

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #599**  
**Approved Minutes****Monday, April 13, 2026**  
**3:00 p.m. in W646**

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

Oki. As Chair, D. Jayas opened the meeting with a warm welcome and the University Territorial Acknowledgement. D. Jayas noted that the search for the Vice-Provost (Iniskim) is underway and that the search committee's work is progressing well. Members were advised that the Iikaisskini Indigenous Studies Gala, an Evening in Celebration of Dr. Leroy Little Bear, will take place on June 18, 2026, at Excite Lethbridge. Proceeds from the gala, together with donations, will support the establishment of an endowed scholarship in Dr. Little Bear's name for Indigenous students in Indigenous Studies at ULEthbridge. Members were encouraged to attend the event.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Gail Michener. Dr. Michener joined ULEthbridge in 1981 as an associate professor in the Department of Biology, was promoted to full professor in 1990, and served until her retirement in 2008. She was internationally recognized for her research on Richardson's ground squirrels, including long-standing fieldwork in the Picture Butte area.

The Chair welcomed new student members attending the meeting as guests, noting that student appointments will be made during the May meeting. The Chair also welcomed Dr. Marc Roussel, who would be appointed as a new member later in the meeting. Departing student members of the General Faculty Council for their service. While some members may be returning, all student representatives were acknowledged at this time. Departing ULSU members included Alejandro Figueroa, Kimoya Edwards, Moyosoreoluwa Oladoye, Orion Legg, Rylee Wevers, Bradley Pike, Clay Bryden, Jessica Sumbera, Yash Dixit, and Tadiwanashe Matemera. Departing GSA members included Jade Oldfield, Razeen Mujarrab, and Ridwan Tajudeen.

Members viewed a video presentation by Richelle Marynowski, Chair of the GFC Convocation Ceremony Committee, outlining the committee's membership, roles, and responsibilities, and advising that an additional academic staff member vacancy is currently being sought. The

presentation highlighted the committee's ongoing efforts to enhance the convocation experience for graduates, honorary degree recipients, faculty, and guests. Members were reminded to watch for convocation invitations by email and were encouraged to attend in support of graduating students.

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## 1. **CONSENT AGENDA**

### APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #599 April 13, 2026 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #598 March 2, 2026 Minutes

### INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #584 April 7, 2026
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #583 February 23, 2026 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.01

Massey/Awosoga

*That the General Faculties Council approve the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

The agenda was amended to reflect that under item 3.3, O. Awosoga will bring forward motions on behalf of the GFC Nominations Committee, and that K. Edwards will bring an item for information regarding the Flare Symposium Event under item 7.1 (Other Business).

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

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

- The South Country Co-op naming partner sign for the Health and Wellness Building has been installed.
- The GFC Strategic Committee has been reviewing the Academic Plan, which will be brought forward to GFC for discussion and subsequently for approval.
- Attended a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education regarding next steps on the Mintz Panel report. This meeting highlighted the work that is underway toward implementation of a new provincial post secondary funding model in 2027. This model is expected to include base, performance, and enrolment components, with significant weighting on enrolment. The budget framework has not yet been finalized. Consultations with the post-secondary sector are anticipated over the summer, and development of the framework are expected to advance in the near term.

2.1 Questions Received in Advance

None

2.2 Question Period on Report Items

None

### 3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### 3.1. Approval of GFC Appointed Member

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.02  
Helstein/Findlay

*That the GFC approve of the appointed faculty members to GFC for the terms effective 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)]*

*Graduate Studies Marc Roussel Immediately – April 30, 2026*

*Graduate Studies Carly Adams May 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027*

Motion: Carried

#### 3.2. GFC Admission Standards Committee (ASC)

- ASC Report – May 1, 2026

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.03  
Buis Deering/Massey

*That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #1-3 from Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, implementation May 1, 2026.*

Motion: Carried

#### 3.3. GFC Nominations Committee

- Nominations Slate for Approval

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.04  
Awosoga/Osborn

*That GFC Nominations Committee met on March 25, 2026 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees for terms commencing immediately:*

- *Emeriti Appointments Policy Review GFC Ad Hoc Committee*  
*Craig Coburn (immediately until conclusion)*  
*Betty Lou Hushlak (immediately until conclusion)*  
*Emily Kroeker (immediately until conclusion)*  
*Aaron Taylor (immediately until conclusion)*  
*Susan Findlay (immediately until conclusion)*

- *Chancellor Search Committee*  
*Natasha Buis Deering (immediately until conclusion)*

- *Student Awards Committee*

*Lai "Pat" Chan (Effective immediately until June 30, 2027)*

• *Associate Vice-President (Human Resources) Search Committee*

*Betty Lou Hushlak (immediately until conclusion)*

*Beth Cormier (immediately until conclusion)*

Motion: Carried

- Nominations – Open for Floor for Nominations

That GFC open the floor for nominations for the following:

Chancellor Search Committee

Two (2) members of the General Faculties Council, appointed by General Faculties Council

Term: Effective immediately until completed.

Nominations received:

*Olga Kovalchuk*

*Kathy Greenwood*

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.05

Buis Deering/Massey

*That nominations cease.*

Motion: Carried

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

##### **4.1. 2026-2027 Capital Initiatives Budget**

D. Jayas noted that the Capital Initiatives Budget was reviewed by the GFC Strategic Planning Committee and will be brought forward to the Board later in the month for review and approval.

D. Lucas explained that the capital initiatives submission provides an opportunity to raise capital-related challenges with government. It was emphasized that the document is political in nature and is not intended to present projects in a ranked or sequential order; rather, it is meant to communicate all identified institutional priorities to government.

In response to a question, D. Lucas clarified that the Enterprise Resource Systems Upgrade and Sustainability Projects are included as placeholders to raise awareness of their importance. It was further clarified that these items, along with student residence projects, are not funded through regular government funding mechanisms. D. Lucas also confirmed that South Campus development is not included in the submission, as it is being advanced through a separate corporation (ULBC) rather than directly by the University.

## **5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **5.1. GFC Nominations Committee – Committee Vacancies**

S. Findlay noted that the call for nominations, detailing available committee vacancies, was issued by email and encouraged members to share it with GFC members and other faculty who may be interested.

## **6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **6.1. Engineering Program Governance**

M. Helstein provided a preliminary overview of the plan for the engineering program governance. It was noted that the four-year Engineering curriculum was approved through GFC as a prior action. In May, GFC will be asked to consider a motion recommending that the Board approve the creation of a School of Engineering, as required under the Post-secondary Learning Act. M. Helstein outlined that Board approval is required to establish the School, following which GFC would be responsible for creating a School Council and defining its powers, duties, and membership.

The rationale for proceeding at this time was discussed, including the University's long-standing pre-professional Engineering program, tentative government funding approval, strong labour market demand, and sustained student interest. It was noted that the University has the necessary components in place to proceed, including the ability to post for a Director of the School of Engineering/Associate Dean (Engineering) of the Faculty of Arts and Science once approvals are secured. In response to a question regarding governance placement, it was explained that situating the School within the Faculty of Arts and Science allows for a phased approach, leveraging existing expertise, administrative capacity, and shared resources; future structural changes may be considered.

Initial student intake is planned at approximately 80 students, with similar numbers projected in subsequent years. Accreditation visits would commence in year three. Lethbridge Polytechnic will support instructional needs, particularly for program components delivered at its facilities. Dedicated laboratory space has been identified within the Arts and Science Building, with plans for shared teaching and research use.

Members inquired about impacts on other departments, including Mathematics, Physics, Social Sciences, and Business. It was confirmed that these considerations were incorporated into the budget request. Opportunities for interdisciplinary course development were acknowledged. D. McMartin confirmed that the Integrated Engineering approach has been part of ongoing discussions.

M. Helstein acknowledged the extensive collaborative work involved, including contributions from the Faculty of Arts and Science, Vice-Provost Research, Finance, and other stakeholders.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

No additional questions were submitted.

Kimoya Edwards provided an update on the Flare Symposium (Fostering Liberal Arts Research), noting that the event will take place on Friday, April 17, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The symposium provides a platform for learning-focused presentations and

includes participation from a wide range of departments. A celebratory event at the Zoo to follow.

Congratulations were also extended on the announcement that a D. Jayas will be awarded Fellowship in the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, to be conferred in Italy.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2026.04.06

Pike/Figueroa

*That the GFC meeting of April 13, 2026 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried