

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #593
Approved Minutes**Monday, September 8, 2025**
3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** D. Jayas (Chair), Alam, Shamsul, N. Attarifard, O. Awosoga, J. Blum, N. Buis Deering, C. Carnaghan, D. Checkley, B. Cummins, S. Das, H. Davis-Fisch, Y. Dixit, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, K. Edwards, C. Epplett, A. Figueroa, S. Findlay, A. Fiori, E. Galway, D. Gaur, B. Gerwin, P. Ghazalian, K. Godfrey, K. Greenwood, M. Helstein, C. Hopkinson, B. Hughes, A. Iwaniuk, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, A. Khassetarash, L. Kopp, O. Kovalchuk, R. Larouche, M. Letts, D. Lucas, K. Massey, T. Matemera, C. Mattatall, S. McDougall, D. McMartin, R. Mujarrab, M. Oladoye, J. Oldfield, W. Osborn, R. Patel, S. Pelech, B. Pike, J. Rice, J. Sadr, J. Sanders, R. Schiff, K. Schwartz, D. Scott, D. Slomp, L. Starr, C. Steinke, J. Sumbera, B. Sumner, R. Tajudeen, A. Taylor, N. Thakor, S. Thomas, L. Vogelsang, R. Wevers, J. Wiltshire (Virtual), J. Youngdahl.
- Regrets:** K. Ito, S. Malla
- Other:** A. Chubb, J. Gallais, M. Mathurin-Moe, L. Svenson, R. Westlund, M. Whipple
(*other guests were present on Zoom*)

Oki. The Chair commenced the meeting with a warm welcome and a Territorial Acknowledgement. Appreciation was extended to those who attended the brand launch earlier in the day, with the Chair highlighting that the new brand draws inspiration from the people, the landscape, the sun, and Indigenous perspectives. Emphasizing the foundational role of Indigenous contributions in shaping the brand, the Chair expressed gratitude to all who participated in the consultation process, with special recognition of the generosity and insight shared by Indigenous community members.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Eric Mokosch, former Dean of the Faculty of Education.

The Chair welcomed the new and returning GFC members: Doug Checkley, Chris Epplett, Andrew Fiori, Elizabeth Galway, Andrew Iwaniuk, Lori Kopp, Richard Larouche, Stavroula Malla, James Sanders, Susan Findlay, Nehal Thakor, and Yash Dixit.

The Chair reminded members of the meeting protocol, noting that while guests are welcome to attend, they must receive prior approval from the Chair in order to speak during the meeting.

1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #593 September 8, 2025 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #592 June 2, 2025 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #578 September 2, 2025

1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #576 – May 26, 2025 and #577 June 30, 2025 Meetings.

MOTION: gfc.2025.09.01

Massey/Kopp

That the General Faculties Council approve the June 2, 2025 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

The Chair clarified that feedback from the General Faculties Council (GFC) is to be directed through the President, Vice Chancellor to the Board. Additionally, the Chair noted that if GFC wishes to introduce a motion, it may do so within agenda item 4.1.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- The provincial government has formed a panel chaired by D. Mintz, which requested input from the University of Lethbridge; a report with recommendations will be presented to Post Secondary Board chairs and Presidents on October 9, 2025, with the University's Board Chair and President planning to attend.
- Appreciation was expressed for contributions to the brand development and attendance at the launch event.
- An update was provided on the multi-sport facility project, which has received Board approval contingent on securing 10% external funding—negotiations with two partners are underway.
- The President's Goals and Objectives report emphasized executive team building, engagement with internal and external communities, and informal discussions with small faculty groups. Updates included the launch of the strategic plan and brand, progress on the SAMP building retrofit, and ongoing efforts in donor stewardship and strengthening relationships with provincial and municipal authorities; the full report is attached to the meeting minutes for reference.

2.1 Questions Received in Advance

None

2.2 Question Period on Report Items

- No further questions on Report

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

3.1. Approval of GFC Appointed Members

MOTION: gfc.2025.09.02
Helstein/Rice

That the GFC approve of the appointed faculty members, ex-officio and student member to GFC for the terms effective immediately and ending as noted:

APPOINTED MEMBERS [13] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints) [Two-year terms staggered to provide continuity where possible (GFC Bylaws Part 2, E, 7)]

<i>Business</i>	<i>Lori Kopp</i>	<i>June 30, 2027</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>James Dobbie</i>	<i>June 30, 2027</i>
<i>Health Sciences</i>	<i>James Sanders</i>	<i>June 30, 2027</i>

APPOINTED MEMBERS (Ex-officio) Authorized Appointments [4] PSLA Section 25 & GFC Bylaws E7 (a) (b) – (GFC Appoints)

<i>President, ULFA</i>	<i>Saurya Das</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
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APPOINTED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS (Nominated by Students' Union) [8] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints)

<i>Student (Arts & Science)</i>	<i>Yash Dixit (replace Rikin Patel)</i>	<i>April 30, 2026</i>
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Motion: Carried

3.2. Senate and Naming Advisory Committee - Open Floor for Nominations

J. Dobbie noted that the floor was opened for Nominations and the following positions were filled:

Senate

One (1) Member of GFC (shall also serve on a Senate Committee)
Term: Effective immediately until June 30, 2027

- Kathleen Massey, Vice Provost Students

MOTION: gfc.2025.09.03
Helstein/Dobbie

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

Naming Advisory Committee (following Naming Policy)

One (1) member of the General Faculties Council, appointed by General Faculties Council

Term: Effective immediately until June 30, 2027

- Kimoya Edwards, ULSU

MOTION:

gfc.2025.09.04

Helstein/Hopkinson

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

The Chair thanked members for putting their names forward for Committee memberships.

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)

4.1. Fairness in Sport Policy

M. Helstein provided an overview of the policy development process, noting that the interim policy was passed quickly due to timeline constraints set by provincial legislation. The policy was brought back for consultation which remains open until September 16 in preparation for the October 10 Board meeting. The majority of submissions received—including an open letter with 84 signatures—expressed opposition to the policy, citing concerns such as misalignment with institutional values, procedural fairness, and potential harm to students. While the Board shares many of these concerns, it must also consider fiduciary responsibilities and risks related to legislative compliance. It was further noted that institutional collaboration across the province lacked meaningful resistance, with most institutions implementing the policy without pushback.

MOTION

gfc.2025.09.05

Taylor/ Hopkinson

That GFC recommends to the Board rescinding the Interim Policy and discontinue work on the Fairness in Sport Policy.

Motion: Carried (Ballot vote was held)

Members expressed deep concern over the policy's development and implications. Several members highlighted significant misalignment between the policy and the university's strategic plan, values, and identity—emphasizing that allowing the policy to proceed undermines the institution's commitment to inclusivity, courage, and integrity. Specific concerns included conflicts with Indigenous perspectives (particularly 2SLGBTQ+ identities), procedural fairness, and potential reputational harm.

There were calls for concrete actions to reduce harm, including direct support for trans students, trauma-informed training, and advocacy with government. Members also warned of risks to athletic participation, funding from equity-focused institutions, and compliance with international sport policies.

While acknowledging the Board's fiduciary responsibilities and the pressures of government compliance—including the risk of government-appointed board members and funding penalties—members urged the Board to consider the broader ethical and community impacts. The discussion reflected a strong desire for the university to uphold its values and take a principled stand against legislation perceived as politically motivated and harmful to vulnerable populations.

A Ballot vote was requested for the motion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.2. Learning Management System (LMS) Review

R. Schiff provided a brief update on the LMS Review. No questions were raised by members following the update.

4.3. New Program Review Committee TOR (Revised)

M. Helstein noted that the New Program Review Committee has approved updates to the Terms of Reference. These changes include revised procedures for engaging external reviewers, with clearer guidance on who initiates contact to ensure the process remains appropriately at arm's length.

4.4. Assessment of Student Learning Policy Review Working Group

M. Helstein provided a brief update on the Assessment of Student Learning Policy Review Working Group, a committee composed of appointed academic staff and other key representatives. The group was expected to begin its review of the policy shortly, and members were encouraged to watch for upcoming opportunities to provide feedback.

4.5. GFC Executive Committee Nominations Notice

J. Gallais encouraged members to consider putting their names forward for the Executive Committee, noting that the term extends through November to help ensure continuity over the summer months.

4.6. GFC Nominations Committee – Call for Nominations

Members were notified that a call for nominations for numerous committees would be forthcoming.

4.7. GFC Meeting Format & Verbal Boardroom Renovations Update

J. Gallais provided a brief update on the meeting format, noting that the only change is an encouragement for participants to keep their cameras on during virtual meetings. J. Gallais also shared an update on the boardroom renovations. Stage 1, which includes a redesigned table to reduce unused space and lower-profile chairs for improved visibility, is expected to be completed during Fall Reading Week. Stage 2 will involve the addition of higher seating around the room with workspace accommodations, although no timeline has been set. Feedback from users, including the Board and Arts & Science Councils, was considered in the planning.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1. Question Period on Other Items

No questions were noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

gfc.2025.09.06

Buis Deering/Findlay

That the GFC meeting of September 8, 2025 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried

Att. Goals and Objectives for 2025-2026

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2025-2026

Team Building

- Build and support a strong, committed executive team through retreats, mentoring, and regular one-on-one engagement.

Get to Know the Community

- Strengthen connections with staff, students, Indigenous leaders, faculty, and community members through regular meetings, visits, and partnerships.

Strategic Plan

- Advance and share the strategic plan by finalizing Academic, Research, and People plans, aligning budget processes, and reporting progress to the Board and community.

Brand Project

- Finalize and launch the University's new brand strategy.

University Operations

- Ensure efficient university operations, including successful completion of collective agreements.

Southern Alberta Medical Program (SAMP) Training Centre

- Advance the renovation, finalize agreements, and support leadership to integrate SAMP with the University and community.

Engineering Program

- Finalize program budget, curriculum, and transfer agreements to establish a provincially approved engineering program.

Research Excellence

- Enhance the university's research enterprise and streamline policies and procedures under the leadership of the Vice-President (Research).

Fund Raising

- Build and strengthen donor relationships and stewardship by engaging executive leaders, deans, faculty, and students.

Government Relations

- Strengthen relationships with municipal, provincial, and federal leaders to advocate for the University's priorities.

Curriculum

- Support curriculum renewal to strengthen liberal education and align with budget realities.

UICC - ULeithbridge International College Calgary

- Support effective implementation of the NAVITAS partnership in alignment with institutional needs.

Development of South Campus

- Support the development of the south campus property to maximize benefits for the University.