

**General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION**

**April 19, 2024 at 9am – 11am**

**Lincoln Park Room J301**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR  
Chad London, VICE-CHAIR  
Tala Abu Hayyaneh  
David Bird  
Julie Boone  
Vicki Bouvier  
Meagan Bowler  
Katherine Bright  
Liza Choi  
David Clemis  
Evan Cortens  
Karim Dharamsi  
Anupam Das  
Trevor Day  
Brooks DeCillia  
Lee Easton  
Maryam Elahi  
Angela Faye Galeos  
Shane Gannon

Geri Lynn Gouglas  
Lisa Graham  
Sally Haney  
Gillian Hynes  
Kalen Keavey  
Carol Krol  
Lynne Lafave  
Brenda Lang  
Michelle LoGullo  
Robyn Madden  
Moussa Magassa  
Rusna Mahoon  
Colin Martin  
Tori McMillan  
Lavinia Moldovan  
Alexis Morris  
Mary-Lee Mulholland  
Elaine Mullen  
Scott Murray

Jacqueline Musabende  
Mustansar Nadeem  
Anh Nguyen  
Joseph Nguyen  
Nancy Ogden  
Jennifer Pettit  
Stephen Price  
Katharin Pritchard  
Kari Roberts  
Chris Rogerson  
Glen Ryland  
Marc Schroeder  
Sara Sharun  
Cheryl Techentin  
Deepa Upadhyaya  
Connie Van der Byl  
Phil Warsaba  
Kelly Williams-Whitt  
Jonathan Withey

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY  
Sheena Jensen, RECORDING SECRETARY

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Haroon Chehade	Jon Mee
Fiona Chetty	Saron Solomon
Peter Choate	Keir Stuhlmiller
John Fischer	Leda Stawnychko

Marwaa Tahir  
Joyce Totton

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

**Land Acknowledgement**

Glen Ryland opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 19, 2024 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

***Motion carried by unanimous consent***

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2.1. Minutes from March 22, 2024

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the March 22, 2024 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 Curriculum**

3.1. Faculty of Arts: Program Termination – Spanish, Minor

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** General Faculties Council approve the Program Termination – Spanish, Minor.

Discussion:

- In response to a concern raised about terminating a language minor, it was explained that there is a minor offered in Spanish Language and Hispanic Studies that has high enrolment.

***Motion carried***

**4. Approval of Admission Policy**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council approve the proposed Admission Policy effective for Fall 2025.

Discussion:

- It was highlighted that based on feedback from the Academic Standards Committee, a reporting mechanism was added to the policy for the English Language Proficiency scores to be brought to the Academic Standards Committee every year for review and feedback.

***Motion carried***

**5. Research and Scholarship Plan Presentation**

Connie Van der Byl, Associate Vice-President, Research, Scholarship, and Community Engagement, gave a presentation on the draft Research and Scholarship Plan and responded to questions for clarification.

Feedback and suggestions to take into consideration in the finalization of the plan were provided on various areas of the plan, including:

- addressing the order of objectives listed in the plan

- providing information about collaborating with other plans with respect to research and scholarship (EDI and Indigenization strategic plans as they develop)
- incorporating a statement about Mount Royal's commitment to academic freedom in research
- clarifying research impact in the plan
- implementation including reporting to GFC

## **6. Committee Chair Reports**

### **6.1. Executive Committee**

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

### **6.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee**

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

### **6.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee**

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

### **6.4. Academic Standards Committee**

The ASC Chair gave a status update on the forthcoming changes to the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria* to recognize Indigenous ways of knowing that will be recommended to GFC.

### **6.5. Research and Scholarship Committee**

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

### **6.6. Student Affairs Committee**

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

### **6.7. Teaching and Learning Committee**

No report.

## **7. Question Period**

### **7.1. Written Questions**

No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

### **7.2. Questions from the Floor**

There were no questions from the floor.

## **8. Other Reports**

### **8.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report**

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report. The Chair thanked GFC members for their work this year. The Vice-Chair highlighted the upcoming Faculty Excellence Awards.

8.2. Board of Governors Meeting Summary

A written summary of the March 21, 2024 Board of Governors meeting was provided for information.

9. **Consent Agenda**

9.1. Items Removed for Discussion

No items were removed for discussion.

9.2. Items for Information

The following items were received for information:

- 9.2.1. Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants Policy and Procedures
- 9.2.2. Non-Ministry Approved Curriculum Policy
- 9.2.3. Program Reviews: Sociology
- 9.2.4. Committee Meeting Minutes
- 9.2.5. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

10. **New Business**

A motion to consider a new item of business was made:

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** General Faculties Council consider adding “Concerns Around ‘Bill 18 – *The Provincial Priorities Act*’” under New Business.

***Motion carried***

10.1. Concerns Around ‘Bill 18 – *The Provincial Priorities Act*’

A GFC member proposed a motion to address concerns around Bill 18 – *The Provincial Priorities Act*:

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the General Faculties Council expresses its deep concerns about Alberta’s Bill 18 ‘*The Provincial Priorities Act*’ and the threat it poses, including vetting federal research grants, to university autonomy and to the academic freedom of university researchers.

Discussion:

- The GFC member who brought the motion forward gave background information on Bill 18 and raised concerns with the implications of Bill 18 in Alberta and across Canada, should the legislation be passed. Concerns included implications for institutional autonomy, Investment Management Agreements, student impact, and academic freedom of researchers.
- A discussion took place on what type of an impact making a public statement would have on government relations for advocacy groups connected to Mount Royal.
- The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair shared information on discussions they have been a part of with various groups, including the Ministry of Advanced Education, and additional information from

the Government of Alberta's recent Town Hall on this topic. They stated their commitment to continue to advocate on behalf of the University and its interests.

- Additional concerns with Bill-18 and comments in support of making a public statement through this motion were shared.
- A member asked if the motion could be amended to include specific reference to equity deserving groups, explaining what the potential impact to these groups could be.
- An amendment to the main motion was proposed:

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the main motion be amended to include the wording "including impacts on equity deserving groups": *THAT the General Faculties Council expresses its deep concerns about Alberta's Bill 18 'The Provincial Priorities' and the threat it poses, including vetting federal research grants, including impacts on equity deserving groups, to university autonomy and to the academic freedom of university researchers.*

Discussion of amendment:

- Discussion focused on whether or not the amended wording helps to strengthen or narrow the intention of the motion.
- Comments were made both in favor of and opposed to the amendment, with various considerations, including:
  - research that has been done on the impact on equity deserving groups
  - if additional examples should also be included of other impacted areas (e.g. climate emergency)

***Motion defeated***

Continued discussion of the main motion, as presented:

- In response to a question about next steps, T. Rahilly explained that if this motion is passed, it will be included in the GFC open session minutes that are made available to the public, and it will be shared with the Board.

***Main Motion carried***

**11. Adjournment 11:00AM**