
Academic Planning and Budget Committee
January 26, 2026 at 3pm – 5pm
University Boardroom A341

IN ATTENDANCE:

Leda Stawnychko	GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR
Chad London	Provost and Vice-President, Academic, VICE-CHAIR
Michael Lam	Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Karim Dharamsi	Vice-Provost, Academic
Phil Warsaba	Vice-President, Students
Jonathan Withey	Deans' Council Representative
Lee Easton	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Milena Radzikowska	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business, Communication Studies & Aviation)
Meekena Erkin	Student Representative
Rida Ansari	Student Representative

Resources

Mohammad Amin	Director, Institutional Research and Planning
Mo Sadek	Associate Vice-President, Finance
Linda Van der Zande	Director, Office of the Provost
Stephanie Schneider	Director, Budgets and Resource Planning
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Katharine Barrette	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Chris Lovallo	GFC Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)
Robyn Madden	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

1. Approval of Agenda***Moved and seconded:***

THAT the Agenda for the January 26, 2026 Academic Planning and Budget Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes****2.1. Minutes from December 1, 2025*****Moved and seconded:***

THAT the Minutes of the December 1, 2025 Academic Planning and Budget Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

- 2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Annual 2023-2030 Academic Plan Update

C. London presented the Annual 2023-2030 Academic Plan update on the 2025 implementation highlights, including a look at upcoming implementation work. Questions were responded to for additional information and clarification of the following areas:

- Reporting metrics (FLE vs headcount)
- New credential development timelines
- Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) definitions
- Admissions and inclusion considerations
- Spring/summer course offerings being considered
- Mindfulness of workload, policy alignment, and supports when implementing various initiatives

4. Update on the MRU and Royal Roads University Collaboration

K. Dharamsi provided an update for information on the progress of the collaboration between Royal Roads University and Mount Royal University, who signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation on December 4, 2024. Questions were responded to for additional information and clarification on the following areas:

- Graduate certificates, institutional scope and program alignment
- Student retention and pathway considerations
- Program alignment and duplication
- Benefits of this institutional collaboration
- Implementation and next steps

5. 2026/27 Budget Development Update

5.1. MRU Community 2026 Budget Update Preview

M. Lam and C. London presented the draft presentation for February 2, 2026 at the MRU Community Budget Update. The following feedback and input were provided for consideration:

- Reserve levels, benchmarks, and rationale (including peer comparisons and restricted vs. unrestricted allocations)
- Use of comparator institutions and alignment with provincial funding context
- Salary and hiring assumptions within the budget (including new vs. backfilled positions)
- Strengthening alignment between guiding principles and financial outcomes in the presentation
- Broadening contextual framing beyond provincial comparators where appropriate
- Increasing awareness and communication of risks related to performance-based funding (IMA)

5.2. Investment Management Agreement 2025-2028

The information provided in the meeting package was highlighted, and questions were responded to for clarification on the government's requirements.

6. Committee Chair Report

A copy of the most recent Committee Chair's Report to GFC was provided for information.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment 4:47PM