**

#	Item
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> <p>The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:14 pm, noting that quorum was present.</p>
1.1	Land Acknowledgement P. Kerr provided a land acknowledgement.
1.2	Open and Consent Agenda ( <b>MOTION</b> ) <b>MOTION#GFC-01-03-24-2024/25:</b> Moved by C. Raymond and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the open and consent agenda as presented. <b>Motion Carried.</b> <p>Discussion occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request to move items 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 from <i>Approval</i> to <i>Discussion</i> was raised. It was agreed that the request would be considered following the presentation of the item.</li> </ul> <p>*The consent agenda included the minutes from the meeting on February 10, 2025, for approval; the minutes Executive Committee meeting on February 3, 2025, and the 2025/26 General Faculties Meeting Schedule, for information.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Reports</b>
2.1	President's Report <p>The Chair reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ahead of the provincial budget, the University was advised that post-secondary institutions have been granted an exemption from the <i>Provincial Priorities Act</i>, reflecting effective advocacy by the sector.</li> <li>The provincial budget did not include changes to the University's operating grant or to the capital funding for the School of Business Building. The University's budget will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval on March 27, 2025.</li> <li>The latest <i>President's Column</i> focused on the theme of "moving with purpose" in the face of unpredictability. Highlights included a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta Motor Association and continued efforts to support food affordability through partnerships with the Food Pantry, Breakfast Club, and the Italian Centre.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University is reviewing its government reporting obligations as part of the work of the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness. The panel's scope includes funding models, federal immigration policy, regulatory burden, and institutional competitiveness.</li> <li>The Chair acknowledged and thanked G. Ambutong and D. Hoogers for their service, as this was their final meeting, and extended congratulations to the newly elected student representatives from the recent Students' Association election.</li> </ul>
2.2	Provost's Report	<p>C. Monk reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University has extended budgeting to support up to fifty academic hires, fully utilizing the hiring committee's capacity. Given the ongoing freeze to the operating grant, future recruitment will be prioritized in areas of institutional growth. As of now, half of the planned academic appointments effective July 1, 2025, have been completed, with approximately one-third allocated to sessional positions.</li> <li>The Exam Centre requires expansion to meet existing commitments. Its primary focus will be on supporting students with approved accommodations and fulfilling the University's legal responsibilities in this area. Operational challenges are being addressed by the AVP, Students, with support from the AVP, Student Success and Accountability.</li> <li>Under a revised model, faculty members will no longer be responsible for administering specialized accommodations. Instead, each faculty and school will manage deferred exams using internal systems. Ongoing consultations are underway to promote consistency, and the General Faculties Council may consider the matter further through its standing committees.</li> </ul>
2.3	GFC Executive Committee Report	<p>P. Chahal reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee met on February 28, 2025, and March 17, 2025, and approved the 2025/26 GFC Meeting Schedule and the agenda for the March 24, 2025, meeting.</li> </ul>
2.3.1	Thought Paper: GFC Optimal Size & Membership ( <b>MOTION</b> )	<p><b>MOTION#GFC-02-03-24-2024/25:</b> Moved by T. Williams and seconded that the General Faculties Council adopt the ten recommendations presented in the Thought Paper on GFC Optimal Size &amp; Membership.</p> <p><b>Motion Carried.</b></p> <p>9 members voted in opposition.</p> <p>P. Chahal presented the item. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 2024/25 Reapportionment Review, the Committee developed ten recommendations focused on enhancing student representation, clarifying the role of nurse educators, optimizing the overall size of the General Faculties Council (GFC), and refining representation ratios.</li> <li>The recommendations reaffirm GFC's role as the University's primary academic governance body and are informed by research and benchmarking data.</li> <li>This work originated from a request to increase student representation on GFC, prompting broader discussions on proportional faculty representation</li> </ul>

		<p>specifically nurse educators. While there was general support, further analysis was required to ensure alignment with the principles of GFC membership. Draft recommendations were presented at a special meeting of the GFC Executive Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion took place regarding the classification of nurse educators and whether they qualify as full-time academic staff. It was noted that this is a technical matter governed by legislation and the collective agreement, rather than by academic credentials or governance practices. The longstanding practice has been to classify nurse educators not as full-time.</li> <li>• It was also clarified that nurse educators are eligible to run for additional appointed positions on GFC and that designated seats for nurse educators exist on the Faculty Council for Nursing.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION#GFC-03-03-24-2024/25:</b> Moved by R. Woznura and seconded that General Faculties Council table items 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 to the meeting on May 5, 2025.</p> <p><b>Motion Failed.</b> 24 members voted in opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some members raised concerns and suggested deferring the items to the next meeting to allow time for revisions and further review. However, others expressed that delaying consideration could limit the ability of faculties and schools to hold elections within the necessary timeframe.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION#GFC-04-03-24-2024/25:</b> Moved by B. Graves and seconded that General Faculties Council strike recommendations 7 and 8 from the motion.</p> <p><b>Motion Failed.</b> 27 members voted in opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns were raised that including nurse educators in the reapportionment calculations could inadvertently increase service expectations for academic staff, potentially impacting their capacity to participate in governance activities.</li> <li>• There was discussion about whether to remove the section on nurse educators from the Thought Paper. It was noted that retaining the rationale for their exclusion from the headcount is important, as it accurately reflects current practice and provides useful context, even if the approach is revisited in the future.</li> </ul>
2.3.2	Thought Paper: GFC Bylaws ( <b>MOTION</b> )	<p><b>MOTION#GFC-05-03-24-2024/25:</b> Moved by D. Sadoway and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the revisions to the GFC Bylaws, as outlined in the Thought Paper on GFC Optimal Size and Membership, with immediate effect.</p> <p><b>Motion Carried.</b> 2 members voted in opposition.</p>

		<p>P. Chahal presented the item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bylaw revision pertains to the addition of 2 student seats to the Additional Appointed Membership of the GFC, increasing the number of student seats in the Additional Appointed Membership from 2 to 4 seats.</li> </ul>
2.4	Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report	<p>I. Bica reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee met on March 10, 2025, and approved updates to the <i>Baccalaureate Program Review Handbook</i>. Members are encouraged to self-enroll in the Academic Quality Assurance Protocol course available on mēskanās and to share this resource with their respective faculty and school councils.</li> <li>An update was provided on the <i>Scholarly Activity Reports</i> for the Faculty of Arts and Science. As required by the Campus Alberta Quality Council, institutions must maintain this data for audit purposes. Efforts are underway to better align this reporting with the eCV annual reporting system.</li> <li>The Committee approved the termination of the <i>Certificate in Arts and Cultural Management</i>. The program will be redeveloped as a post-diploma certificate, featuring more advanced coursework and designed for students with degrees in music, the arts, and sciences, in accordance with Ministry requirements.</li> </ul>
2.5	Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar Report	<p>P. Kerr reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At its February 24, 2025 meeting, the Committee approved revisions to the <i>English Language Proficiency</i> requirements for the <i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>. The updates clarify that preparatory courses do not meet the requirement and align the standards with current spoken proficiency testing practices.</li> <li>The Committee also approved a change to the <i>Bridge to Canadian Nursing</i> admission criteria, specifying that applicants must hold an eligible credential, rather than a credential from an eligible country.</li> <li>The Committee reviewed potential options for the <i>2026/27 Academic Schedule</i>. The preferred option includes an earlier start to the September term. Modelling indicates this would reduce the need for weekend exams. Potential impacts on the timing of New Student Orientation will continue to be monitored.</li> <li>To support timely Winter Term enrolment, the Committee agreed to avoid scheduling grade submissions immediately after Winter Break. In years with less scheduling flexibility due to an earlier start, instructors may have only three days to complete grading; however, existing provisions allow for flexibility in such cases.</li> </ul>
2.6	Scholarly Activity Report	<p>C. Striemer reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee met on March 3, 2025, and received an update from the Office of Research Services confirming that <i>Student Research Day</i> will take place on April 17, 2025. Information was also shared regarding the upcoming <i>C2UExpo</i>, which will be hosted at the University.</li> <li>An update was provided on the <i>Tactical Plan for Research</i>, with discussion focused on identifying and addressing barriers to research and reviewing data from internal grant programs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee approved the establishment of its first official research group: the <i>Black Community Research and Innovation Group</i>. Open to both Black and non-Black scholars and students, the group supports the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's commitment to addressing health disparities in Black communities.</li> </ul>
2.7	<p>Teaching and Learning Report</p> <p>M. Hills reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee met on March 3, 2025, and approved revisions to the <i>Teaching Award Subcommittee's</i> terms of reference to ensure its responsibilities are aligned with its mandate.</li> <li>Revisions to the <i>Teaching Awards Policy</i> were discussed, aimed at broadening the recognition of teaching excellence across the University.</li> <li>The Committee received an update from the <i>Emerging Technologies Subcommittee</i>, which is currently developing frameworks related to emerging technologies and a mēskanās app. Two project endorsements were reviewed, with clarification that such endorsements signal support in cases where the Committee does not hold formal decision-making authority.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><i>(Used for announcements and general questions)</i></p> <p>No Other Business was discussed.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Adjournment of Open Session</b></p> <p>The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:37 pm.</p>