

General Faculties Council – OPEN SESSION
October 18, 2024 at 9:30am – 11am
Lincoln Park Room J301

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Rahilly, CHAIR
Chad London, VICE-CHAIR
Tala Abu Hayyaneh
Ademola Adesola
Ayden Ali
Julie Booke
Meagan Bowler
Neil Brigden
Katherine Bright
Isabella Carinelli
Fiona Chetty
Peter Choate
Evan Cortens
Trevor Day
Brooks DeCillia
Karim Dharamsi

Maryam Elahi
Richard Erlendson
Shane Gannon
David Giers
Chris Gillanders
Geri Lynn Gouglas
Sally Haney
Charles Hepler
Paul Jessop
Kalen Keavey
Michelle LoGullo
Sinclair MacRae
Moussa Magassa
Rusna Mahoon
Tori McMillan
Mary-Lee Mulholland

Elaine Mullen
Scott Murray
Alejandra Perez
Kari Roberts
Melanie Rogers
Chris Rogerson
Sara Sharun
Saron Solomon
Leda Stawnychko
Keir Stuhmiller
Cheryl Techentin
Deepa Upadhyaya
Connie Van der Byl
Phil Warsaba
Kelly Williams-Whitt
Jonathan Withey

Resources

Amy Nixon, SECRETARY
Sheena Dyer, RECORDING SECRETARY

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Vicki Bouvier
Anupam Das
Lee Easton
John Fischer
Lynne Lafave
Brenda Lang

Chris Lovallo
Robyn Madden
Jon Mee
Alexis Morris
Mustansar Nadeem
Mohsen Nasrin

Jacqueline Musabende
Jennifer Pettit
Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane
Stephen Price
Qanita Samore
Joyce Totton

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Land Acknowledgement

Leda Stawnychko opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the October 18, 2024 General Faculties Council Open Session meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from September 20, 2024

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the September 20, 2024 General Faculties Council Open Session meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Approval of GFC Bylaw Revision (Bylaw 11.5.)

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the revision to the GFC Bylaw 11.5. *Standing Committees* to remove “International Activities Committee” (GFC Bylaw 11.5.f.).

Discussion:

- In response to a question about the status of the Academic Indigenization Committee listed in the GFC Bylaws, the update provided in the Executive Committee Chair’s Report (Item 5.1.) was highlighted.

Motion carried

4. Approval of Academic Schedule

Moved and seconded:

THAT General Faculties Council approve the 2025-2026 Academic Schedule.

Discussion:

- A question was raised regarding whether or not student concerns about faculty availability during reading week merits a discussion on expectations of faculty for supporting students during that time.
- The question was acknowledged that a question related to this concern could be included as part of the Reading Week survey being developed by Institutional Research and Planning.

Motion carried

5. Committee Chair Reports and Annual Plans

Written Committee Chair reports of the most recent Committee meetings and the Committee 2024-25 Annual Plans were provided for each of the following Committees, and various updates were highlighted at the meeting:

- 5.1. Executive Committee
- 5.2. Academic Planning and Budget Committee
- 5.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee
- 5.4. Academic Standards Committee
- 5.5. Research and Scholarship Committee
- 5.6. Student Affairs Committee
- 5.7. Teaching and Learning Committee

6. Question Period

6.1. Written Questions

No written questions were submitted for inclusion in the package.

6.2. Questions from the Floor

- A GFC member prefaced their question related to the Academic Plan and University Strategic Plan by expressing concern that the plans contrast with a crisis of trust at Mount Royal, and shared anecdotal evidence about the broader climate of trust in higher education to provide context to the question. The member asked: *Given the laudable emphasis in both the Strategic and Academic Plans on measuring our progress towards our various goals, do we have any internal research that either confirms or denies the gloomy picture the data paints? Do we have any reliable benchmark data? If so, can you please direct me to it? If not, what plans do we have to measure the current state of morale and the current academic climate?*
 - T. Rahilly and C. London responded with comments on how the culture of trust falls into the University Strategic Plan, and advised that they do not have MRU-based data. T. Rahilly offered to share some Universities Canada survey responses that were partially related to the topic with the member who asked the question.
 - Is there an update on Bill 18 (government funding) issue?
 - C. London responded that there is no new information to provide since the last GFC meeting, which can be referenced in the previous meeting minutes.
 - How is the University planning to address the number of students needing Access and Inclusion services?
 - C. Rogerson responded with details about the ways Access and Inclusion Services and other student services are addressing the increase in accommodations, noting various complexities, and shared comments on how the increase is seen as a positive indication about how students are using the services and advocating for their needs.
 - A follow-up comment to the first question was made asking to see action on addressing the concern about trust at Mount Royal, and how that action could happen.

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.

8. For Information

The following items were provided for information:

- 8.1. Mount Royal University Institutes Annual Reports
- 8.2. Committee Meeting Minutes

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment 10:11AM