

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #597**  
**Approved Minutes****Monday, February 2, 2026**  
**3:00 p.m. in W646**

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

Oki. As Acting Chair, M. Helstein opened the meeting with a warm welcome and the Territorial Acknowledgement. M. Helstein noted that the search for a Vice Provost, Iniskim, is underway and that the search committee has been actively engaged. An advertisement for the position is expected to be released soon. Members were encouraged to reach out to the consultants if they know of anyone who may be interested. M. Helstein expressed D. Jayas's regrets and confirmed that R. Schiff will act as Vice Chair.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Bill Cade, former President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lethbridge (2000–2010), and Dr. John-Paul Jackson, who served as both Department Chair and Dean in the Faculty of Arts during his 25-year tenure at the University. The moment of silence also honoured the passing of Tasha Diamant, Bruce Thurston, Doug Pinder, and Peter Haney.

The Chair welcomed two new members, pending GFC approval later in the meeting, Clay Bryden and Orion Legg (ULSU). Appreciation was expressed to outgoing members Niosha Attarifard and Brannon Sumner (ULSU), who graduated in December.

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**1. CONSENT AGENDA**  
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #597 February 2, 2026 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #596 December 8, 2025 Minutes

## INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #582 January 26, 2026

#### 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #581 December 1, 2025 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.01

Massey/Jansen

*That the General Faculties Council approve the February 2, 2026 Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

The Chair noted the following revisions in the distributed agenda:

- Withdraw Section 3.3 Education Search Committee Terms of Reference as it was included in the agenda in error. The terms of reference do not require GFC review or approval as the document is approved by the Education Faculty Council.
- R. Schiff to present items 3.1, Approval of Student Members, 5.1 Learning Management System Decision, and 5.2 Consultations Update.
- Page number errors to be adjusted:
  - 5.2 Consultations Update, p. 66
  - 5.3 UICC Update, p. 51
  - 5.4 ASC Report for Information, p.61

A spelling correction was made to the GFC Minutes, and an adjustment was noted for an upcoming motion to accurately reflect the appropriate areas of representation for the ULSU student appointees.

#### **Presentation**

L. Kennedy, Chair of the GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee provided an overview of the Academic Quality Assurance process, noting that it is a government-mandated requirement supported by an external audit every eight years. She outlined key steps in the AQAC process and highlighted recent streamlining efforts, including updated policies, procedures, and templates. She also noted that the committee welcomes new members.

M. Helstein added that the recent audit to retain the University's quality assurance authority went well. In response to a question regarding report availability, it was confirmed that non-confidential summary documents are publicly available on the website.

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

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

- The Provincial Budget is scheduled for release on February 26. No indications of government funding reductions have been received to date, though confirmation will not be available until the budget is released.
- The University anticipates significant budget impacts resulting from recent IRCC decisions, including a 24% decline in international enrolment this winter and concerns regarding revenue mix, as domestic enrolment does not offset this reduction.
- An upcoming Town Hall will be held to inform the University community about budget impacts, with further communication to GFC to follow.

2.1 Questions Received in Advance  
None

2.2 Question Period on Report Items  
None

**3. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

3.1. Approval of Student Members

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.02  
Letts/Larouche

*That GFC approve the appointed student members below for terms commencing immediately and ending as noted.*

*Appointed Undergraduate Student Members  
(Nominated by Students' Union) [8] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws –  
(GFC Appoints)*

<i>Student (Arts &amp; Science)</i>	<i>*Orion Legg (replace Brannon Sumner)</i>	<i>April 30, 2026</i>
<i>Student (Business)</i>	<i>*Clay Bryden (replace Niosha Attarifard)</i>	<i>April 30, 2026</i>

Motion: Carried

\*Correction made as noted earlier in the meeting.

3.2. GFC Admission ASC Report  
ASC Report – May 1, 2026

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.03  
Dobbie/Rice

*That General Faculties Council approve recommendation #1 from the Faculty of Fine Arts.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.04  
Rice/Awosoga

*That General Faculties Council approve recommendation #2 from the School of Graduate Studies.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.05  
Buis Deering/Massey

*That General Faculties Council approve recommendation #3 and #4.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.06  
Buis Deering/Massey

*That GFC approve the addition of ULethbridge 0500 courses to general admission requirements.*

Motion: Carried

ASC Report – May 1, 2027

MOTION: gfc.2026.02.07  
Doan/Larouche

*That General Faculties Council approve recommendation #1 and #2 from the Faculty of Health Sciences.*

Motion: Carried

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

4.1. None

#### **5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

5.1. Learning Management System Decision

R. Schiff explained that beginning in May 2024, the university conducted a formal review of Moodle to determine whether another learning management system might better meet student needs. Multiple systems were piloted, data were analyzed, and conversations were held with other Moodle hosts. The conclusion was to continue with Moodle but transition to a new hosting provider.

A question was raised about why the institution chose to continue using Moodle. The response highlighted that students expressed a strong preference for Moodle during the review process. It was also noted that switching to a different learning management system would involve significant transition costs that were not justified by the potential benefits. Additionally, with a new hosting provider, Moodle is expected to support needed updates and improvements.

## 5.2. Consultations Update

GFC members were advised of upcoming campus consultations on several major initiatives. Each of these items will return to GFC at later stages. Members are encouraged to watch for further updates through UWeekly or relevant listservs. The initiatives include:

Academic Plan  
Indigenous Knowledge Verification Guidelines  
Multigenerational Indigenous Housing

*[R. Schiff assumed the Chair for item 5.2 UICC Update.]*

## 5.3. UICC Update

M. Helstein reported that the university is now through the first year of the UICC partnership. Recent IRCC decisions have had a notable impact on both the UICC program and the University of Lethbridge. The first student cohort transitioned this past fall, with very small numbers, and care must be taken when sharing data to avoid identifying individual students.

It was noted that UICC currently offers only one academic pathway. While students take a broad range of courses that can be applied to various U of L programs, communication to students about these options will be strengthened going forward. Consideration is also being given to where expansion of pathways would make the most sense.

Early confusion at Bow Valley College regarding student location requirements has been resolved, and work continues to ensure clear visa-related documentation. Retention remains a focus, though the first Calgary cohort remained at the Calgary campus. Annual updates on the program will be provided to GFC, typically in December or February.

*[M. Helstein resumed Chair.]*

## 5.4. ASC Report for Information

N. Buis Deering noted that the changes will take effect in Fall 2026, it was adjusting several deadline dates for the Bachelor of Nursing program.

## 5.5. GFC Meeting Schedule

J. Gallais presented the 2026-2028 GFC Meeting Schedule for GFC review. No additional questions were asked. The meeting dates are also posted on the University website.

## 5.6. ULSU Update

- Pass the Hat Fundraiser
- Changeover Dinner

A. Figueroa reported that the Pass the Hat fundraiser raised \$3,525, with the Board of Governors contributing the highest amount, narrowly surpassing the Senate and GFC.

A. Figueroa announced that the ULSU Changeover Dinner will take place in early April. The Transition Gala supports campus food security and brings together community and university leaders. It will showcase the ULSU's accomplishments from the past year and introduce the new student leaders. The event is set for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, and members were encouraged to save the date.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

No additional questions were submitted.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION:

gfc.2026.02.08

Awosoga/Findlay

*That the GFC meeting of February 2, 2026 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried