

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #595**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Monday, November 3, 2025**  
**3:00 p.m. in W646**

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

Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a warm welcome and the Territorial Acknowledgement, highlighting that the Vice-Provost (Iniskim Indigenous Relations) Search Committee has been staffed and will begin the search for this key role.

The Chair, M. Helstein, noted that Dr. Digvir Jayas was out of the country, that M. Helstein would serve as Chair, and that Dr. Rebecca Schiff would act as Vice-Chair.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Dennis Connolly. Dr. Connolly was one of University of Lethbridge's longest-serving faculty members, dedicating over 54 years to teaching, mentoring, and community engagement.

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

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #595 November 3, 2025 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #594 October 6, 2025 Minutes

**INFORMATION**

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #580 October 27, 2025
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes –#579 October 6, 2025 Meeting

**MOTION:** gfc.2025.11.01

Scott/Figueroa

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

Motion: Carried

The Chair noted that J. Dobbie was not able to attend the meeting, and S. Findlay introduced the Nominations Committee motions in his place.

## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

- The Fall 2025 Open House was a great success, with enthusiastic students, parents, and strong participation from staff and faculty. Attendees were impressed and highly engaged; congratulations were extended to Student Affairs, faculty and staff.
- Maclean's Magazine ranked the University of Lethbridge 8th among universities, moving up several places. Efforts to improve rankings were discussed, noting challenges such as limited control over operating grants. The reputational survey, which carries the most weight, was highlighted, and strategies to encourage internal and external community participation were considered.
- The Mintz Report recommendations were noted to be published online and questions remain about how recommendations will be implemented without additional resources; government priorities have not been clearly communicated.
- The government appointed a new Board Chair, Karen Reid, and members expressed excitement about the appointment.
- A question was raised regarding the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research's attempt to obtain confidential tri-council data, including EDI questionnaires. The Chair noted that the situation was being monitored and options for advocacy were being explored. D. McMartin reassured members that no information had been shared by the tri-councils. The councils are preparing a communications plan and remain committed to confidentiality. Internally, EDI data is highly secure, with access limited to two individuals. It was noted that 12,000–14,000 applications are processed annually, making compliance with the committee's request extremely challenging.

### **2.1 Questions Received in Advance**

None

### **2.2 Question Period on Report Items**

- In a few words can you provide a summary of what the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research 's mandate and how the request for applications data (successful and unsuccessful) may impact confidential data?

It was reported that the Standing Committee studies matters relating to science and research in Canada, including reviewing reports from the Chief Science Advisor and examining issues affecting the national science and research landscape.

It has been indicated that the information request is related to an inquiry to whether EDI requirements with Tri Council grants undermined excellence.

Members considered Advocacy options, including submitting feedback through designated spaces, responding directly via the Tri-Council website, and writing letters to the Standing Committee.

Questions were raised about the security of protected data if requested by the committee. D. McMartin stated that Tri-Councils are likely to resist such requests, and are considering legal options.

D. Jayas noted that Universities Canada was preparing a letter to highlight confidentiality concerns, as the committee argued that publicly funded data should be accessible. It was emphasized that this data, particularly for unsuccessful applications, was confidential and never made public.

### **3. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

#### **3.1.GFC Admission ASC Report ASC Report – May 1, 2026**

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.02  
Letts/Massey

*That GFC approve the deletion of the Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics from the calendar and admissions pages during the program's official suspension.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.03  
Letts/Findlay

*That GFC approve GFC approve the new program admission requirements for the Undergraduate Certificate in Blackfoot Language Revitalization that will follow standard admission policies and deadlines within the Faculty of Arts & Science.*

Motion: Carried

#### **3.2.GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee**

##### **Faculty of Health Sciences**

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.04  
Doan/ Awosoga

*That General Faculties Council approve the addition of CFCS 5000-Foundational Theories and Concepts in Couple and Family Therapy to the list of eligible courses for the Course-based Option for Educational Nursing Specialization.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.05  
Doan/Larouche

*That the General Faculties Council approve recommendations #2-5 as presented by the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

### **Dhillon School of Business**

MOTION:

Godfrey/Carnaghan

gfc.2025.11.06

*That the General Faculties Council approve recommendations #6-8 as presented by the Dhillon School of Business, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

### **Faculty of Education**

Pelech/Scott recommendations - 9-10

Carried

MOTION:

Pelech/Scott

gfc.2025.11.07

*That the General Faculties Council approve recommendations #9-10 as presented by the Faculty of Education, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

### **Faculty of Fine Arts**

MOTION:

Davis-Fisch/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.08

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the following degree programs in Art: BA (AHMS) and BFA – Indigenous Art., effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

MOTION:

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.09

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of English, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:  
Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.10

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of Geography and Environment, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:  
Letts/Epplett

gfc.2025.11.11

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of History and Religion, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:  
Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.13

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of Indigenous Studies, and related programming, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:  
Letts/ Figueroa

gfc.2025.11.14

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of Philosophy, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:  
Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.15

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the changes to the curriculum for various programs, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

It was noted that the Cover Memo in the agenda package be corrected to reflect:  
Recommendations 12–17: Arts and Science  
Recommendations 18–20: Student Enrollment & Registrar Services

## **Student Enrollment & Registrar Services**

**MOTION:**

Buis Deering/Rice

gfc.2025.11.16

*That General Faculties Council approve the clarity added to Academic Regulations regarding how current students move through a program that has been suspended or terminated, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

