



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #589

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, March 3, 2025**

**3:00 p.m. in W646**

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

*Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. A moment of silence was held for Dr. Ike Lanier (HDR, January 30, 2025), Bernie Wirzba (Retired employee, January 31, 2025), Dr. Hal Schroeder (former Faculty member, February 2, 2025), Lois Frank (Instructor/Sessional, February 12, 2025).*

---

### 1. CONSENT AGENDA

#### APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #589 March 3, 2025 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #588 February 3, 2025 Minutes

#### INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – February 24, 2025
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #572 – January 27, 2025 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2025.03.01  
Mather/Reiter

*That the General Faculties Council approve the March 3, 2025 Consent Agenda.*

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:

- Strategic Plan Launch on March 25<sup>th</sup> – invites will be sent out soon.
- Indigenous Housing Plan –The UofL has entered into a MOU with 7 Generations Society of Alberta to explore the development of Indigenous housing on campus. The area is near the other student housing.
- Southern Alberta Medical Program Updates and opportunity for questions held on March 17<sup>th</sup> for faculty & staff in AH100, and March 26<sup>th</sup> for students in SU Ballrooms.
- Honorary Degree Recipients announced today – David Robertson, Charlie Weaselhead, Kirk Muspratt, Bernadine and Toby Boulet, as well as Brent Butt who will be doing a comedy show on the Sunday prior to convocation with proceeds going to the Food for Thought program.
- Provincial Budget update – The budget was announced last Thursday. We will receive the same grant as last year but this means a reduction due to rising costs. This is the third year with no increase following large cuts in the previous years.
- Provincial Priorities Act Update – comes into force April 1<sup>st</sup>. D. Jayas received a letter from the AE minister outlining what is included in the act. List of exemptions were mentioned. It basically exempts all research projects.
- Elder Francis First Charger received an honor dance at the International Peace Powwow last week.

### 2.1. Questions Received in Advance

- Jennifer Mather “In this week's U Weekly, Marc Slomp indicated a plan to develop 'The Grove' grassy space into an outdoor recreation area. Have the people who proposed this development consulted with the Campus Sustainability Plan? Have they taken into consideration the Indigenous values that the University is pledged to? Have they thought about how to follow the Federal Government's pleas for the retention of open spaces, particularly in urban areas, to preserve the biodiversity of the planet, which is particularly under stress in prairie landscapes?”

Response Prepared by: Mark W. Slomp, Executive Director, Student Services:

The steering committee developing a proposal for an outdoor REC Room in The Grove is currently engaged in the consultation phase of planning. The ultimate intent is the design of an outdoor space for the campus community to “refresh, energize, and connect” (as per the REC Room acronym). The Director of Campus Development is a member of the steering committee. Students, faculty, and staff, including Indigenous leaders, are currently being consulted through various means (including the survey in UWeekly referenced in the question as well as in the ULethbridge Connect student newsletter). The Campus Sustainability Plan will also be considered as a part of this consultation phase. Site utilization data (as it is a bookable space) and factors such as water drainage, etc, are being considered to ensure that the space can continue to be

utilized as it always has been (and accentuates, rather than disrupts, its natural beauty).

J. Mather feels that the campus sustainability plan should be taken into account first. D. Jayas stated that the steering committee will take this into account. K. Massey reported that the plan has not been developed yet and that they are collecting feedback in the survey which is out now.

2.2. Question Period on Report Items

- C. Burton – thank you for the report on Bill 18. This is good news.

**3. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

3.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Reports

Report 1 – Implementation May 1, 2026

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2025.03.02  
Godfrey/Enigbokan

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to Bond standards for continuance, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

Report 2 – Implementation Pending Ministerial Approval

**Faculty of Fine Arts**

MOTION: gfc.2025.03.03  
Davis-Fisch/Massey

*That General Faculties Council approve the addition of a Fine Arts Multidisciplinary major in the course-based Master of Arts, pending Ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

The Dean noted there was a typo in the motion in the agenda package. It should not be Master of Fine Arts but Master of Arts. This was revised before the vote.

