

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #596

Approved Minutes

Monday, December 8, 2025
3:00 p.m. in W646

Present: D. Jayas (Chair), S. Alam, N. Attarifard (virtual), O. Awosoga, J. Blum (virtual), N. Buis Deering (virtual), C. Carnaghan, D. Checkley, B. Cummins (virtual), S. Das, H. Davis-Fisch, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, K. Edwards (virtual), C. Epplett (virtual), A. Figueroa, S. Findlay, E. Galway (virtual), B. Gerwin, P. Ghazalian (virtual), K. Godfrey (virtual), M. Helstein (virtual), B. Hughes, K. Ito, H. Jansen, A. Khassetarash, L. Kopp, O. Kovalchuk (virtual), M. Letts, D. Lucas, T. Matemera (virtual), D. McMartin, R. Mujarrab (virtual), M. Oladoye, J. Oldfield, W. Osborn, R. Patel, S. Pelech (virtual), B. Pike, J. Rice, J. Sadr, J. Sanders, R. Schiff, K. Schwartz, L. Starr (virtual), C. Steinke (virtual), J. Sumbera (virtual), A. Taylor, N. Thakor, L. Vogelsang (virtual), R. Wevers (virtual), J. Wiltshire (virtual)

Regrets: Y. Dixit, D. Gaur, K. Greenwood, A. Iwaniuk, S. Johnsrude, R. Larouche, S. Malla, K. Massey, C. Mattatall, S. McDougall, D. Scott, D. Slomp, B. Sumner, R. Tajudeen, S. Thomas, J. Youngdahl, J. Gallais

Other: K. Fuglerud, S. Marchant, M. Mathurin-Moe, M. Okeowo-Grant, T. Schmaltz, L. Svenson, R. Westlund, M. Whipple (*other guests were present on Zoom*)

Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a warm welcome and a Territorial Acknowledgement, recognizing the commemoration held at the University on December 5 for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Chair also honored the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada, acknowledging that while many of their names remain unknown, they will not be forgotten.

It was noted that M. Helstein joined the meeting virtually, and R. Schiff would serve as Vice-Chair if required. D. McMartin filled the role of parliamentarian for the meeting.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Robert (Bob) Comstock, former Vice President, Campus Development at the University.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Daya Gaur for his contributions to the General Faculties Council, noting that he will begin a study leave from January through June 2026.

1. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #596 December 8, 2025 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #595 November 3, 2025 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #581 December 1, 2025
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #580 October 27, 2025 Meeting

MOTION:

gfc.2025.12.01

Awosoga/Rice

That the General Faculties Council approve the December 8, 2025 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

The Chair noted a correction in the attendance list from last meeting.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- Congratulations to Sidney Whiting on being selected as a Rhodes Scholar, one of only 11 recipients across Canada.
- The province has not yet conducted significant consultation on the Mintz Panel recommendations but plans to do so in the new year regarding implementation of the panel's recommendations.
- Reported positive feedback on the recent brand launch and expressed appreciation to those who promoted the new brand and viewed the brand story.
- Noted that the UICC Report is not available for this meeting; it will be presented at the February GFC meeting.
- The Vice-Provost, Iniskim Indigenous Relations Search Committee has begun its work. Feedback sessions are scheduled for December 10, and members are encouraged to attend or submit feedback directly to the committee chair if unable to participate in a session.

2.1 Questions Received in Advance

None

Follow up from questions received last meeting:

Regarding the Standing Committee on Science and Research (Federal Granting Agencies):

In response to feedback from the research community, the Standing Committee amended its motion on November 5 to request only aggregated, anonymized data, reaffirming its commitment to privacy obligations and the integrity of peer review.

The Chair thanked those who wrote to the Standing Committee, noting that Universities Canada also submitted a letter in support.

2.2 Question Period on Report Items

S. Das: What data is the Standing Committee requesting, and what type of EDI data is being collected?

D. Jayas confirmed that the request is for data from all councils and that all EDI data will be aggregated.

D. McMartin noted that clarification has been requested, as EDI data can encompass various elements. Currently, it appears limited to self-identified categories provided during grant applications, such as total numbers identifying as women, men, etc.

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

3.1.GFC Admission ASC Report **ASC Report – Effective Immediately**

MOTION: gfc.2025.12.02
Godfrey/Alam

That General Faculties Council approve changes to the admission requirements for the Master of Science in Management, which includes the BANA concentration, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

3.2.GFC Nominations Committee Dhillon School of Business Dean Search and Review Committee

MOTION: gfc.2025.12.03
Dobbie/Findlay

That GFC Nominations Committee met on December 1, 2025 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees for terms commencing immediately:

Dean, Dhillon School of Business Search and Review Committee
Michael Madore
Ebenezer Asem (Alternate)

Motion: Carried

3.3. GFC Bylaw Revision (2/3 approval)

MOTION: gfc.2025.12.04
Helstein/Figueroa

That GFC Executive met on December 1 and recommends to GFC the approval of the revised GFC Bylaws Part 4.B.Vice-Chair as presented.

Motion: Carried

M. Helstein noted that the bylaw revisions are intended to align the Bylaws with current practices by formally incorporating these practices into the governing documents.

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)

- 4.1. None

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. ULSU Pass the Hat

A. Figueroa introduced the ULSU “Pass the Hat” fundraiser, an annual initiative supporting the student-led food bank. GFC, Senate, and the Board traditionally compete to raise the highest amount. Donations are requested online via the provided link, as student demand for the food bank typically increases significantly in December.

5.2. GFC Academic Appeals & Discipline Committee

M. Helstein provided an overview of the GFC Academic Appeals & Discipline Committee as part of an ongoing initiative to highlight GFC committees throughout the year, with one committee featured at each meeting. The GFC Academic Appeals and Discipline Committee meets only as needed to hear appeals of academic discipline decisions, typically handling between two and six cases annually. The committee's work is supported by the Governance team and, while challenging, is highly valuable. The most recent update to the Student Code of Conduct resulted from work undertaken by this committee. M. Helstein thanked current and past members for their contributions and encouraged members to consider serving when vacancies arise.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

No additional questions were submitted.

The Chair invited members to attend the staff holiday gathering on December 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2025.12.05

Findlay/Osborn

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

Motion: Carried