**MOTION:**

Buis Deering/Rice

gfc.2025.11.17

*That General Faculties Council approve the policy to support a Loss of Supervisor at the graduate level, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

**MOTION:**

Buis Deering/Rice

gfc.2025.11.18

*That General Faculties Council approve the implementation of Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) and the supporting non grade designation, effective May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

## **Report #2**

**MOTION:**

Godfrey/ Figueroa

gfc.2025.11.19

*That hat the General Faculties Council approve recommendations #1-2 as presented by the Dhillon School of Business, Pending Ministerial Approval.*

Motion: Carried

**MOTION:**

Davis-Fisch/Hughes

gfc.2025.11.20

*That the General Faculties Council approve recommendations #3-4 as presented by the Faculty of Fine Arts, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

**MOTION:**

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.21

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Undergraduate Certificate in Indigenous Student Success Program, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.22

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of Indigenous Studies, and related programming, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.23

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the Department of Philosophy, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.24

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the changes to the curriculum for the Engineering Program, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION:

Letts/Findlay

gfc.2025.11.25

*That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the curriculum for the changes to the curriculum for various programs, pending ministerial approval.*

Motion: Carried

### 3.3. GFC Nominations Committee – Open Call

S. Findlay opened the floor for nominations for the following:

GFC Nominations Committee (3 vacancies – 2 two-year terms and 1 six month study leave coverage)

- Academic Staff Member, (Nov. 4, 2025 to Nov. 1, 2027)
- Academic Staff Member, (Nov. 4, 2025 to Nov. 1, 2027)
- Academic Staff Member, (Jan .1, 2026 to June 30, 2026)

Olu Awosoga (Nov. 4, 2026 to June 30, 2027)  
Sharon Pelech (Nov. 4, 2026 to June 30, 2027)  
Beth Gerwin (Jan .1, 2026 to June 30, 2026)

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.26  
Jensen/Massey

*That nominations cease.*

Carried

#### 3.4.GFC Nominations Committee – Associate Vice-President (Facilities) Search Committee

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.27  
Findlay/Rice

That GFC Nominations Committee met on October 24, 2025 and recommends that the GFC for approve the following:

That the GFC approve the nominees below for terms commencing immediately:

- Associate Vice- President (Facilities) Search Committee  
Dan Johnson  
Tony Montana

Motion: Carried

#### 3.5. Faculty of Education Adjunct Professors Guidelines

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.28  
Slomp/Pelech

*That the General Faculty Council approve of the Supplementary Guidelines for the Appointment of Adjunct Professors in the Faculty of Education, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried



### 3.6 Research Plan

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.29  
McMartin/ Thakor

*That the General Faculty Council approve the research plan, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

D. McMartin presented the Research Plan, noting that it is designed to remain broad for grant eligibility while reflecting the university's unique identity and emerging areas. Members discussed whether the plan should be circulated for broader feedback; however, it was noted that the Research Planning Committee has already reviewed it. D. McMartin confirmed that the plan can serve as a living document, allowing adjustments over time. The discussion also addressed alignment with other institutional policies, highlighting potential tensions with the recently passed Fairness in Sport Policy. Members emphasized that the plan should remain inclusive and inspirational while acknowledging areas of possible discordance.

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

4.1. None

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1. Representatives to other Faculty Councils

Members discussed the requirement in Section 28(c) for faculty representatives to serve on other faculty councils and considered whether this approach continues to achieve its intended outcomes. Concerns were raised about the administrative burden, particularly for smaller faculties, and whether alternative methods could maintain connection and information sharing without extensive appointments. Suggestions included using GFC as a central forum, adding items to the consent agenda, or creating a shared space for minutes, while noting challenges such as confidentiality and engagement. The group acknowledged the value of collegiality and interdisciplinary collaboration but questioned if the current structure is the best use of resources. Ideas such as preparing summaries of minutes and exploring combined work between faculties were also mentioned.

## 6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### 6.1. GFC ASC Approved Standards Councils

N. Buis Deering reported that ASC had approved several items at the committee level and was sharing them for information. K. Godfrey noted an editorial correction to include the title "Agricultural Enterprise Management."

### 6.2. Senate Plan Metrics, Impact & Engagement Report

J. Gallais provided an overview of the Senate's role, noting its 61 members, including three GFC representatives, and its responsibilities such as selecting the Chancellor, awarding Honorary Degrees, and fostering community engagement. The report highlighted current work and upcoming deadlines, including HDR nominations due January 16 and the process to select a new Chancellor in the new year. M. Helstein emphasized the Senate's value in promoting the university's impact within the community.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Question Period on Other Items**

Saurya Das – How does this different funding model recommended by the Provincial Mintz Panel impact the University?

M. Helstein noted that discussions have taken place at the President's Executive table regarding the Mintz Panel's recommended funding model, particularly how the government might implement these recommendations without providing additional funding. If no new funding is allocated, the question becomes how the university can effectively advocate with the government. The Mintz report did not address academic freedom, members agreed advocacy should continue through institutional roles and provincial networks. D. Jayas added that the Minister has indicated support for seeking additional funds and that the report could strengthen that request, though resources remain limited. The Premier has expressed interest in implementing recommendations quickly, but this process is expected to take at least a year. At the Provost level, efforts are underway to work with the province to help shape the funding model.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2025.11.30

Awosoga/Kopp

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

Motion: Carried