

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #600
Approved Minutes**Monday, May 4, 2026**
3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** D. Jayas, Chair, M. Helstein, C. Adams, J. Archibald, O. Awosoga (virtual), J. Bachinger, A. Bamigbola, K. Bruce, D. Bysterveld (virtual), D. Checkley, F. Chukwuelue (virtual), B. Cummins (virtual), S. Das, H. Davis-Fisch (virtual), J. Doan, J. Dobbie, K. Edwards, C. Epplert (virtual), A. Figueroa, A. Fiori, K. Fuglerud, E. Galway (virtual), B. Gerwin, P. Ghazalian (virtual), K. Godfrey (virtual), K. Greenwood (virtual), B. Hughes, K. Ito (virtual), H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, A. Kasten (virtual), A. Khassetarash, L. Kopp, K. Krasnokutska, E. Kroeker, R. Larouche, O. Legg, M. Letts, R. Mae, S. Malla, K. Massey, J. Oldfield (virtual), W. Osborn (virtual), J. Otto, J. Rice, J. Sanders, K. Schwartz (virtual), D. Slomp, C. Steinke (virtual), K. Sumanasena, B. Sumner (virtual), N. Thakor (virtual), S. Thomas, L. Vogelsang (virtual), R. Westlund, M. Whipple, J. Wiltshire (virtual), J. Youngdahl
- Regrets:** S. Alam, N. Buis Deering, C. Carnaghan, S. Findlay, A. Iwaniuk, O. Kovalchuk, K. Lewis, D. Lucas, C. Mattatall, D. McMartin, S. Pelech, R. Schiff, L. Starr, A. Taylor
- Other:** A. Chubb, J. Gallais, M. Mathurin-Moe, K. Fuglerud, C. Kanashiro, M. Moser, S. Marchant, M. Okeowo-Grant, T. Schmaltz, L. Svenson, M. Whipple (*other guests were present on Zoom*)

Oki. As Chair, D. Jayas opened the meeting with a warm welcome and a Territorial Acknowledgement.

The Chair welcomed Emily Kroeker, Library Appointed Member, and also extended a welcome to the new student-appointed members of GFC, noting that their appointments would be confirmed later in the meeting. New undergraduate student members introduced were Kavindu Sumanasena, Austin Kasten, Denver Bysterveld, Karyna Krasnokutska, Fey Chukwuelue, Keiara Lewis, and Akeem Bamigbola, while returning members included Alejandro Figueroa, Orion Legg, and Rylee Mae. Graduate Students' Association (GSA) members were also welcomed, including returning member Jade Oldfield and new members Brannon Sumner and Akeem Bamigbola. The Chair extended appreciation to David Scott for his service on GFC.

Academic Timetable Committee Presentation

Kathleen Massey provided an overview of the Academic Timetable Committee. Established in 2020 to address scheduling challenges, the committee is responsible for making recommendations related to exam schedules and timetables and reviews its powers and duties on an annual basis. Key areas of discussion include hybrid and online delivery, timetable constraints, changes to modes of instruction, work-integrated and experiential learning, pedagogical considerations, room capacity, and grading deadlines. The committee strives to keep agendas focused and discussions meaningful, while also considering issues raised by members. The Chair thanked Ms. Massey for her presentation.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #600 May 4, 2026 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #599 April 13, 2026 Minutes

INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #585 April 27, 2026
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #584 April 7, 2026 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.01

Figueroa/Legg

That the General Faculties Council approve the May 4, 2026 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

A post agenda action item was added to the agenda, 3.1.1 *Approval of GFC Appointed Student Members.*

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- Convocation will take place on May 28 and 29, with four sessions scheduled. Members were encouraged to attend to celebrate graduates and award recipients.
- The Chancellor's term for Terry Whitehead concludes in March 2027. The final Chancellor's Dinner with Mr. Whitehead will be held on May 28; members interested in attending may purchase tickets and are encouraged to participate.

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.2026.05.02
Helstein/Jansen

That the GFC approve of the appointed 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)]

Liberal Education, Emily Kroeker (Immediately – June 30, 2026)

APPOINTED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS
*(Nominated by Students' Union) [8] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws –
(GFC Appoints)*

Student (Arts & Science)	Orion Legg	April 30, 2027
Student (Arts & Science)	Rylee Mae	April 30, 2027
Student (Fine Arts)	Kavindu Sumanasena	April 30, 2027
Student (Business)	Austin Kasten	April 30, 2027
Student (Education)	Denver Bysterveld	April 30, 2027
Student (Arts & Science)	Karyna Krasnokutska	April 30, 2027
Student (Health Sciences)	Fey Chukwuelue	April 30, 2027
Student (Arts & Science)	Keiara Lewis	April 30, 2027

APPOINTED GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS (Nominated by
Graduate Students Association) [2] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws –
(GFC Appoints)

Graduate Student	Akeem Bamigbola	April 30, 2027
Graduate Student	Brannon Sumner	April 30, 2027

Motion: Carried

3.2.GFC Admission Standards Committee (ASC)

- ASC Report – May 1, 2026

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.04
Massey/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve updates to the high school admission requirements for the Atlantic provinces as presented, effective May 1, 2026.

Motion: Carried

- ASC Report – May 1, 2027

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.05
Rice/Bruce

That GFC approve admission requirements for the recently approved Master of Arts (Fine Arts Multidisciplinary) program, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.06
Letts/ Massey

That GFC approve the addition of competitive statement to the Pre-Professional Transfer Program: Engineering additional admission requirement chart, effective May 1, 2027

Motion: Carried

3.3.Creation of School of Engineering

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.07
Helstein/Larouche

That the General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors approval of the creation of a School of Engineering, effective immediately.

That the General Faculties Council authorize, once approved, the School of Engineering to have a School Council, within the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Motion: Carried

M. Helstein introduced two related motions regarding the governance structure for the proposed School of Engineering, to be embedded within the Faculty of Arts and Science. The first motion recommends that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the School of Engineering, consistent with the Board's authority to create academic units. It was noted that the Engineering program has been in development for several years, with curriculum approved by GFC in November 2025, and is currently in the final stages of CAQC approval. Establishing the School is a required step to align governance with accreditation expectations.

The second motion, contingent on Board approval, establishes a School of Engineering Council under the authority of GFC to be within the Faculty of Arts and Science. This Council will serve as the academic governance body for the School. It was noted that this motion focuses solely on creating the council. Structure, roles and responsibilities will be developed and brought forward to GFC at a later date once an individual is hired to lead this. Discussion included anticipated timelines for provincial approval (expected June or July), phased hiring aligned with funding approval, admissions pathways and standards, and the importance of maintaining robust quality assurance and accreditation alignment. It was confirmed that the School Council will make recommendations to GFC and that further details on governance responsibilities will return to GFC for consideration.

3.4.GFC Nominations Committee

- Nominations Slate for Approval

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.08

Dobbie/Youngdahl

That GFC Nominations Committee met on March 25, 2026 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees for two year terms unless otherwise noted:

GFC Academic Appeals & Discipline Committee:

*One (1) Academic Staff Member and (1) Alternate -Jennifer Otto
(Alternate Brendan Cummins)*

GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee

*One (1) Tenured Faculty Member (Study Leave Fill July 1, 2026 -
June 30, 2027) - Christopher Burton*

GFC Convocation Ceremony Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member - Marcus Dostie

GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member - Tracy Oosterbroek

GFC Research Planning Committee

*Two (2) Academic Staff Members**

- *One (1) from Fine Arts – Monique Giroux*
- *One (1) from Graduate Studies – Marc Roussel*
- *One (1) from Liberal Education – Kaylan Schwarz*

GFC Strategic Planning Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member - Richard Larouche

Senate

Two (2) Members of GFC (shall also serve on a Senate Committee).

Natasha Buis Deering

Olga Kovalchuk

Senate Honorary Degree Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member appointed by GFC

Olga Kovalchuk

New Programming Review Committee

Two (2) Faculty Members

Tracy Oosterbroek

Gloria Tian

Budget Advisory Committee

*One (1) Academic Staff Member appointed by GFC
Vishaal Baulkaran*

Future Systems and Process (FSP) Steering Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member – Bradley Parker

Motion: Carried

J. Dobbie thanked those who put their name forward.

- Nominations – Open for Floor for Nominations

That GFC open the floor for nominations for the following:

1. *GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee*
One (1) Tenured Faculty Member (three-year term)
2. *GFC Research Planning Committee*
*Two (2) Academic Staff Members**
One (1) from Dhillon School of Business
One (1) from Faculty of Education
3. *Budget Advisory Committee*
One (1) Academic Staff Member appointed by GFC

Nominations received:

Craig Coburn - GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee
One (1) Tenured Faculty Member (three-year term)

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.09
Massey/Mae

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

The following vacancies will be referred back to the Nominations Committee for further consideration and will be presented again to GFC membership at a future meeting.

GFC Research Planning Committee
*Two (2) Academic Staff Members**

*One (1) from Dhillon School of Business
One (1) from Faculty of Education*

Budget Advisory Committee

One (1) Academic Staff Member appointed by GFC

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)

4.1. Strategic Plan Progress and Achievement Report

M. Helstein noted that work is still underway to establish appropriate metrics and that efforts are being made to align the annual government reporting plan with the Strategic Plan Progress and Achievement Report. She indicated that both will be updated in September 2026 to ensure alignment.

In discussion, a question was raised about the enrolment report (page 38), specifically the top-right chart showing the percentage of students originating from outside the Lethbridge and Calgary campus regions. Clarification was provided that the chart reflects geographic areas based on census divisions, and the numbering corresponds to how those regions are categorized in the data. It was suggested that a note be included in future reports to improve clarity.

4.2. 2026-27 – 2028-29 Budget Plan

D. Jayas introduced Cathy Kanashiro, who presented the Consolidated 2026-27 – 2028-29 Budget, noting that the full budget was included in the meeting package. The consultation process was outlined, confirming that the budget is reviewed by GFC before proceeding to the Board for approval.

Key revenue trends indicate increasing reliance on non-government sources, with the operating grant declining over time from approximately 65% of the operating budget to closer to 49%. While a modest increase to the operating grant was noted this year, it remains below levels from a decade ago. Enrolment pressures, particularly declines in international students, continue to impact revenue.

Expenses remain largely driven by salaries and benefits, prompting a focus on managing compensation through vacancy reductions and continued hiring restraint. Adjustments also reflect efforts to better align projections with actuals, including more accurate forecasting of investment income and targeted cost savings.

Looking ahead, the budget reflects a cautious approach, with attention to enrolment trends, strategic initiatives such as SAMP, and ongoing efforts to address the structural deficit. Future planning will also consider external factors, including anticipated policy changes, while supporting priorities such as program growth and campus development. The institution continues to balance the requirement for a balanced budget with the potential use of one-time reserves to support strategic priorities and time-limited needs.

In discussion, questions were raised regarding the reported surplus from the previous year; it was clarified that the figures are preliminary and largely attributable to savings from unexpended salary dollars that had been budgeted but not spent, which will be used in the coming year as bargaining units ratify agreements and retroactive pay is issued. The surplus is also associated with higher-than-anticipated investment income. It was

emphasized that surpluses are one-time in nature and not ongoing funding. Discussion also focused on building trust around surplus reporting, aligning budgets more closely with actuals, and ensuring prudent use of investment income.

Concerns were raised about hiring restraint and the impact of unfilled positions. In response, it was noted that workforce adjustments are largely being achieved through attrition and that academic units are reviewing programs and priorities to align resources with demand. The importance of focusing on high-impact areas and making deliberate decisions about program offerings was emphasized.

Questions also addressed future uncertainty, including potential impacts of the Mintz Panel and the need for contingency planning. It was noted that flexibility in budgeting, particularly avoiding over-reliance on variable revenue such as investment income, supports the institution's ability to respond to changing conditions.

D. Jayas noted that feedback from the conversation will be shared with the Board.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. GFC ASC Committee – Item for Information

K. Massey noted that the Dhillon School of Business item reflects moving the credential to the Lethbridge campus only, in alignment with space-sharing agreements.

For the Pre-Professional Transfer Programs, admission materials are being updated to remove references to formal transfer arrangements, clarifying that while preparatory pathways remain available, there are no official transfer agreements with the listed professional programs.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

Members were reminded of the invitation to attend the May 20, 2026 event marking the construction kickoff of the new Grove recreation space, which will include a brief presentation and a community market as part of "The Grove First Dig".

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2026.05.10

Kopp/Legg

That the GFC meeting of May 4, 2026 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried