

General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION
October 17, 2025 at 9:45am – 11am
Lincoln Park Room J301

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Tim Rahilly, CHAIR | Kevin Hayes | Katharin Pritchard |
| Chad London, VICE-CHAIR | Kalen Keavey | Milena Radzikowska |
| Tala Abu Hayyaneh | Raniah Khorga | Kari Roberts |
| Ayden Ali | Carol Krol | Melanie Rogers |
| Karen Atkinson-Leadbeater | Michael Lam | Chris Rogerson |
| Meagan Bowler | Michelle LoGullo | Sara Sharun |
| Neil Brigden | Chris Lovallo | Leda Stawnychko |
| Katherine Bright | Margaret MacConnachie | Nick Strzalkowski |
| Todd Burton | Tori McMillan | Keir Stuhlmiller |
| David Clemis | Jon Mee | Simran Tamber |
| Karim Dharamsi | Sara Memon | Cheryl Techentin |
| Lee Easton | Lavinia Moldovan | Tanya Trussler |
| Meekena Erkin | Amal Mouaouia | Connie Van der Byl |
| John Fischer | Mary-Lee Mulholland | Phil Warsaba |
| Dimitra Fotopoulos | Scott Murray | Gaye Warthe |
| Shane Gannon | Gloria Muskaj | Gini Weber |
| Chris Gillanders | Nicoleta Nedelcu | Kelly Williams-Whitt |
| Geri Lynn Gouglas | Monica Pauls | Michelle Yeo |
| Sarah Hamilton | Jennifer Pettit | |

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY

Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Ademola Adesola | Robyn Madden | Deepa Upadhyaya |
| Trevor Day | Moussa Magassa | Jonathan Withey |
| Lori Kearney | Peter Ryan | |
| Brenda Lang | Joyce Totton | |

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:48AM.

Land Acknowledgement

Sara Memon opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda (*motion*)

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the October 17, 2025 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from September 19, 2025

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the September 19, 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. Academic Schedule

3.1. Approval of Academic Schedule

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the 2026-2027 Academic Schedule.

Discussion:

- A brief summary of the information provided in the meeting package was given.
- A comment was made in support of the schedule and the work that was done in developing it.

Motion carried

3.2. Fall Reading Week

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the implementation of a binary survey to definitively determine faculty and student preference for either an October or a November Fall reading week.

Discussion:

- An overview of the meeting package information was provided, and questions were addressed about the proposed survey and next steps in the process depending on whether or not the motion is approved
- Members expressed support of motion with comments that emphasized the benefits and the importance of having definitive survey results, including:
 - Clarity, simplicity, and decisiveness
 - Informed decision-making
 - Community engagement
- A concern was raised about potential survey fatigue and whether GFC could make a decision based on the information already gathered
- A concern was addressed about the “Risk Implications” specified in the Briefing Note regarding the interdependence between the Reading Week timing and the withdrawal deadline policy change
 - It was affirmed that it will be made clear in this binary survey, as it was in the previous survey, that in order to shift the Reading Week to November, the

withdrawal deadline would need to be moved to the last day/last week of classes (approval of a policy change required)

Motion carried

4. Approval of Revised Admission Policy

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Admission Policy effective for the Fall 2026 admission cycle.

Discussion:

- A summary of the meeting package information was provided

Motion carried

5. Revised Research and Scholarship Criteria, Evidence and Standards for Tenure and Promotion for the Faculty of Health, Community and Education

Moved and seconded:

THAT the General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the proposed revisions to the Research and Scholarship Criteria, Evidence and Standards for Tenure and Promotion for the Faculty of Health, Community, and Education.

Discussion:

- A summary of the meeting package information was provided.
- A concern was discussed regarding whether components in the proposed document have drifted beyond the original purpose of the document that are not aligned with the Collective Agreement (CA).
- It was suggested that the components be revised or reconsidered by ASC as they relate to the proposed revisions in this document.
- The ASC Chair explained that this had not come up in ASC's discussions of this document, or when other Faculties' updated documents were approved at GFC.
- In light of the concerns raised, the following motion was made:

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council table the main motion and postpone definitely this set of criteria until the provisions for terms and conditions of employment are considered.

Motion carried

Main Motion tabled

6. Indigenization and Decolonization Strategic Framework

John Fischer, Interim AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization, gave an overview of the six Calls to Action in the draft Indigenization and Decolonization Strategic Framework (IDSF), as outlined in the slide presentation included in the meeting package. Feedback about the initiatives and engaging in this work were acknowledged. Members were encouraged to submit additional feedback in the survey link in the slide presentation.

7. Committee Chair Reports and Annual Plans

7.1. Executive Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting and the EC 2025-26 Annual Plan was provided for information.

7.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting and the APBC 2025-26 Annual Plan was provided for information.

7.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

The APCC 2025-26 Annual Plan was provided for information.

7.4. Academic Standards Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting was provided for information. In response to a question, the ASC Chair explained that ASC had previously considered the development of university-wide scholarship criteria in 2017, but it was decided not to do it at that time.

7.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting and the RSC 2025-26 Annual Plan was provided for information.

7.6. Student Affairs Committee

A written Committee Chair report of the most recent meeting and the SAC 2025-26 Annual Plan was provided for information. In response to a question about SAC's consultation process for changes to scholarship award criteria, the SAC Chair explained that the approach depends on whether the award is operational or donor-funded.

7.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

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

8. Question Period

8.1. Written Questions

The VP Students and Provost and VP, Academic responded to the written question included in the meeting package with respect to student advising changes. The response acknowledged concerns about advising changes, and emphasized that the revisions were carefully considered and aligned with the change management principles established through the Excellence in Advising review. Ways in which these changes are being supported was also highlighted. If there are current concerns about the changes, they can be discussed with the manager of advising or Vice Dean within the respective Faculty.

8.2. Questions from the Floor

- What is the impact of the current Alberta teacher strike on MRU students with practicums and on admissions/recruitment?
 - Recruitment efforts continue actively and it is also being addressed within the department. There is no concern at this time that these students will miss out on their hours.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the GFC meeting be extended by 15 minutes to 11:15am.

Motion carried by unanimous consent

- With respect to the motion tabled in Item 5, the Provost and VP, Academic clarified that there is a process for amending criteria that was followed when other Faculties brought their respective documents forward to GFC for recommendation for approval by the Board of Governors (as recently as spring 2025).

9. Other Reports

9.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report. The GFC Chair indicated he would bring forward an item to a future GFC meeting for discussion about the Mintz panel report. It was also noted that it has been past practice to bring the Investment Management Agreement to GFC for information, but there is not a signed one yet to bring forward.

10. For Information

The following items were provided for information:

- 10.1. Mount Royal University Institutes Annual Reports
- 10.2. Committee Meeting Minutes

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment 11:01AM