

**General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION**  
**March 20, 2026 at 9am – 11am**  
**Lincoln Park Room J301**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chad London, VICE-CHAIR	Kalen Keavey	Kari Roberts
Tala Abu Hayyaneh	Raniah Khorga	Melanie Rogers
Ademola Adesola	Carol Krol	Chris Rogerson
Ayden Ali	Michael Lam	Peter Ryan
Karen Atkinson-Leadbearer	Brenda Lang	Sara Sharun
Meagan Bowler	Chris Lovallo	Leda Stawnychko
Neil Brigden	Margaret MacConnachie	Nick Strzalkowski
Katherine Bright	Robyn Madden	Keir Stuhlmiller
Todd Burton	Tori McMillan	Cheryl Techentin
David Clemis	Jon Mee	Terri Tibbel-Mosher
Karim Dharamsi	Sara Memon	Tanya Trussler
Lee Easton	Lavinia Moldovan	Deepa Upadhyaya
Meekena Erkin	Amal Mouaouia	Connie Van der Byl
John Fischer	Mary-Lee Mulholland	Gaye Warthe
Dimitra Fotopoulos	Scott Murray	Gini Weber
Shane Gannon	Gloria Muskaj	Kelly Williams-Whitt
Geri Lynn Gouglas	Denzel Muzanenhamo	Jonathan Withey
Sarah Hamilton	Jennifer Pettit	Michelle Yeo
Kevin Hayes	Tracy Powell	
Lori Kearney	Milena Radzikowska	

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY  
Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR	Michelle LoGullo	Katharin Pritchard
Trevor Day	Moussa Magassa	Phil Warsaba
Chris Gillanders	Monica Pauls	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Raniah Khorga opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

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

***Moved and seconded:***

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

Discussion:

- A GFC member gave notice of an intention to raise an item under Agenda Item 9. New Business, titled “*Fall Reading Week Relocation from October to November*”.

***Motion carried***

## **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

### **2.1. Minutes from February 13, 2026**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the February 13, 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. 2026-27 Budget Development Update**

Michael Lam, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, and Chad London, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, presented the 2026-27 Budget Development update for GFC.

Discussion:

- A suggestion was made to highlight teaching and learning more in budget presentations.
- A concern was raised with the sustainability of the high percentage of reliance on government funding and increasing fees for students.
- It was clarified that even though not all priorities were listed in the presentation, there is a strategic priority to invest resources into experiential learning, including work-integrated learning.

## **4. Reading Week Update**

Geri Lynn Gouglas, University Registrar and AVP Enrolment Management, gave an overview of the briefing note provided in the meeting package. GFC was presented with results from the Fall Reading Week Survey conducted in January 2026. The survey results did not meet the two-thirds majority threshold required to move forward with proposed policy changes to move the Fall Reading Break to November. As such, Fall Reading Week will remain in October with no further action required. The Office of the Registrar committed to implementing another full survey regarding Fall Reading Week in January 2029.

Discussion:

- Observations about the results were shared, including suggestions that consideration be given to the student response from survey results.
- It was clarified that the Registrar’s Office shared the results with GFC first and they will build a communications plan to students next. SAMRU advised that they shared the results of the survey with students.
- Comments were heard about the benefits to students and considerations for moving to a November reading week, including:

- Consideration for alignment of midterms and assignment dates with a November reading week to benefit students.
- A later withdrawal date would allow students to make fully informed decisions based on having more assignments and grades by that point.
- Noting that workload and mental load increases later in the semester, a November reading week would be more supportive and align with academic timelines to help alleviate that pressure.
- Concern was expressed about the survey design and the two-thirds majority threshold required from both students and faculty.
  - It was reminded that this threshold was agreed to by GFC at the October 2025 GFC meeting.
- Additional observations about the survey results were shared:
  - Having heard the student perspectives and considered how close the survey results came to the two-thirds majority threshold, some individuals may have reconsidered their vote.
  - Reiterated the importance of addressing student well-being and support for students that were highlighted by the survey results and comments made today, given that another survey will not be conducted until 2029.
- Concern was also raised that this matter has been discussed many times at GFC, and that the faculty results are indicating that some faculty do not support moving the withdrawal date.

## 5. Committee Chair Reports

### 5.1. Executive Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the March 11, 2026 meeting was provided for information.

### 5.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

No report.

### 5.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

No report.

### 5.4. Academic Standards Committee

Lee Easton, ASC Chair, gave a verbal report on the March 17, 2026 meeting:

- General Management program review approved.
- Updates received about the General Education Steering Committee and Experiential Learning Steering Committee's work.
- Discussed formalizing a process for amending the Tenure and Promotion Handbook and Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria documents.

### 5.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the March 4, 2026 meeting was provided for information.

Connie Van der Byl, RSC Chair, reminded members that Research and Scholarship Days takes place from March 30 to April 2.

**5.6. Student Affairs Committee**

A written Committee Chair report of the February 5, 2026 meeting was provided for information.

**5.7. Teaching and Learning Committee**

No report.

**6. Question Period**

**6.1. Written Questions**

No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

**6.2. Questions from the Floor**

- A question was raised regarding the AI framework previously discussed at GFC and if the Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education is considering next steps related to generative AI and its impact on post-secondary institutions.
  - It was explained that the Minister has expressed interest in Alberta post-secondary institutions examining AI and its implications for education and research, but no formal ministry initiative has been announced.
- A question was raised if there will be a discussion with GFC about the employee engagement survey results.
  - It was explained that discussions are taking place within departments and divisions, with ongoing conversations occurring at the unit level. There is no current plan to bring a discussion to GFC, but will bring the suggestion to HR.

**7. Other Reports**

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

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report.

Discussion:

- Questions were raised about resourcing in the Admissions Office to keep pace with increasing enrolment pressures, including the timeliness of admission offer letters.
  - It was noted that application volumes have increased and it is being managed sufficiently by making adjustments within the department to ensure offers are going out as quickly as possible.
- Follow up questions regarding future resource needs and potential impacts of delays were addressed by noting that enrolment pressures will continue to be monitored and a new application platform is being implemented. Current data on outgoing applications and acceptance rates shows they are at the same level with no indication to raise concerns.

**8. For Information**

The following items were provided for information:

- 8.1. Affiliated Institute Renewal: Miistakis Institute**
- 8.2. Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 8.3. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum**

**9. New Business**

A GFC member brought forward a new business item titled “*Fall Reading Week Relocation from October to November*”. A motion to consider the item was made:

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** General Faculties Council consider the proposed item titled “*Fall Reading Week Relocation from October to November*”.

Discussion:

- The proposers of this item explained why the matter should be considered by highlighting the proportion of survey results that were in favor of moving reading week, previous discussions at GFC on the topic, bringing voices to GFC, and an overview of the benefits to students for moving reading week.

***Motion defeated***

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

**10. Adjournment 10:08AM**