



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #584

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

**3:00 p.m. in W646**

- Present:** M. Helstein (Chair), O. Awosoga, Y. Belanger (virtually), N. Buis Deering, C. Burton, C. Carnaghan, J. Cunningham, H. Davis-Fisch, Y. Dixit, J. Doan, J. Dobbie, A. Dymond (virtually), A. Ebenmelu, A. Enigbokan, S. Findlay, J. Ford, D. Gaur, B. Gerwin, P. Ghazalian (virtually), K. Godfrey (virtually), C. Hopkinson, B. Hughes, H. Jansen, D. Jayas (virtually), S. Johnsrude, I. Kovalchuk (virtually), O. Kovalchuk (virtually), M. Letts, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Mattatall, D. McMartin, D. McNeill (virtually), A. Oblak (virtually), J. Oldfield, W. Osborn, S. Pelech, N. Rebry, J. Reiter, J. Rice, Y. Sackey-Forson, R. Schiff, K. Schwarz, D. Scott, D. Slomp, J. Sumbera, R. Sutherland (virtually), A. Taylor, M. Thomas, S. Thomas, L. Vogelsang, A. von Heyking, N. Walker, P. Wilson (virtually), J. Wiltshire (virtually), J. Youngdahl, D. Zalesak
- Regrets:** S. Alam, K. Greenwood, K. Haight, K. Ito, S. McDougall, L. Michael, N. Patel, L. Starr, C. Steinke, G. Tian, P. Visentin
- Other:** G. DeSteur (virtually), J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Mathurin-Moe, R. Westlund, M. Whipple (*other guests were present on Zoom*)

*Oki. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement. M. Helstein is acting as chair. D. Jayas will join us virtually for the president's report.*

*A moment of silence was held for J. Woods, D. Glynn, Ione Skafte, and Jasminn Berteotti. New members of GFC were welcomed. N. Walker was thanked for her service of 35 years. There will be a farewell event for her on October 3 from 4:30 - 7:00.*

*M. Helstein gave an overview of the guidelines for the meeting.*

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### 1. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the GFC Meeting #584 September 9, 2024 Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the GFC Meeting #583 June 3, 2024 Minutes

### INFORMATION

- 1.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – September 3, 2024
- 1.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – #566.1 – May 27, 2024 & #567 – June 24, 2024 Meetings

MOTION: gfc.2024.09.01

Mather/Letts

*That the General Faculties Council approve the September 9, 2024 Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

The Chair reviewed the agenda changes that GFC Executive has approved. Questions were asked about the question period at the end. It was noted that the action items were not getting enough time for discussion. M. Helstein responded that GFC Executive is not trying to minimize questions but to direct them to the proper section of the meeting. J. Gallais and J. Youngdahl will be working through the evaluation feedback in October.

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## 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Jayas joined the meeting and highlighted the following:

- Fall 2024 Enrolment - The President reported enrolment is 8,439 on the first day of classes. We need to increase our efforts on domestic enrolment which is down 6%. We are still concerned with Bill 18 - the Provincial Priorities Act. The Minister has had consultation with the board chairs. The intent of the ministry is to recommend that tri-agency funding will be exempted and to try to exempt as many as possible. It is anticipated that 98% of university applications submitted should be exempt from the legislation. The government will be drafting a letter to the universities outlining what the regulations will include.

### 2.1. Questions Received in Advance

There were none.

### 2.2. Question Period on Report Items

- C. Burton – He is pleased on the report on the Bill 18. The south land development has been contemplated for ten years. The website has limited information. There is much land that will be developed for non-academic purposes. Will the documentation and/or a plan be available for the public. C. Burton asked if Indigenization, and sustainability plan have been considered and if an archaeological survey was done? It was also asked if the original gifting of land had any conditions on the development of it. D. Jayas stated that the ULBC is an independent entity and will be leading the development of the land. There is an open house scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. As information is developed the ULBC website would be where people would go for access. N. Walker reported that some of the initial work has been started and the development is being discussed with the city. The indigenous review is being done. The gift of the land does not specify that it needs to be academic development. There will be more information on the open house forthcoming. It was asked if the governance documents will be public. This will be looked at. It was reported that ULBC is a separate entity from the university but that the university is the sole shareholder. We needed a separate board to protect the university's charity status. Tax

implications are an issue as well. M. Helstein commented that the consultation is about the academic/non-academic use. We are looking at how other universities are doing it. There are aspects of the development that will be mutually beneficial for both the university and the community. The university is leasing the land, not selling it and the board will determine the length of the lease. It was noted that it will take a number of years to see income flow back to the university.

- J. Mather asked if the corporation will be bound by the sustainability plan. It was reported that we cannot direct the corporation as that will affect our tax designation. N. Walker stated that the university cannot have more than 50% ownership and that the board for the land is independent of the university.
- P. Wilson asked if we are thinking outside the box such as the traditional ways of knowing. We should develop strategies that incorporate our Blackfoot colleagues. N. Walker stated that we want to be creative and be good citizens. The university has influence and we would like to honor Indigenous ways of sustainability.
- J. Oldfield asked that the details of the open house be sent out.
- J. Ford asked if housing will be controlled by the university or will be private. N. Walker responded that it is too early to tell.
- C. Burton inquired if the board of directors are volunteers? It was reported that the board members that are university employees are volunteers. M. Helstein noted that lots of work has gone into the skills matrix to create an effective board. There was an open call for that board and we will have a rolling board as the needs change.
- A. Taylor requested further information on the governance structure. Will the skills matrix be made available and what the backgrounds are that we are looking for. The Chair will look at what can and can't be shared with regards to the governance documents.

### 3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### 3.1. Appointment of New Members

MOTION: gfc.2024.09.02

Youngdahl/M. Thomas

*That General Faculties Council (GFC) approves the appointed members below to GFC: APPOINTED MEMBERS [13] Section 25 & GFC Bylaws – (GFC Appoints) [Two-year terms staggered to provide continuity where possible (GFC Bylaws Part 2, E, 7)]*

<i>Arts &amp; Science</i>	<i>Pascal Ghazalian</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Arts &amp; Science</i>	<i>Beth Gerwin</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>Gloria Tian</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>Carla Carnaghan</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Sharon Pelech</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>David Slomp</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Fine Arts</i>	<i>Aaron Taylor</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Graduate Studies</i>	<i>Olu Awosoga</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>

<i>Health Sciences</i>	<i>Claudia Steinke</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Liberal Education</i>	<i>Kaylan Schwarz</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>
<i>Library</i>	<i>David Scott</i>	<i>June 30, 2026</i>

Motion: Carried

### 3.2.GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report

Report – Implementation May 1, 2025

Student Enrolment & Registrar Services

MOTION: gfc.2024.09.03

Buis Deering/Massey

*That GFC approve Recommendations #1 - #3 for Student Enrolment & Registrar Services, effective May 1, 2025.*

Motion: Carried

N. Buis Deering gave some background information. These recommendations originally came to GFC in June. We are recommending the ones that Curriculum Coordinating Committee (CCC) gave the most votes. There was a discussion on the different possibilities for scheduling. N. Buis Deering stated that there was a large conversation at CCC. K. Fuglerud reported that the many possibilities and what challenges might arise were discussed but the feedback surrounding the lab/class or tutorials/class components was a major consideration in the proposal put forward. The students have difficulties with the make up days so we tried to keep it as simple as possible. K. Massey stated that there was much discussion on the changes to the principles of making the schedule.

### 3.3. GFC Executive Committee Nominations

J. Dobbie reported that there are two immediate vacancies and one upcoming one in October for academic staff members to serve on the GFC Executive Committee. The process was explained on how we nominate. They must be active members of GFC. J. Dobbie ensured that we should have diversity in concert with the diversity statement that was approved by GFC.

MOTION: gfc.2024.09.04

Reiter/Massey

*That nominations cease.*

Motion: Carried

The following nominations were approved by acclamation:

- One-year (October 8, 2024 – October 7, 2025) – R. Sutherland
- Two-year (September 9, 2024 – October 6, 2026) - S. Findlay
- Two-year (September 9, 2024 – October 6, 2026) – W. Osborn

The Chair thanked everyone for letting their names stand.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW (Prior to Board Action)**

4.1. None

#### **5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

5.1. StartSmart Program

K. Massey gave a brief presentation on the StartSmart Program which is a student retention program preparing the students for their own success. We saw the dramatic drop in first year retention and set a goal to get back to our prior retention rates. The Rec Room initiative, as well as the food security programs are working in conjunction with this program. The students take a short self reflection quiz and are sent a report of their results where they are told about services they can access if needed. Every student gets a report that is specific to them. We have a steering committee with staff, students and faculty. We want to encourage all faculty to help us with this initiative. The Committee was given an overview of how many students complete the quiz (50%) and the effectiveness of the program. There are higher retention rates with this program according to the data. We want to help them achieve their goals be it academic or personal. A short discussion on expanding this to graduate students followed as well as keeping the survey open for a longer period of time. It was also thought that it would be beneficial to promote the program in some of the first-year classes. The feedback from GFC was that this was a great initiative.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1. Question Period on Other Items

J. Mather brought up the fall migration of birds and that the lights are still always on in the Science Commons. Can we not turn the lights off during fall and spring migration? It was reported that the lights are on a timer and we need to have lights on for safety. There are people there twenty-four hours a day. There was discussion around the Sustainability Plan. D. McMartin reported on what has been done so far in respect to green power production. We have had some preliminary feasibility studies done on where we could develop some of these sustainability measures which could add to our finances. We would like to self fund and self cycle. We are looking at involving students to use our

university as a living laboratory. Information on lighting and birds will come back to GFC.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2024.09.05

Enigbokan/Reiter

*That the GFC meeting of September 9, 2024 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried