

Statutory/Ex Officio Members: Dr. Janis Goldie, Chair, Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Vice Chair, Dr. Alex Link, Scott Powell, Nicole Hamilton, Michelle Housley

Statutory/Elected Members

School of Communication Design: Tivadar Bote, Nick Johnson, Narges Rezaian

School of Craft and Emerging Media: Marty Kaufman, Kurtis Lesick, Paul Robert, Anahita Mosayebi

School of Visual Art: Alana Bartol, Megan Dyck, Lisa Lipton

School of Critical and Creative Studies: Dr. Troy Patenaude, Dr. Adam Carlson

By Degree Area: Jamie Kroeger, Laurel Johannesson

Statutory Student Members: Abbey Leach, Evan Palmer

Other Members: Wendy Harding

Appointed Members: Mackenzie Kelly-Frère

Regrets: Arif Ansari, Naoko Masuda

Non-Voting Members: Cherie Tutt, University Secretary

GFC Meeting Resource Members: Su Soyer, Academic Coordinator, Undergraduate Studies

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the November 24, 2025 General Faculties Council meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of the October 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on October 27, 2025 be approved.

Carried

4. Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Janis Goldie included the following in her report:

Highlights:

- Government Updates: The Investment Management Agreement and Mandate updates were received. The government has moved to a more succinct mandate format, now presented in chart form with categories.
- Budget / Exceptional Tuition Submissions: At a budget update with the Ministry of Advanced Education, it was announced that there is an opportunity for post-secondary institutions to submit Exceptional Tuition Increase proposals for 2026-2027, this is currently in the consultation phase with students and will move through board approval and submission in December.
- National Updates: There is an upcoming Canada Council budget meeting in Ottawa.
- International Students: Graduate visa exemptions were reviewed. International students in graduate programs no longer require a Provincial Attestation Letter and the process has been simplified.
- Advocacy & Outreach: Dr. Goldie has engaged in extensive advocacy and outreach activities over the Fall period.
- Events: Rita McKeough, winner of the 2024 Gershon Iskowitz Prize; celebration scheduled for Dec 10, Noon–2 PM.

5. Approval of the Termination of the BFA First Year Studies and the Suspension and Termination of BFA Majors

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Alex Link presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the rationale for the suspensions and terminations of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Majors and First Year Studies programs.
- Amendment: Correction to the Media Arts program name. The program should be listed as 'Media Arts', not 'Media Arts and Digital Technology'.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council terminate the Bachelor of Fine Arts First Year Studies program, effective January 1, 2026, as set out in the documents provided and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Oversight Committee.

Carried

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council suspend and eventually terminate the Bachelor of Fine Arts Majors in Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery and Metals, Media Arts and Digital Technologies, Painting, Print Media and Sculpture, as set out in the documents provided and as recommended by the Academic Planning and Oversight Committee.

Carried

6. Approval of the School Council Terms of Reference

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Janis Goldie and Cherie Tutt presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of updates to the School Council Terms of Reference, reflecting feedback from the September meeting and subsequent email correspondence. Options were presented to the Steering Committee, which recommended that Sessional faculty appoint their own non-voting representative. To ensure adequate communication, this change will take effect in the 2026-2027 academic year.
- The GFC discussed the rationale for the language changes regarding non-voting members.

Amendments:

- The GFC recommended that all proposed changes be accepted except for the change to update the provision for sessional voting and that this language should not be changed keeping that all sessional members continue to be non-voting versus a representative.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the changes to the School Council Terms of Reference, as presented to the GFC, effective for the 2026-2027 Academic Year, as recommended by the Steering Committee, with the amendments as noted.

Carried

7. Indigenous Pathways Update

Dr. Pablo Ortiz and Gitz Derange provided a presentation.

Highlights:

- AUArts is actively advancing Truth and Reconciliation by embedding Indigenous voices, knowledge, and leadership across governance, programming, curriculum, and student support systems. The initiative includes 10 paths to reconciliation and 48 reconcili-actions.
- Key Pathways:
 - Establishing spaces that celebrate Indigenous cultures and community.
 - Enhancing recruitment, retention, and academic success of Indigenous students.
 - Increasing the number of Indigenous faculty and staff.
 - Expanding Indigenous programming and curricular offerings.
 - Facilitating research relevant to Indigenous life that respects Indigenous approaches to knowledge and learning.
 - Ensuring implementation, evaluation, and redevelopment of these pathways actively involves Indigenous community members both within and outside the University.

- All six pathways are currently active, with nine actions either initiated, completed, or ongoing. Indigenous student enrollment continues to grow, with 13 graduates in 2024-2025 and 15 projected graduates in 2025-2026.
- Initiatives & Supports:
 - The Lodgepole Centre will provide an annual new student orientation for Indigenous learners.
 - Increased data collection and assessment of key indicators of student mental health and wellness.

8. Idea Exchange Session: Decolonizing the Curriculum

Secretary's Note: Members of GFC divided into groups to discuss decolonizing curriculum.

Highlights/Themes:

- Varied conceptions of time were identified as a topic for discussion in a future Teaching and Learning session.
- Recognition that the current academic structure is inherently colonial, with conversations focusing on how practices such as data collection and curriculum design could be changed.

9. Reports from the Deans

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Alex Link and Dr. Pablo Ortiz presented these items.

Academic

- Permanent faculty positions in Ceramics, Object Design and Fabrication, and Painting have been posted.
- The Gallery Crawl on November 7 was a success with 1700 attendees.
- Working groups have been established to review approaches to teaching foundation drawing and the structure of jury/panel critiques in the BFA program.
- The Faculty Professional Affairs Committee met to rank sabbatical applications.
- Welcome was extended to Nate MacLeod as the new Studio Manager.
- The Part B submission to the government for the Bachelor of Creative Industries is nearly complete and has been sent to external examiners for review and will then be submitted to government for review and approval.

Students:

Highlights:

- The High School Educators Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, November 28, 11:00am to 2:30pm.

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Updates: The IRCC has introduced a new provincial/territorial attestation letter (PAL/TAL) exemption for graduate students enrolling at public Designated Learning Institutions. IRCC is finalizing the 2026 national intake cap and provincial/territorial allocations. This information will be shared and published on the IRCC website.

Innovation

- Program Revisions: ARTStream and pre-college programs are being revised; revisions will proceed through the appropriate governance approval processes in the new year.
- Micro-credentials: Focus has shifted from new program development to tracking performance of existing micro-credentials. There have been 29 new registrations, helping to diversify the audience. Growth has been slow due to limited marketing resources; initial uptake was modest, and efforts are now focused on grassroots promotion and seeking interested partners.
- Partnerships: Discussions underway with Olds College for a new partnership in the weaving program.

10. Students' Association (SA) Report

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Abbey Leach presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Student Leadership Council (SLC) is meeting biweekly this Fall.
- Marion Nicoll Gallery: current exhibition *The City is a Problem* by Noah Milo, from October 17 to November 15, 2025.
- Show + Sale was held on November 14 and 15 with strong attendance.
- Micro Grants: Applications for Fall 2025 are open and reviewed monthly.
- Community Pantry: Fridge stocked via new partnership with Odd Bunch. Donations of non-perishable items are welcome.

11. School Council Minutes/Notes SCEM, SVA, MFA, SCCS, SCD

12. APOC Approvals

- Academic Schedule 2026-2027

Documentation for these items was included in the meeting materials for information only.

13. AUArts Good News Moment

Members of the GFC shared information on positive happenings around campus, including upcoming student and faculty events.

Adjournment

The GFC adjourned the November 24, 2025 meeting by consensus at 3:53p.m.