



**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #580**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Monday, March 4, 2024**  
**3:00 p.m. in W646**

- Present:** M. Helstein (Chair), S. Alam, T. Andersen, K. Anderson-Bain, V. Baulkaran, Y. Belanger (virtually), N. Buis Deering, L. Burckes, C. Burton, C. Carnaghan, J. Cunningham (virtually), H. Davis-Fisch, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, A. Ebenmelu, S. Findlay, E. Galway, K. Godfrey, K. Haight (virtually), M. Hill, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, M. Letts, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, I. McAdam, D. McMartin, D. McNeill (virtually), A. Mukherjee, N. Patel, R. Patel, R. Preston (virtually), J. Reiter (virtually), J. Rice, J. Sadr, K. Schwarz, E. Scott (virtually), D. Slomp, D. Smither, L. Starr, M. Thomas, G. Tia (virtually), P. Visentin, L. Vogelsang, A. von Heyking, N. Walker, P. Wilson (virtually), F. Wright (virtually)
- Regrets:** A. Akbary, L. Barrett, A. Dymond, P. Ghazalian, K. Greenwood, K. Ito, D. Jayas, S. Malla, C. Mattatall, D. McIntyre, L. Ochieng, J. Oldfield, N. Rebry, Y. Sackey-Forson, R. Sutherland, N. Thakor, S. Urquhart, R. Williams, J. Youngdahl
- Other:** G. DeSteur, J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Mathurin-Moe, T. Patel, R. Westlund, M. Whipple  
*(other guests were present on Zoom)*

*It was noted that the President is away and had sent regrets, so as contained in the GFC Bylaws the Provost shall chair in the President's absence.*

*M. Helstein (Chair) opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement.*

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**1. CONSENT AGENDA**  
**APPROVAL**

- 1.1. Approval of the March 4, 2024 Meeting #580 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #579 February 5, 2024 Minutes

**INFORMATION**

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – February 26, 2024
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #562 – January 29, 2024

**MOTION:** gfc.2024.03.01

Massey/Mather

*That the General Faculties Council approve the March 4, 2024 Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

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## 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Helstein referred to the President's Report that was included in the agenda package.

A few highlights and additions were noted:

- Provincial Budget – An email had been sent to GFC last week which gave additional information and this will also be provided in UWeekly today. Our operating base funding had a 0% increase which represents a cut. The mental health and students with disabilities funding has remained static with no increase. The targeted enrolment expansions numbers 7.4% money is short term money for a three-year cycle on different proposals we have going, and that number will drop next year as there are no new proposals. The piece of good news is the \$43 million in total for the rural medical training program in operational and capital funding for our project with UofC. The Chair thanked T. Patel, E. Okine, G. Lublinkhof, J. Doan, and R. Westlund on their advocacy for the program funding. The operational budget is still being firmed up with the University of Calgary, and the real work starts now with the program as we have the commitment from the government.
- International student cap - Three items were announced the cap, the provincial attestation letters (PAL), and a pause on visa approvals. We were worried on the PAL piece with the government pausing the applications but not as concerned on the cap. By February 12<sup>th</sup>, they didn't follow through on the cap numbers – the provincial allocation was 41,000 students. On March 1<sup>st</sup> they started looking at applications again. This situation is evolving and being monitored.
- Last week we were able to have an opportunity to host the Minister of Advanced Education on a visit to our Calgary Campus.

## 3. QUESTION PERIOD

One question was submitted in advance.

- S. Findlay - I was recently contacted by members of the University community who are concerned about the hazard posed to local birds by the highly reflective surfaces of the Science Commons building. Is the University monitoring bird strike fatalities and, if not, when does it plan to start doing so? Are any other measures planned to reduce the frequency of bird strike fatalities?

N. Walker responded to the question as this came up in 2019. The university doesn't formally keep track of bird fatalities. The Provost at the time, set aside money for a student to look into this but we were not able to find a supervisor so the research didn't move forward. We are looking for someone to supervise if anyone would volunteer.

Questions from the Floor:

- J. Mather - inquired that the lights are always on in Science Commons and why can't they be turned off at night? N. Walker will look into the data on turning lights off.
- A. Ebenmelu – Any update on the dome proposal? M. Helstein noted that they are doing more work on the feedback and this will come back to GFC.

- C. Burton – why did the minister choose the Calgary campus for a visit? M. Helstein noted that Fridays are the Minister’s constituency days. We have been requesting a visit to the Calgary campus to and she was shown by riding how many students come from the different constituencies in Calgary. The Minister’s constituency is the second highest number of Calgary students at the University of Lethbridge.
- K. Haight – re: the dome, as we were advised it would come back to GFC, is there a commitment from administration to bring this back to GFC in April? The Chair confirmed that it will be brought back then.
- J. Mather – We are in stage four of a five stage drought. What are we doing about it, as in terms of water supply, it will have a strong impact on us? There are things in the sustainability plan, but it will take a while to institute changes. M. Helstein noted that if there are some things we can do now, we don’t have to wait for the plan to be approved to institute them. A commitment was made to report back next time on what we are doing.
- C. Burton – There are some good things in the budget but what is alarming is the projected decrease in post-secondary education funding. No surprise but it is a sharp decline in funding. The biggest item for public aid funding was in regards to the private colleges. \$188 million is for student aid and it is unclear what exactly this means.
- C. Burton – pleased that rural medical program funding has been confirmed. Given the extent of the problem it is supposed to address, \$43 million may not be enough to run the program? It was reported that the forty-three million dollars are for the refashioning of the building for clinic and teaching space. The operating money is in the UofC budget as they are the accredited program. The real work now is the agreement for both the UofC and UofL to both benefit from this new program. The Chair noted that we need to make sure that we benefit from this partnership. Money comes to the UofC but can be moved to us. It was reported that the partnership is a requirement and the funding that goes to the accredited school will flow from the hosting institution to us. That will be worked out in the agreement with the UofC. It was also asked if the direct cost of the program will be covered but what about the indirect costs? It was stated that indirect costs will be covered in the partnership agreement. It is good for both institutions and for the local community. The Chair noted that the new Deputy Provost, R. Schiff, comes from an institution who has done one of these agreements and so we will be able to add her experience.

#### 4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

##### 4.1.Appointment of New Member

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.02

Marynowski/Rice

*That General Faculties Council approves the following appointed member, effective immediately:*

***APPOINTED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS  
(Nominated by Students' Union) [8] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws –  
(GFC Appoints)***

*Student (Arts & Science) Tyler Andersen April 30, 2024*

Motion: Carried

The Chair welcomed Tyler Anderson to GFC.

4.2. GFC Nominations Committee Appointments

4.2.1. Enterprise Systems Advisory Committee Staff

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.03

Marynowski/Buis Deering

*That GFC Nominations Committee met on February 26, 2024 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees:*

*Enterprise Systems Advisory Committee*

***Two (2) Academic Staff Members appointed by GFC.***

- Lars Hallstrom*
- Shawn Johnsrude*
- ALTERNATE - Daya Gaur*

Motion: Carried

4.2.2. GFC Research Planning Committee

There are two vacancies on the committee.

- NAME (Social Sciences)
- NAME (School of Liberal Education)

The floor was open to nominations for these two positions and no nominations came forth. Another call will be done in the spring with the other committee vacancies.

4.3. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report

It was noted that a change of how we add the recommendations into the agenda package was done for this meeting. The recommendations are now included in the agenda for the convenience of the members but the background information is still located in the separate files in the SharePoint folder.

4.3.1. Report 1 - Implementation May 1, 2024

**Faculty of Education**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.04

Starr/Thomas

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 - #3 from the Faculty of Education from the CCC Report for implementation May 1, 2024.*

Motion: Carried

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.05

Godfrey/Marynowski

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the layout of the requirements for the Post-Bachelor Certificate in Advanced Accounting.*

Motion: Carried

4.3.2. Report 2 – May 1, 2025

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.06

Godfrey/Mukherjee

*That General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 & #2 from the Dhillon School of Business from the CCC Report for implementation May 1, 2025.*

Motion: Carried

4.3.3. Report 3 - Pending Ministerial Approval

**Faculty of Fine Arts**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.07

Davis-Fisch/Visentin

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Cinema and Media Studies major in the B.A, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.08

Godfrey/Mukherjee

*That General Faculties Council approve the name change from Bachelor of Management (B.Mgt.) degree to a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

Dean Godfrey gave some background on why it is a B.BA. It is a market advantage and makes us one of the few in the prairies to offer this degree. We are the only accredited B.Mgt.

**Faculty of Education**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.9

Starr/Marynowski

*That General Faculties Council approve the suspension of Education Program: Career and Technology Studies Major: Business Focus, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

4.4. GFC Admission Standards Committee Reports

4.4.1. Report 1 – For immediate Implementation

**School of Graduate Studies**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.10

Rice/Godfrey

*That GFC approve the addition of the new GMAT Focus Edition to the admission requirements for the Master of Science in Management programs, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

**Student Enrolment & Registrar Services**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.11

Buis Deering/Massey

*That GFC approve Recommendations #2 & #3 for the Student Enrolment & Registrar Services from the GFC Admission Standards Committee Report 1, effectively immediately.*

Motion: Carried

**Faculty of Education**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.12

Starr/Marynowski

*That GFC approve the suspension of the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) New Media intake, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

It was asked what the rationale was for the suspension. It was noted that it is a lack of instructors as well as a drop in enrolment. The Dean reported that it is more that student placement is difficult in this area and not staffing. There are only four students in the program and they are incorporated in the art program in Education.

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.13

Godfrey/Massey

*That GFC approve the suspension of the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Business major intake, effectively immediately.*

Motion: Carried

The same rationale for suspension as New Media.

4.4.2. Report 2 – Implementation May 1, 2025

**School of Graduate Studies**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.14

Rice/Doan

*That GFC approve updates to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements for graduate admission, effective May 1, 2025.*

Motion: Carried

It was reported that across the institution, they are reviewing the English language proficiencies and they are low and so requirements are being adjusted.

**Student Enrolment & Registrar Services**

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.15

Buis Deering/Massey

*That GFC approve Recommendations #2 & #3 for the Student Enrolment & Registrar Services from the GFC Admission Standards Committee Report 2, effectively May 1, 2025.*

Motion: Carried

English proficiency tests are different in various countries. We have a mid-range score set but not one set as a minimum benchmark which this has done.

## **5. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**

### **5.1. Academic Staff Count**

J. Gallais reported that this comes to GFC annually. There is a change in the number of statutory seats from 28 to 26 due to the ex-officio membership change from 14 to 13 members, and these statutory seats need to be twice the number which is now twenty-six. With the calculation of current academic staff, Arts & Science will now have two less seats. There is natural attrition with the memberships which takes affect on July 1, 2024. A question arose on the SGS numbers and this will be looked at and will get back to the Dean on it.

### **5.2. GFC Meeting Schedule and Guidelines**

J. Gallais reported that this comes to GFC annually. We have guidelines on how to arrange the schedule. M. Helstein thanked J. Gallais and her team. We want to keep the agenda deadline open as long as possible but then that creates a challenge on getting the agendas out. J. Gallais noted that there had been a question on the meeting space for GFC. There is not a lot of space on campus that could accommodate a group of this size. The preference is for board room style setup but the other spaces would be more of a lecture hall scenario. It was asked if accessibility could be looked at in discussions of new spaces.

### **5.3. Campus Sustainability Strategy & Action Plan (2024 – 2030)**

D. McMartin reported that this is coming back to GFC after receiving feedback. There is an advisory group on campus and in reviewing their terms of reference, we realized that there are some things no longer exist. We were able in conjunction with GFC to create an advisory working group melding the advisory group as well as other members. This plan is aspirational and we are costing out the resources/people to do the work as well as the savings that we can achieve. We are looking to join the STARS program which is a free program. We can use it to assess where we sit among other institutions. It can help us find what short term gains we can make and where we can improve. This will go to the board in April for approval.

There was discussion on the water emergency in Alberta. We need a long-term plan as well as things we can start doing now. It was felt that the language in the plan was vague. Water consumption is a behaviour and it doesn't change overnight. GFC members are looking for more transparency in what these measures could mean. There are conversations happening with the City of Lethbridge with some long-term planning



taking place but which may not be visible to the university community. There are also multi-year projects being discussed by the provincial government but no official communications yet. There was further discussion surrounding incorporation of Indigenous ways of knowing when the plan was created. It was noted that this isn't a technology forward plan but is people orientated. One of the frameworks is one health as you need to consider the environment as the start to everyone being healthy. Student representation, fire prevention as well as pen and marker recycling were also discussed.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

A reminder of the Meeting of the Minds conference on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and International Women's Day Conference on March 13<sup>th</sup> was noted.

It was noted that the Donor celebration date has been change to April.

It was requested by the students that faculty members that interact with students encourage them to vote on the foodbank referendum.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2024.03.16

Anderson Bain/Jansen

*That the GFC meeting of March 4, 2024 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried