



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #590

Approved Minutes

Monday, April 7, 2025

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** D. Jayas, (Chair), S. Alam, O. Awosoga, Y. Belanger, J. Blum, N. Buis Deering, C. Burton, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, H. Davis-Fisch, Y. Dixit, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, A. Dymond, A. Ebenmelu, A. Enigbokan, S. Findlay, D. Zalesak, J. Ford, D. Gaur, B. Gerwin, P. Ghazalian, K. Greenwood, M. Helstein, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, I. Kovalchuk, O. Kovalchuk, M. Letts, D. Lucas, K. Massey, J. Mather, D. McMartin, D. McNeill, L. Michael, E. Mundell, J. Oldfield, W. Osborn, N. Rebry, J. Reiter, J. Rice, Y. Sackey-Forson, R. Schiff, D. Scott, D. Slomp, L. Starr, C. Steinke, R. Sutherland, A. Taylor, M. Thomas, S. Thomas, G. Tian, L. Vogelsang, P. Wilson, J. Wiltshire, J. Youngdahl, A. von Heyking
- Regrets:** C. Carnaghan, K. Godfrey, C. Hopkinson, K. Ito, C. Mattatall, A. Oblak, N. Patel, S. Pelech, J. Sumbera, P. Visentin,
- Other:** G. DeSteur, J. Gallais, V. Grisack (virtually), C. Krezek, M. Mathurin-Moe, J. Nero, M. Slomp, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, A. Chubb (*other guests were present on Zoom*)

Ok. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. A moment of silence was held for Dean Gallimore, Chair of the Board of Governors and Jack Oviatt, the UofL's first Registrar. GFC was also invited to Vicki Grisack's retirement party on April 16.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #590 April 7, 2025 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #589 March 3, 2025 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #574 March 31, 2025
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #573 – February 24, 2025 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2025.04.01

Osborn/Massey

That the General Faculties Council approve the April 7, 2025 Consent Agenda with moving of Item 5.6 to 5.2.

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Jayas referred to the President's Report that was included in the agenda package.

A few highlights and additions were noted:

- The Strategic Plan Launch on March 25th had strong community engagement and plans to share the plan more broadly are underway.
- Investment Management Agreement has been provided by the Government, and we are compliant with all metrics except domestic enrollment. There is no reduction in funding due to this metric not being met.
- Retaliatory tariffs to US. Physical print educational materials will increase these expenses by 25%. Steps are being taken by Instructors, Faculty, and the Bookstore to minimize the impact of these costs. The Bookstore will be reaching out to Instructors to help minimize the cost to students, and faculty are encouraged to identify alternative materials and solutions.
- Travel advisory to the United States remains in effect. Please fill out the Traveling for University Business form so that the University can help you if you need it. There are loner devices that can be loaned out for university travel and there are research programs for this already in use for other regions and areas.
- The current acting Board Chair is Rick Casson, as per Board of Governors Bylaws. We are working with the Government to identify a Chair for the Board.

2.1. Question Period on Report Items

- P. Wilson – asked a question about what border officials would say if they were asked about having blank laptops and phones when crossing the border. It was noted that this is the phone and laptop that the University provides for travel and that's a standard practice in research.
- C. Burton – asked a question about the AI conference and if this was just attended by just Presidents. What can we do as an institution to support students and faculty? M. Helstein added that she attended an AI conference for provosts and her big takeaway is that as universities we need to collaborate to find a solution to these problems rather than going it alone.

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

3.1. Student Code of Conduct Policy

MOTION:

gfc.2025.04.02

Helstein/Gerken

That General Faculties Council approve the Student Code of Conduct Policy, effective July 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

Some questions and discussion occurred, with one editorial change being noted where "i.e." will change to "e.g.". Clarity on the Dean being the final appeal mechanism in the academic side in A.2.4.5 as it is the appeal of the Instructor's decision. It was clarified that non-academic offenses are covered under this policy and is defined within the definition section. It was noted this policy includes many different relationships, like

students interacting with students, and students interacting with other groups like faculty. There is a notion of mutual respect and that captured in the document. In discussing how students know about these policies, it was noted that this piece is noted in all course syllabus's and most first year classes will take the time to talk about these policies. There is a balance of how much information that these students receive and being cautious not to overwhelm them. It was also noted that these policies are mentioned in the admissions guide and are captured in the ULeth Connect Student Newsletter and at Ahead of the Herd.

3.2. Rescinding Related Policies

MOTION: gfc.2025.04.03
Helstein/Zalesak

That General Faculties Council approve the rescission of the following documents (pending the approval of the Student Code of Conduct Policy), effective July 1, 2025:

- *Student Discipline Policy - Academic Offences Graduate Students*
- *Student Discipline Policy - Academic Offences Undergraduate Students*
- *Student Discipline Policy - Non-Academic Offences Undergraduate and Graduate Students*
- *Principles of Student Citizenship*

Motion: Carried

A question arose around overlap of these policies. It was noted that there is a lot of confidence that this new Student Code of Conduct Policy captures all the pieces and more. It was also noted that there are mechanisms to address any issues that may arise.

3.3. GFC Bylaws Revisions – Ballots (2/3 approval needed)

MOTION: gfc.2025.04.04
Helstein/Starr

That General Faculties Council approve the revised GFC Bylaws, relating to ballots, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

It was highlighted that these revisions align with the current practice.

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)

None.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. Work Integrated Learning Strategy Presentation

M. Slomp presented on the Work Integrated Learning Strategy with S. Gaudette-Sharp, Jill Nero, and Cara Krezek

Some comments arose on the importance of focusing on underlying skills rather than training students for specific jobs, noting the strong alignment with the values of Liberal Education. It was highlighted that the University is already doing this well through an emphasis on transferable skills development, supported by mechanisms such as the MyExperience Transcript, which helps students track and articulate their learning. The distinction between "career" — encompassing paid and unpaid roles over a lifetime — and "occupation" — the specific jobs one holds — was emphasized. The goal is to help students cultivate a sense of purpose and develop the skills and competencies necessary to navigate a changing workforce, rather than preparing them for a singular, fixed career path. S. Gaudette-Sharp further reinforced that Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) is centered on uplifting, articulating, and applying these skills and experiences, ensuring students are resilient and adaptable in diverse professional contexts.

Additional feedback emphasized students need to understand their skills and the link to their learnings. There are also many ways for instructors to include experiential learning in the classroom. It was noted that this plan integrates career counselling within the strategy to allow students to learn and reflect from those experiences.

Everyone was invited to join the launch and open house on April 9th.

5.2. ULBC – GFC History

M. Helstein, as she was present for this at that time, spoke about the history of GFC and the south campus lands. In February 2021 GFC passed a motion to assign GFC as a committee of the whole (COTW) to receive information and provide feedback on a whole series of recommendations as an attempt to deal with the substantial and ongoing budget cuts. The meetings were throughout March, April, May, and June of 2021 and following those meetings, an email was also sent to all GFC inviting individual feedback on any and all of the sessions. The south campus land came up most specifically in a June GFC COTW under Agenda Item 3.1.2 Revenue Generation. This was an Open meeting, as had been established in advance of the session, and all COTW meeting minutes were confidential and were approved by COTW. The meeting minutes, at the request of GFC, were very detailed (15 pages) for the June 7 meeting. It is confirmed by the minutes, South Campus land development discussed. It was in the agenda package the Board would be considering this, and feedback.

Concerns were not raised, and the south campus land development was largely supported. It was in December 2021 that our University Board of Governors approved the creation of the legal entity. It has taken since that time to establish the legal entity (ULBC) by moving through government approvals, legal requirements, etc.

While currently we are attempting to make much more clear the process for feedback to the Board through the structuring of the agenda, the process of how to receive GFC feedback to the Board was different at that time. Even if we would do it differently now,

or would have wanted people to do it differently then, the PSLA requirement was met, as it was discussed at GFC, and feedback was provided, prior to the Board making a decision.

A concern was expressed that GFC may not have had sufficient information in 2021 to meaningfully comment on the establishment of ULBC as per their PSLA role and as such the resulting ULBC may not have the important values consistent with our institution.

Another member expressed from their experience that GFC was provided adequate information and plenty of opportunities to have their opinions heard.

M. Helstein noted that at the time of these meetings GFC had not asked for more information and that there were substantive conversations around this in the proposal phase. It was also noted again that positive feedback was received.

The virtual format of these meetings in 2021 was also noted by a member as being a potential barrier to engagement. Other concerns arose and it was clarified that the ULBC is still in early planning stages, and community consultation, including environmental and Indigenous engagement processes, will continue. While GFC, nor the University, can direct ULBC's decisions, individuals and groups are encouraged to submit feedback to them through appropriate channels. It was further clarified that, the University Board of Governors receives annual reports from ULBC and maintains oversight through governance structures, providing opportunities for influence through non-directive feedback. Individuals have some power in terms of our voices and its important to advocate but GFC does not have a formal role in governing the ULBC going forward as this would put us in legal trouble if the University engaged in trying to manage the operations of this separate entity.

Balancing a few of the concerns, another member noted their understanding that a fair and equitable process has been followed with this. A question was asked on what the best way is to provide feedback and if there is a way to harmonize our feedback as an institution that is more substantive. It was noted that we will come back with a response.

MOTION: 2025.03.05

Massey/Mather

That the GFC extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Motion: Carried

A question arose on Indigenization and a seat on the ULBC for this, and a concern on the ULBC taking our water allocation. It was noted that we cannot recommend an Indigenous seat but it can be raised with the ULBC board. GFC or the UofL Board does not have any control over the ULBC board. M. Helstein noted that there is not just one Indigenous perspective and that there has been broad community consultation.

5.3. GFC Academic Appeals & Discipline Committee Presentation

M. Helstein presented on the GFC Academic Appeals & Discipline Committee and gave a brief overview of the work of that committee. The committee's role in fair processes for both students and faculty in serious academic and non-academic cases was emphasized.

5.4. GFC Nomination Committee - Call for Nominations

J. Dobbie noted the email call for nominations for committee vacancies and noted the deadline is April 27th. There are 10 committees with vacancies and nominations are very much encouraged.

5.5. GFC Bylaws – Editorial Changes

M. Helstein spoke to some editorial changes to the GFC Bylaws and noted that these are enclosed in the agenda package. These are mainly around position and title changes.

5.6. Destination Project Phase II Update

M. Helstein spoke about the Destination Project Phase II and highlighted the University Hall Planning Survey that has been sent out to University Hall users. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the survey so we can gather broad feedback.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

No questions were noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2025.04.06

Mather/Blume

That the GFC meeting of April 7, 2025 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried