

ATTENDANCE

Members	Annette Trimbee (Chair); Travis Hatt (Vice-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 (<i>arr. 3:56 pm</i>); Aimee Skye; Tim Williams; Paul Chahal; Hellen Gateri; Murli Muralidharan; Khalaf Al-Jarrah; Francoise Cadigan; Paul Kerr; Melanie Gates; David Laing; Wayne Williams; Scott Spidell; Debbie Lenton; 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; Michael Brundin; Kenneth Ristau; Darren Tellier; Vincent Trinh; Olad Ayodeji; Manojna Tumma (<i>arr. 4:31 pm</i>); Milan Regmi; Kyra Droog (<i>left 5:09 pm</i>).
Secretariat	Sumiko Yip; Leah Stock; Christian Zukowski; Angela Miao; Austin Hohlbein; Cameron McCubbing
Presenters	David Almond – 3.3 (<i>Presentation: Information Protection and IT Topics for Future Discussion</i>)
Regrets	Shannon Digweed; Hellen Gateri; Khalaf Al-Jarrah; Francoise Cadigan; Ed Lorkovic; Terri Cardinal; Andrew Patterson; Barry Williams; John McMillan; Anna Rissanen; Sharon Johnston; Alem Tesfay
Guests	Mike Annett

MINUTES**1.0 Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm, noting that quorum was present.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

S. Cartledge provided a 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 October 20, 2025, as presented.

The Consent Agenda included the following items for information:

- Amended Previous Minutes: September 15, 2025
- GFC Executive Committee Minutes: October 14, 2025

Discussion regarding the minutes from the meeting on October 20, 2025, included:

- Applications for the pathway to five courses are open to a wide variety of academic staff and will be adjudicated fairly. While most applicants and compelling applications are made by staff with Teaching, Research, and Service workloads, it is reasonable to consider how other staff would benefit from more time dedicated to research and service.

MOTION#GFC-01-12-01-2025/26:

Moved by L. Honey and seconded 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:

- Planning work for Fall Convocation, including student preparation and GFC member involvement, was acknowledged. Dr. Bryan Kolb received an honorary doctorate, and members were encouraged to submit future nominations.
- The Mintz Panel's report included recommendations to assess funding based on operating costs, institutional impact, and growth. Minister McDougall toured the School of Business Building and indicated that a new funding model would not be implemented until 2027/28.
- The federal budget announced public infrastructure funding accessible to post-secondary institutions and a 50% reduction in new international student study permits. While concerns were noted regarding budget reduction directives, tri-council funding was reduced by only 2%.

2.2 Provost's Report

C. Monk reported on the following:

- As the University continues to grow, demand for teaching, laboratory, office, and washroom space is increasing. To support 2030 enrollment goals, an estimated 30-50 additional classrooms will be required, with 34 included in the School of

Business Building. Remaining space pressures underscore the need for a new science building. The School of Business Building will be available for use by all faculties and schools and is expected to support approximately 7,500 students. The higher classroom estimate reflects space utilization rated below the sector standard of 80%. Initiatives to improve utilization are expected to reduce the requirement to approximately 25 classrooms.

- The Uwill platform has been launched to support student mental health and to complement existing services. The platform includes 24/7 crisis support, counselling, and wellness resources such as yoga, meditation, and sleep hygiene. The University has committed to the platform for a two-year period and will assess its effectiveness.
- With one quarter remaining in the fiscal year, MacEwan scholars have submitted 80 grant applications totaling \$42 million. The average success rate is 50-60% and \$4.2 million of the \$5 million external funding target for 2025/26 has been secured. This progress reflects the contribution of longstanding and new faculty, as well as support from the Office of Research Services.
- Safety concerns relating to walking and transit in the downtown area were raised. It was noted that the Students' Association operates a Safe Walk program, which continues to face volunteer recruitment challenges. Increased recruitment could enable the program to escort community members to transit stations.

2.3 GFC Executive Committee Report

T. Hatt reported on the following:

- The Committee met on November 24, 2025, and received information on items included on the GFC Agenda, which were approved by the Committee.

2.3.1 Rescission: Student Appeals Policy

T. Hatt presented the item. Highlights included:

- The *Student Appeals Policy* was retained to support appeal processes related to work-integrated learning and clinical placements. As an appeal mechanism is now included in the *Work-Integrated Learning Policy*, the Policy can be rescinded.

MOTION#GFC-02-12-01-2025/26:

Moved by C. Kuziemy and seconded that the General Faculties Council approve the rescission of the Student Appeals Policy.

Motion Carried.

2.4 Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Report

I. Bica reported on the following:

- The Committee met on November 3, 2025.
- The Bachelor of Science program review has been completed, and action plans for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing, and Bachelor of Commerce are currently in progress.
- The Committee approved the new *Work-Integrated Learning Policy* and rescission of the former work-integrated learning and co-operative education policies. The new policy reflects current practice and the shift from a placement-based to a course-integrated approach.

2.5 Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar

S. Cartledge reported on the following:

- The Committee met on November 3, 2025.
- Future academic scheduling was discussed, including timelines, consultation, and potential changes. Possible changes include moving the Fall Reading Break earlier in the term and starting the Winter Term a few days later. Any changes would be implemented no earlier than 2028/29 to allow for appropriate consultation and consideration of recently approved changes.
- Academic definitions were reviewed and discussed with the aim of establishing an academic governance mechanism for their ongoing review.

2.6 Scholarly Activity Report

C. Anton reported on the following:

- The Committee received reports from the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, the Institute for Urban Wellness, and the Social Innovation Institute. It was noted that the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity is currently in a transition period following a change in director.

2.7 Teaching and Learning Report

M. Hills reported on the following:

- The Committee approved the terms of reference of the self-study committee in support of the unit review of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL). CTL is in the process of identifying external reviewers.
- The review of the student course feedback survey will be completed within the 2025/26 academic year and will focus on survey questions. Focus groups will include faculty and students from across faculties and schools. GFC will receive an update in March 2026, with changes brought for approval in June 2026. In alignment with the collective agreement, the Faculty Association will have the opportunity to provide written feedback prior to approval.

3.0 Other Business

3.1 Appointment of a GFC Member to the Committee on Scholarly Activity

S. Yip presented the item.

MOTION#GFC-03-12-01-2025/26:

Moved by M. Tucker and seconded that the General Faculties Council appoint Michael Brundin to the Committee on Scholarly Activity for a term concluding June 30, 2027.

Motion Carried.

3.2 Presentation: Overview of 2026/27 Budget

M. Lomas presented the item. Highlights included:

- The University's budget is largely fixed, with approximately 90% allocated to salaries and benefits and about 10% available for discretionary and project spending. Budget development is informed by enrolment, forecasted full-load equivalents, instructional needs, and hiring plans.
- Government grants remain at 42% of total revenue. While Mintz Panel recommendations will affect funding for 2027/28, a \$5 million deficit is projected under current grant levels. The budget proposes a 2% tuition increase for domestic students, a 10% increase for international students, and increase to the Student Mental Health Fee from \$7 to \$15 to support the Uwill platform. Other mandatory non-instructional fees will be raised by 3%. Residence rates will increase by 5% and remain \$200–\$300 cheaper than comparable downtown units.
- Planned spending supports 30 new academic hires, increased costs for materials and supplies, student and incident management software, and ongoing projects. Technology purchases are being made in advance to manage costs, and potential tariff impacts continue to be monitored.
- Past surpluses have been used to increase scholarships, awards, and bursary (SAB) funding, but this is not sustainable as finances tighten. Future SAB budgeting will rely solely on endowment funding.
- Growth remains a priority but must be managed sustainably and aligned with areas of student demand. While past growth was accommodated within existing course offerings, future enrolment increases will require additional sections and sessional instructors.
- The 2026/27 financial statements include a \$22 million investment gain due to the sale of investments. Since this money was reinvested, it cannot be used operationally.

3.3 Presentation: Information Protection and IT Topics for Future Discussion

D. Almond presented the item. Highlights included:

- Provincial legislation requires the University to implement an information protection program, which also reflects good practice and responds to audit

findings. The program includes document classification, rules for access and storage, data leakage prevention, and governance for access and classification.

- The program applies to the Microsoft environment, Google products, and application data across the institution. While teaching and research data may be out-of-scope, protection this information remains important for compliance with tri-council requirements. A Spring 2025 pilot identified the need for greater consistency, communication, and consultation.
- Implementation will consider risk tolerance and balance best practices with the needs of faculty, students, and staff.
- The program is sponsored by the Chief Information Security Officer and overseen by a steering committee, with consultation and updates provided through Executive Council and the GFC.

4.0 Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm.