3.2. GFC Admission Standards Committee Report

Report 1 – Implementation Immediately

**Faculty of Health Sciences**

MOTION: gfc.2025.03.04  
Doan/Buis Deering

*That GFC approve the Master of Nursing and Master of Nursing (Educational Leadership) programs be changed to online delivery*

*method and campus, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

Report 2 – Implementation May 1, 2026

**Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION: gfc.2025.03.05

Godfrey/Dixit

*That GFC approve the updates to the BBA/LLB Dual Degree language, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

**4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)**

**4.1. Water Institute for Sustainable Ecosystems Termination**

D. McMartin provided background on the proposed termination of the WISE institute, which has not been functional for 5-6 years. The GFC Research Planning Committee reviews the creation, five-year plans, assessments, and termination of such institutes. The director of WISE requested its termination. A new institute is in development with the help of retired faculty.

It was asked if the termination would come back to GFC for approval. D. Jayas clarified that it is under the board's purview to approve as it does not affect academic programming but deals with research. There was discussion on the timeline for the new institute and the potential impact on future plans. D. McMartin mentioned that the new institute has applied for a CFI grant as well as we have received a \$2 million anonymous grant. There is renewed interest from newer faculty members. Concern was noted that GFC should have approved the termination, while others emphasized the need for immediate support for incoming faculty. It was confirmed that the Board has the authority to terminate the institute but the President will relay the discussion today to the Board.

**4.2. Research Policy (Rescinded)**

D. McMartin updated the committee on the GFC Research Planning Committee's discussions regarding the current Research Policy. The policy is redundant in that relevant parts are covered in other policies or agreements, such as the Research Funds Administration Policy. It was recommended to archive the policy for historical purposes but that it serves no practical function. Concerns were raised about the need for a research policy at a research institution, especially for those not covered by the collective agreement. Other concerns included that we are rescinding a policy before there is a replacement in place. D. McMartin acknowledged the challenge of feeling like something is being lost but mentioned that necessary policies would be updated. It was noted that the Integrity in Research Policy would be revised next year as it requires significant updates. Members emphasized the need to ensure rights and responsibilities are covered elsewhere. D. Jayas mentioned that most research institutions have multiple policies rather than a single comprehensive one.

## 5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### 5.1. Academic Staff Count

J. Gallais noted that the track changes didn't show on the pdf in the agenda package. There is a change for next year in the distribution of statutory seats from the academic staff count calculations. The Faculty of Fine Arts is losing one seat and the Faculty of Arts & Science will gain one seat.

### 5.2. GFC Meeting Schedule

J. Gallais reported that the GFC Meeting schedule is presented for information annually. The schedule contains meeting dates for the next two years. The dates are determined as per the meeting schedule guidelines. The GFC agendas have been getting out earlier over the last year with most being sent out on Mondays.

### 5.3. GFC Research Planning Committee Presentation

D. McMartin gave a short presentation on the GFC Research Planning Committee. The committee reviews policies and where research is heading. They have recently revised the Centre and Institutes review cycle. The committee also helps adjudicate awards such as the Board of Governors Research Chair, among others. It is a fun committee who make important decisions!

### 5.4. GFC Ballot Process

J. Gallais reported that GFC Executive further discussed the ballot process for GFC. It was decided that paper ballots would be added to the inside of the name tags. You will see that this has been done.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1. Question Period on Other Items

No questions arose but some events were noted.

- K. Massey – We will be celebrating 30 years on campus of the Ecumenical University Ministry under Erin Phillips on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- J. Reiter – GSA Meeting of the Minds Conference takes place on March 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are a wide variety of works being presented. They are looking for more judges. J. Reiter has information for those that are interested.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

gfc.2025.03.06

Massey/Buis

*That the GFC meeting of March 3, 2025 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried