

General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION
February 14, 2025 at 9am – 11am
Lincoln Park Room J301

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR	Richard Erlendson	Mary-Lee Mulholland
Chad London, VICE-CHAIR	John Fischer	Elaine Mullen
Tala Abu Hayyaneh	Shane Gannon	Scott Murray
Ademola Adesola	David Giers	Jacqueline Musabende
Ayden Ali	Chris Gillanders	Alejandra Perez
Vicki Bouvier	Geri Lynn Gouglas	Jennifer Pettit
Meagan Bowler	Sally Haney	Kari Roberts
Katherine Bright	Charles Hepler	Sara Sharun
Isabella Carinelli	Kalen Keavey	Leda Stawnychko
Fiona Chetty	Brenda Lang	Meg Stewart
Peter Choate	Chris Lovallo	Keir Stuhlmiller
Evan Cortens	Sinclair MacRae	Connie Van der Byl
Brooks DeCillia	Robyn Madden	Phil Warsaba
Karim Dharamsi	Moussa Magassa	Kelly Williams-Whitt
Lee Easton	Tori McMillan	Jonathan Withey
Maryam Elahi	Alexis Morris	

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY
Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Julie Booke	Jon Mee	Qanita Samore
Neil Brigden	Mustansar Nadeem	Saron Solomon
Anupam Das	Mohsen Nasrin	Cheryl Techentin
Paul Jessop	Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane	Joyce Totton
Lynne Lafave	Stephen Price	Deepa Upadhyaya
Michelle LoGullo	Melanie Rogers	
Rusna Mahoon	Chris Rogerson	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.

Land Acknowledgement

Alejandra Perez opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda (*motion*)

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the February 14, 2025 General Faculties Council open session meeting be approved.

Motion carried by unanimous consent

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- 2.1. Minutes from January 17, 2025

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the January 17, 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 Curriculum

- 3.1. Major Program Change – Broadcast Media Studies, BCMM

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approves the Major Program Change – Broadcast Media Studies, BCMM.

Motion carried

In response to a question, it was shared that a curriculum submission from the Midwifery program will be on the GFC March 21, 2025 meeting agenda.

- 3.2. Major Program Change – Bachelor of Social Work
- 3.3. Major Program Change – Bridge to Canadian Nursing, BCN
- 3.4. Major Program Change – Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership, BHPE
- 3.5. Major Program Change – Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership, BHPE (Honours)
- 3.6. Major Program Change – Physical Literacy, BHPE (Honours)
- 3.7. Major Program Change – Social Work, Diploma
- 3.8. Major Program Change – Sport and Recreation Management, BHPE
- 3.9. Major Program Change – Sport and Recreation Management, BHPE (Honours)

There was consensus for an omnibus motion for Agenda Items 3.2-3.9.

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approves the Major Program Changes outlined in Agenda Items 3.2-3.9:

- Major Program Change – Bachelor of Social Work
- Major Program Change – Bridge to Canadian Nursing, BCN
- Major Program Change – Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership, BHPE
- Major Program Change – Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership, BHPE (Honours)
- Major Program Change – Physical Literacy, BHPE (Honours)
- Major Program Change – Social Work, Diploma
- Major Program Change – Sport and Recreation Management, BHPE
- Major Program Change – Sport and Recreation Management, BHPE (Honours)

Motion carried

4. Academic Plan Implementation Update

An Academic Plan Update – Implementation to February 2025 was presented by C. London that shared implementation highlights for the seven strategic priorities and next steps for 2025 and beyond (priority initiatives). The following questions were responded to for additional information and clarification:

- With respect to the General Education Steering Committee’s work, are there plans to share the completed current state assessment with GFC?
 - GFC will receive updates later this semester about the Steering Committee’s work.
- Is there additional information that can be shared about the strategy for program development?
 - A process for program development is being worked on that will help to consider new program ideas prior to the Letter of Intent stage.
- Clarification of the Academic Plan being a living document, and mechanisms to potentially amending/adding new priorities before 2030:
 - The plan can be adjusted in consideration of external factors, but priorities and strategic initiatives would not be adjusted without GFC involvement. There would need to be an assessment of whether current initiatives address new ideas and align with the University Strategic Plan.
- Is there budget allocation connected to the initiatives?
 - A University Budget update will come to GFC with information about the connection to both the University Strategic Plan and the Academic Plan.

5. Committee Chair Reports

5.1. Executive Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information. A comment was made in support of the Guidelines for Tributes at GFC meetings.

5.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information and highlighted at the meeting. A budget update is planned for the March 2025 GFC meeting.

5.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

5.4. Academic Standards Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

5.5. Research and Scholarship Committee

No report.

5.6. Student Affairs Committee

A written Committee Chair report was provided for information.

5.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

No report.

6. Question Period

6.1. Written Questions

With respect to the written question submitted by a GFC member, the GFC Chair responded with information on the following:

- Overview of the role of GFC as stated in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (PSLA)
- Clarification that GFC considers academic policies
- Ways in which members can bring forward substantive items for discussion (as outlined in the GFC Bylaws) at GFC or through GFC Standing Committees
- Clarification for how question period is run, that it is not a discussion period but an opportunity to have specific questions answered, if possible, at the meeting

A follow-up question was asked for additional information regarding operations versus governance matters or items that go to the Board that may or may not have come to GFC, and how those decisions get made. The Chair responded with the following information:

- Acknowledgement of the tension between governance and operation matters
- Processes that were revised when GFC had to move to Part 1 of the PSLA
- Role of the President to the Board and to GFC to educate all members on bicameral governance
- Resources members can refer to information on processes for submitting items for GFC, such as the GFC Bylaws and the University Secretariat

6.2. Questions from the Floor

A member asked why the Excellence in Academic Advising Committee's final report has not been shared with GFC, noting that academic advising is an academic matter, when the Co-Chairs had previously indicated that it would be forthcoming. The following responses were shared:

- While various updates on the Committee's work have been shared with GFC, implementation process details are being prepared before more details about the Committee's work are shared with GFC.
- A number of consultations went into the Committee's final recommendations, and there was no intersection of the recommendations with academic policies.
- The Chair acknowledged the question and will take that away and provide a reply.
- A follow-up comment was shared about rethinking the intersectional perspective to consider the academic issues for GFC, such as the impact of academic advising on the student experience.
- In response to a concern raised with the Committee's final recommendations and implementation plans about whether consultation feedback had been addressed, the Chair advised that a response to that concern would have to come back.

7. Other Reports

7.1. GFC Chair and Vice-Chair Report

The GFC Chair and Vice-Chair submitted a written report. The faculty promoted to Professor were recognized:

- Professor Brian Nichols, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Eric Roettger, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science and Technology

- Professor Kari Roberts, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Kelly Sundberg, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Michael Truscello, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Roberta Lexier, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Samanti Kulatilake, Faculty of Arts
- Professor Brad Clark, Faculty of Business, Communication Studies and Aviation
- Professor Matthew McLarnon, Faculty of Business, Communication Studies and Aviation
- Professor Simon Raby, Faculty of Business, Communication Studies and Aviation
- Professor Kevin O'Connor, Faculty of Health, Community and Education
- Professor Jennifer Jane Scott, Faculty of Science and Technology

8. For Information

The following items were provided for information:

8.1. Enrolment Reports – confidential for GFC Members only

In response to a question, it was explained that the attachments were confidential because of the data for yield rates contained in the report that are not made available publicly.

In response to a concern raised about the application process for Indigenous students, it was explained that the self-identification of Indigenous students aligns with government classification systems and that it is an issue that continues to be looked at across all post-secondary institutions.

8.2. GFC Annual Elections Information

8.3. 2025-26 GFC & Committees Meeting Schedules

8.4. Program Review: BComm Information Design

8.5. Committee Meeting Minutes

8.6. Faculty Council Approved Curriculum

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment 10:21AM