

General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION

March 21, 2025 at 9am – 11am

Lincoln Park Room J301

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR
Chad London, VICE-CHAIR
Tala Abu Hayyaneh
Ademola Adesola
Julie Boone
Meagan Bowler
Neil Brigden
Katherine Bright
Isabella Carinelli
Fiona Chetty
Evan Cortens
Anupam Das
Brooks DeCillia
Karim Dharamsi
Maryam Elahi
Richard Erlendson
John Fischer
Shane Gannon

David Giers
Chris Gillanders
Geri Lynn Gouglas
Sally Haney
Charles Hepler
Paul Jessop
Kalen Keavey
Lynne Lafave
Brenda Lang
Michelle LoGullo
Chris Lovallo
Sinclair MacRae
Robyn Madden
Moussa Magassa
Rusna Mahoon
Tori McMillan
Jon Mee
Alexis Morris

Elaine Mullen
Scott Murray
Alejandra Perez
Stephen Price
Kari Roberts
Melanie Rogers
Chris Rogerson
Qanita Samore
Sara Sharun
Leda Stawnychko
Meg Stewart
Keir Stuhlmiller
Cheryl Techentin
Deepa Upadhyaya
Connie Van der Byl
Kelly Williams-Whitt
Jonathan Withey

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY
Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ayden Ali
Vicki Bouvier
Peter Choate
Lee Easton
Mary-Lee Mulholland
Jacqueline Musabende
Mohsen Nasrin
Jennifer Pettit

Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane
Saron Solomon
Joyce Totton
Phil Warsaba

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

Land Acknowledgement

Melanie Rogers opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda (*motion*)

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the March 21, 2025 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from February 14, 2025

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the February 14, 2025 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 General Education Exemption Request

3.1. GNED Exemption Request – Midwifery, B.Mid.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council approves the GNED Exemption Request for the Bachelor of Midwifery.

Discussion:

- A summary of the GNED exemption request was given.
- Student GFC representatives shared positive feedback collected from students, emphasizing the importance of this initiative in supporting MRU's commitment to Indigenization.
- Other comments highlighted the significance of the request to address the TRC Call to Action #24, the broader goal of ensuring diverse populations in Canada receive appropriate healthcare, and that Midwifery students have expressed strong support for the addition of this course.

Motion carried

3.2. Curriculum: Major Program Change – Midwifery, B.Mid.

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approves the Major Program Change – Midwifery, B.Mid.

Motion carried

4. Budget Update Presentation

C. London presented the 2025/26 Budget update with information on the following areas:

- Budget development timelines
- strategy-based budgeting
- budget strategic priorities
- draft budget 2025/26
- provincial grant funding
- budget challenges
- TEE and new program funding
- some major internally funded capital projects
- Investment Management Agreement

Additional information was provided in response to a question about the one-time investment in the replacement of bleachers for 2025/26.

5. Committee Chair Reports

5.1. Executive Committee (EC)

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information and highlighted at the meeting, including EC's observations of the January 17, 2025 GFC small group discussions of the GFC 2023-24 Assessment Results.

A GFC member raised a concern about EC's response to the "small group discussions" theme and asked if EC would consider open discussion periods at GFC meetings. In response, the GFC Chair explained that the question relates to EC's ongoing efforts to build a shared understanding of GFC's role and university governance overall. The Chair also noted that there may be alternative approaches to fostering dialogue at the University, given that GFC is agenda-driven and its intent is for the purpose of university governance.

A follow-up question was responded to about how the feedback from the January 17 discussions will inform EC to ensure GFC is adhering to its role outlined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (PSLA). For example, opportunities with the GFC Governance Essentials sessions about how GFC makes recommendations to the Board of Governors.

5.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

No report.

5.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

No report.

5.4. Academic Standards Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

5.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information and highlighted at the meeting. In response to a question, an overview of what signing on to DORA means for researchers at Mount Royal was provided. More information will be shared broadly.

5.6. Student Affairs Committee

No report.

5.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

6. Question Period

6.1. Written Questions

No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

- 6.2. Questions from the Floor
No questions.

7. Other Reports

7.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report and highlighted various updates at the meeting. In response to a question, T. Rahilly affirmed that he will continue to advocate as needed for the “Bill 18” research exemptions should any changes occur to that legislation.

8. For Information

The following items were provided for information:

8.1. University Strategic Plan 2023-2030 Measures Report

Feedback was heard to rename the report to a more neutral title, and look at how to reconcile data between measuring “supporting student success” with the statistics shared in the Access and Inclusion Services Annual Report regarding student mental health. T. Rahilly responded that he will take the feedback under advisement.

8.2. Excellence in Academic Advising Committee Report and Recommendations

The Chair opened the floor for feedback on the *“Excellent in Academic Advising Committee Report and Recommendations”*. Feedback was given on the following areas of implementation planning:

- Implementation timeline – concern with the timing for implementation
- GFC input on the Committee’s terms of reference and membership – suggestions to add members with direct connections to academic programs (Academic Chairs/Coordinators)
- Faculty Advisor’s role – additional information that the scope extends beyond advising on program requirements, including advising for prospective students
- Centralized Advising – support for this model that ensures fairness and consistency across student advising
- Governance and Collective Agreement Considerations – consider prior to implementation where there may be gaps (e.g. workload issues)

8.3. Program Reviews:

- Bachelor of Computer Information Systems
- Bachelor of Business Administration - Human Resources

8.4. Committee Meeting Minutes

8.5. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment 10:23AM