

**General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION****April 17, 2026 at 9am – 11am****Lincoln Park Room J301****IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR

Chad London, VICE-CHAIR

Tala Abu Hayyaneh

Ayden Ali

Karen Atkinson-Leadbearer

Neil Brigden

Katherine Bright

Todd Burton

David Clemis

Evan Cortens

Trevor Day

Karim Dharamsi

Lee Easton

Meekena Erkin

John Fischer

Shane Gannon

Chris Gillanders

Sarah Hamilton

Kevin Hayes

Lori Kearney

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY

Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

Kalen Keavey

Raniah Khorga

Carol Krol

Michael Lam

Brenda Lang

Michelle LoGullo

Chris Lovallo

Margaret MacConnachie

Robyn Madden

Moussa Magassa

Tori McMillan

Jon Mee

Lavinia Moldovan

Mary-Lee Mulholland

Scott Murray

Gloria Muskaj

Denzel Muzanenhamo

Monica Pauls

Jennifer Pettit

Tracy Powell

Katharin Pritchard

Milena Radzikowska

Kari Roberts

Melanie Rogers

Chris Rogerson

Peter Ryan

Sara Sharun

Nick Strzalkowski

Keir Stuhlmiller

Terri Tibbel-Mosher

Tanya Trussler

Deepa Upadhyaya

Connie Van der Byl

Phil Warsaba

Gini Weber

Kelly Williams-Whitt

Jonathan Withey

Michelle Yeo

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ademola Adesola

Meagan Bowler

Geri Lynn Gouglas

Sara Memon

Amal Mouaouia

Leda Stawnychko

Cheryl Techentin

Gayle Warthe

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02AM.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Michael Lam opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

T. Rahilly, Chair, welcomed Evan Cortens, Dean of Continuing Education back to GFC. The GFC Student members were recognized for their participation on GFC this year.

1. **Approval of Agenda (motion)**

**Moved and seconded:**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 17, 2026 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Discussion:

- A GFC member gave notice of an intention to bring forward a Motion to Consider under New Business.

**Motion carried by unanimous consent**

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2.1. **Minutes from March 20, 2026**

**Moved and seconded:**

**THAT** the Minutes of the March 20, 2026 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

**Motion carried by unanimous consent**

2.2. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. **Approval of Final Grade Appeals Policy**

**Moved and seconded:**

**THAT** General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the Final Grade Appeal policy.

Discussion:

- Phil Warsaba, VP Students, provided an overview of the proposed changes.
- It was clarified that minor revisions do not require public consultation as per the Policy on University Policies.
- The Academic Standards Committee recommended these minor changes, and at their meeting also requested that a comprehensive review be undertaken to identify any additional revisions.
- Concerns were heard that the involvement of Vice-Deans in policy reviews may not be sufficient and that Chairs and Academic Directors also be included.
- It was explained that the Vice-Deans had conversations about this policy and identified the recommended minor changes, with no additional revisions proposed at that time.

**Motion carried**

In response to a request for clarification, it was confirmed that Final Grade Appeals policy will state April 2027 as the next scheduled review, ensuring it is included in the next policy review cycle and allowing for consideration of substantive changes. It was further noted that the Chairs and Academic Directors Assembly is not a formal step in the policy review process, but will be included in the consultations for this policy.

**4. Committee Chair Reports****4.1. Executive Committee**

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting was provided for information.

In response to a question regarding the level of detail in Committee Chair Reports to GFC, it was noted that this EC report was more detailed than usual due to the nature and importance of the discussion and to communicate it to GFC in this report rather than as a separate agenda item. It was clarified that where appropriate, the EC Chair will include in their report summaries of important discussions and matters requiring additional context from EC meetings. Other Committee Chairs may do the same at their discretion.

**4.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee**

No report.

**4.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee**

No report.

**4.4. Academic Standards Committee**

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting was provided for information.

**4.5. Research and Scholarship Committee**

No report.

**4.6. Student Affairs Committee**

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting was provided for information.

**4.7. Teaching and Learning Committee**

Michelle Yeo, TLC Chair, shared that at the April 9, 2026 TLC meeting, TLC members provided feedback on updates to the Guidelines for AI Use in the Classroom at MRU from the Generative Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning (AI) Working Group. It was noted that these updated guidelines will be released alongside the AI Framework before the next GFC meeting, with various consultations having occurred (including the GFC Student Affairs Committee and academic groups). The guidelines document is intended to be a living document, for ongoing updates as input is received.

In response to a question about the broader AI Framework that GFC provided input on previously, it was explained that the AI Steering Group will be posting the final framework document on Mount Royal's website. There will also be broader communications to the MRU community about the AI Steering Group's work, which will include sharing this information with GFC.

Concern was expressed that GFC was not integrated more into the process for the development of the AI Framework, given the impact it has on academic work. It was reiterated that the AI Framework was discussed at GFC in January, will be shared with GFC at the next meeting, and

that the Guidelines for AI Use in the Classroom will be a living document where input can continue to be provided.

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

The written question provided in the meeting package regarding the Alberta Logistics Centre of Excellence (ALCoE) that was recently created through MRU's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship was responded to. Connie Van der Byl, AVP Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement explained how the Centre aligns with the mission and organizational structure of the Institute, and that there were no changes requiring review.

**5.2. Questions from the Floor**

There were no questions from the floor.

**6. Other Reports**

**6.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report**

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report. Faculty Excellence Awards recipients and faculty promoted to Professor were acknowledged.

**6.2. Board of Governors Meeting Summary**

A written summary of the March 26, 2026 Board of Governors meeting was provided for information.

**7. For Information**

The following items were provided for information:

**7.1. Program Review: BBA – General Management**

**7.2. New Student Accommodations Policy - Revisions**

**7.3. Committee Meeting Minutes**

**8. New Business**

A GFC member brought forward a new business item regarding “Revisiting the decision related to Fall Reading Week”, and explained the rationale for bringing it forward on the basis of the results of a survey issued to faculty members by the Mount Royal Faculty Association about moving Reading Week to November.

Before the Motion to Consider was made, a roll call vote was requested for that motion. It was clarified that the method of voting for a motion is decided by a simple majority of the body and is non-debatable.

It was moved **THAT** the Motion to Consider vote be taken by roll call. The motion was *defeated*.

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** General Faculties Council consider the proposed item titled “Revisiting the decision related to Fall Reading Week”.

***Motion defeated***

The motion did not receive the required two-thirds majority in favour for new business and the item was not considered.

The Chair concluded the meeting with closing remarks. The Chair indicated that he will bring a discussion about the Reading Week matter to the GFC Executive Committee.

**9. Adjournment 9:53AM**