GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #601
Approved Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026
3:00 p.m. in W646

Present: M. Helstein, Chair, D. Jayas (virtual), J. Archibald, O. Awosoga (virtual), J. Bachinger, A. Bamigbola, K. Bruce, N. Buis Deering, C. Carnaghan, D. Checkley, F. Chukwuelue (virtual), B. Cummins (virtual), S. Das, H. Davis-Fisch, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, C. Epplett, E. Galway (virtual), B. Gerwin (virtual), K. Godfrey (virtual), K. Greenwood, B. Hughes, A. Iwaniuk, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, A. Kasten (virtual), A. Khassetarash, L. Kopp, K. Krasnokutska, E. Kroeker, R. Larouche (virtual), M. Letts, D. Lucas, K. Massey, D. McMartin, J. Otto, S. Pelech (virtual), J. Rice, J. Sanders(virtual), K. Schwartz, (virtual), R. Schiff, D. Slomp, L. Starr (virtual), C. Steinke (virtual), B. Sumner, A. Taylor, (virtual), J. Youngdahl

Regrets: C. Adams, S. Alam, D. Bysterveld, K. Edwards, A. Figueroa, S. Findlay, A. Fiori, P. Ghazalian, K. Ito, , O. Kovalchuk, O. Legg, K. Lewis, R. Mae, S. Malla, C. Mattatall, J. Oldfield, W. Osborn, K. Sumanasena, , N. Thakor, S. Thomas, L. Vogelsang, J. Wiltshire

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

Oki. M. Helstein, as Chair, opened the meeting with a welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement, noting the importance of reflecting on the responsibilities associated with the acknowledgement. She highlighted the upcoming June 18 event celebrating Dr. Leroy Little Bear and his significant contributions to the institution. It was noted that the search for the next Vice-Provost (Iniskim Indigenous Relations) is currently underway. With D. Jayas attending the meeting virtually, M. Helstein presided as Chair. It was further noted that R. Schiff would serve as Vice-Chair for the meeting and would assume the Chair during the Academic Plan agenda item.

Members completing their terms were thanked for their service on General Faculties Council and recognized for their valuable contributions to discussions, with appreciation extended to those continuing for an additional term: Shamsul Alam, Jana Archibald, Carla Carnaghan, Beth Gerwin, Pascal Ghazalian, Bryn Hughes, Kenichi Ito, Shawn Johnstrude, Arash Khassetarash, Chris Mattatall, Sharon Pelech, Kaylan Schwarz, Emily Kroeker, David Slomp, Claudia Steinke, Aaron Taylor, and Laura Vogelsang.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #601 June 1, 2026 Agenda
1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #600 May 4, 2026 Minutes

INFORMATION

1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – #586 May 25, 2026
1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #585 April 27, 2026 Meeting

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.01

Massey/Kopp

That the General Faculties Council approve the June 1, 2026 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- Gratitude was expressed to all who participated in last week's convocation ceremonies, with particular recognition of the strong engagement from academic staff. Appreciation was extended to Natasha Buis Deering, Kendra Fuglerud, and the team for stepping in during an emergency medical leave and leading convocation planning.
- Members were reminded of the event on June 18, which will honour Dr. Little Bear, recognize his contributions to Iniskim, celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Department of Native American Studies (now Indigenous Studies), and support fundraising for the Iikaisskini Indigenous Studies Scholarship.
- It was reported that the Board approved the consolidated budget at the May 26 meeting.
- It was noted that a recent media post by MP Rachel Thomas contained some inaccurate information; a meeting has been requested with Rachel Thomas and D. Jayas to discuss further.

2.1 Questions Received in Advance
None

2.2 Question Period on Report Items
None

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

3.1. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee (CCC)

- CCC Report – Effective Immediately (p.6)

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.02
Buis-Deering/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve the implementation of Advanced Standing non-grade designation, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

- CCC Report – Effective May 1, 2027 (p.12)

It was noted that the revisions consisted of numerous minor changes

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.03
Letts/Jansen

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #1-11 from Faculty of Arts & Science, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

It was observed that the updates consisted of several minor revisions.

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.04
Godfrey/Carnaghan

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #12-18 from Dhillon School of Business, as amended, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that the changes were primarily minor in nature. A friendly amendment corrected the course reference to "Art 1010: Introduction to Art Making."

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.05
Starr/Slomp

That General Faculties Council approve the recommendations #19-31 from Faculty of Education, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

The recommendations reflect changes to ensure alignment with the current context.

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.06
Davis Fisch/Hughes

That General Faculties Council approve the recommendations #32-36 from Faculty of Fine Arts, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.07
Buis-Deering/Massey

That General Faculties Council approve the omnibus recommendation #37 and 42 from Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

Recommendations 37 and 42 were grouped together as they consist of editorial revisions

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.08

Buis-Deering/Carnaghan

That General Faculties Council approve recommendation #38 from Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, effective May 1, 2027*.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.09

Buis-Deering/Massey

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #39, 40, 41 from Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, effective May 1, 2027*.*

Motion: Carried

- CCC Report – Pending Ministerial Approval (p.330)

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.10

Letts/Rice

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #1-6 from Faculty of Arts and Science, pending ministerial approval*.*

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.11

Godfrey/Jansen

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #7-11 from Dhillon School of Business, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that the recommended changes were relatively straightforward.

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.12

Starr/Doan

That General Faculties Council approves the change to the curriculum for the B.Ed. Early Years degree, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.13

Davis Fisch/Hughes

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #13-15 from Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, pending ministerial approval.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.14
Doan/Larouche

That General Faculties Council approve the recommendations #16-18, pending ministerial approval

Motion: Carried

3.2. GFC Admission Standards Committee (ASC)

- ASC Report – May 1, 2026 (p.445)

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.15
Buis-Deering/Massey

That GFC approve the introduction of Advanced Standing for credential recognition, effective May 1, 2026.

Motion: Carried

- ASC Report – May 1, 2027 (p.456)

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.16
Davis Fisch/Hughes

That GFC approve changes to the admission requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education programs, effective May 1, 2027.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.17
Letts/ Epplett

That General Faculties Council approve recommendations #2-3 from Faculty of Arts and Science.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.18
Starr/Letts

That GFC approve the admission requirement changes for the BEd combined degrees programs. Qualified applicants who cannot be offered direct entry admission to the B.Ed. combined degrees *program, due to capacity constraints, will instead be offered admission to the Pre-Education Pathway allowing them to begin their studies toward future admission into the Faculty of Education.*

Motion: Carried

L. Starr noted that the motion included a friendly amendment made prior to the meeting, thanking other faculties for their support in maximizing enrolment and indicating that any required administrative clean-up would follow as outlined in the motion. K. Massey added that the approach helps maintain a strong competitive position and contributes to positive enrolment outcomes across multiple areas.

3.3. GFC Nominations Committee

- Nominations Slate for Approval (p.496)

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.19
Dobbie/Carnaghan

That GFC Nominations Committee met on May 15, 2026 and recommends to GFC for approval the following slate of nominees for terms commencing July 1, 2026, for two years:

GFC Research Planning Committee

Two (2) Academic Staff Members

One (1) from Dhillon School of Business (Anastasia Stuart-Edwards)

One (1) from Faculty of Education (Jeffrey McCormack)

Motion: Carried

- Nominations – Open the Floor for Nominations (p.497)

The floor was opened for the following:
Budget Advisory Committee
One (1) Academic Staff Member appointed by GFC

Nomination received - Craig Coburn

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.20
Letts/Massey

That nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)

4.1. None

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chair assumed by R. Schiff for agenda item 5.1 Academic Plan.

5.1. Academic Plan

M. Helstein introduced the draft Academic Plan, outlining the consultation process and its alignment with the Strategic Plan's four pillars, noting it has been reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee and is being presented to GFC for feedback, with approval anticipated in September/October. Members discussed enrolment growth and its implications for faculty capacity, metrics and resource allocation, opportunities to expand experiential and multidisciplinary learning, and the importance of maintaining quality (including student–teacher ratios). It was noted that progress would be reviewed annually by Vice-Presidents and reported through the GFC Strategic Planning Committee to GFC. Discussion also emphasized the need to refine programs within existing resources, with departments leading curriculum alignment and potential pathway reductions where appropriate, supported by data and existing processes. Members provided suggestions including enhancing references to experiential learning, teaching supports, and universal design for learning, clarifying language to emphasize collaboration and consultation, and considering broader program sustainability reviews. Members were invited to provide any additional feedback to the Provost at provost@uleth.ca.

M. Helstein resumed as Chair.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

M. Helstein and D. Jayas provided an update regarding external commentary related to the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program, noting that a recent social media post made by the local MP, Rachel Thomas, referencing a media article had generated discussion and some misunderstanding about the program. It was clarified that the CRC program is a federally administered initiative with established equity targets intended to ensure representation reflective of the broader population, and that institutions risk losing funding if targets are not met. Members discussed the importance of communicating this context more broadly, engaging in dialogue with the MP, and responding to media inquiries. It was noted that further information on CRC equity targets would be shared with GFC, including the following resource: https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/equity-equite/targets-cibles-eng.aspx

Members also discussed the potential institutional and community impacts of such commentary and the importance of measured, constructive responses aligned with provincial and federal objectives.

The Chair and members expressed appreciation for the service of Kerry Godfrey, Dean of the Dhillon School of Business, acknowledging his contributions, student advocacy, and leadership, including efforts to support student success and advance Indigenous perspectives.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2026.06.21

Buis Deering /McMartin

That the GFC meeting of June 1, 2026 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried