

Statutory/Ex Officio Members: Dr. Janis Goldie, Chair, Arif Ansari, Michelle Housley, Dr. Dawn Johnston, Dr. Alex Link, Scott Powell

Statutory/Elected Members

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

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

School of Visual Art: Alana Bartol, Megan Dyck

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

By Degree Area: Dr. Kara Stone

Statutory Student Members: Abbey Leach

Other Members: Wendy Harding

Appointed Members: Mackenzie Kelly-Frère

Regrets: Nicole Hamilton, Laurel Johannesson, Evan Palmer

Non-Voting Members: Cherie Tutt, University Secretary

Guests: Jeff Meighen, Director, Campus Operations

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03p.m. and confirmed quorum and welcomed Dr. Dawn Johnston, Vice President Academic on the occasion of her first meeting of the General Faculties Council (GFC).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the February 23, 2026 General Faculties Council meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of the November 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on November 24, 2025 be approved.
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Carried

4. Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Janis Goldie included the following in her report:

- The university is awaiting updates regarding the provincial budget, the Exceptional Tuition Increase proposal, and the Bachelor of Creative Industries (BCI) new program proposal.
- New funding has been announced to support addictions and recovery initiatives on campus.
- The federal government is placing increased emphasis on international graduate applicants, which is positive for the University's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program.
- Dr. Goldie will be attending an upcoming national summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in arts and culture in Banff.
- Ongoing discussions with the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) on the role of AI in art education across North America.

Institutional Updates:

- The Installation and Centennial Launch took place on February 2, 2026.
- It was announced that Arif Ansari is the Acting Dean of Students and Jonathan Huntley is the Acting Manager, Student Services.
- It was noted that there will be an upcoming call for nominations for Vice Chair, GFC.

5. Rescinding the Course Credit Matrix Procedure and the Undergraduate Course Management Procedure

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

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the *Course Credit Matrix Procedure* and the *Undergraduate Course Management Procedure* are outdated. Upon review, it was determined that the portions of these procedures that remain relevant would be more appropriately framed as Academic Regulations. A proposal reflecting this change was brought forward to both the Academic Policy Committee and the Academic Planning and Oversight Committee (APOC). Feedback from both bodies was incorporated, and the new Academic Regulations were subsequently approved by APOC. The next step is to formally rescind the outdated procedures.
- There were no questions.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council rescind the Undergraduate Course Management Procedure and Course Credit Matrix Procedure, effective Fall 2026, as recommended by the Academic Policy Committee.

Carried

6. Accessibility Update

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Scott Powell and Jeff Meighen presented this item.

Highlights:

The presenters provided an overview of progress on accessibility initiatives across campus.

Infrastructure & Facilities Improvements:

- Addressing uneven flooring in various areas across campus.
- Updating and installing power door operators in key locations.
- Identification of five additional areas within the building that currently lack automated doors; plans are underway to add power door operators in these spaces.
- Conducted accessibility-focused assessments of elevators. Elevator modernization is scheduled to begin March 16.
- Sourcing accessible furniture for the east entrance, resulting from a recommendation to add additional seating to support mobility needs.

Signage & Wayfinding:

- Comprehensive signage updates are underway to improve accessibility and navigation throughout the building.

Transit / SAIT:

- Campus Operations is working with SAIT regarding the +15 transit bridge area updates.

7. Budget 2027 Update

A PowerPoint presentation was provided. Scott Powell presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the 2027 budget development process. The presentation covered the operating budget and the capital budget, including reinvestment and renewal projects supported through the Campus Maintenance Renewal (CMR) grant and internally funded

initiatives. It was noted that the decreased operating grant and enrolment pressures create a challenge for the University. The presenter highlighted that the operating budget is balanced.

- Enrolment: Strong enrolment growth occurred following the end of the pandemic. Growth slowed after 2024 due to federal restriction on international students. It was noted that international FLE enrolment has a considerable financial impact on the institution.

8. GFC 2026 – 2027 Meeting Schedules

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Cherie Tutt presented this item.

Highlights:

- The University Secretary reported on changes to the GFC meeting schedule, including lengthening the MFA Craft Media Committee meeting times by 30 minutes, adding one joint meeting each term for the School of Craft and Emerging Media Council and School of Visual Arts Council, as well as scheduling two Research Ethics Board meetings per year to review best practices and education.
- It was noted that the Student Affairs Committee is being considered for potential deactivation. The committee currently serves a primarily informational role and does not make recommendations or approve items. The Academic Student Leadership (ASL) Group is functioning more effectively in supporting this work. This will return for formal approval should a decision be made to proceed with deactivation.

9. Academic Updates

A presentation was provided. Dr. Dawn Johnston presented this item.

Highlights:

Academic Hiring Updates

- Three faculty positions are currently in progress: Painting, Ceramics, and Object Design. Applications are under review.

Program & Curriculum Updates

- BCI Part A submission has been approved by government. BCI Part B was submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education in December; the University is awaiting confirmation regarding an expedited review process.
- APOC approved updates to the Media Arts concentration. Additional curricular changes are expected in March.
- The MFA curriculum working group continues to review program curriculum, with a proposal forthcoming. Minor changes are anticipated by the end of the academic year and more major changes are anticipated by next Fall.

Research / Teaching & Learning Updates

- The Conference Committee met to review proposals for the Works-In-Progress Conference; notifications will be sent shortly.
- The Works-In-Progress Conference will be on April 24, 2026 with an exhibition April 22-26, 2026.

- Teaching & Learning (T&L) Day was held on February 19, 2026, with an excellent turnout. A Walk Through Colonization - An Interactive Treaty & Indian Act Workshop will be held on March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

10. Students' Association (SA) Report

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

Highlights:

- The Students' Association is working toward decertification from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). A vote to leave the CFS will take place in accordance with CFS bylaws.
 - It was noted that due to strict CFS regulations governing how member associations may communicate during a decertification process, the SA is limited in what can be shared publicly. Faculty are encouraged to speak with students about the upcoming vote and to encourage students to conduct their own research.
 - Decertification would result in approximately \$13,000 in annual membership fee savings, which could be redirected to students or invested in services that directly support them.
 - The vote will be held in person at the same time as the annual AUArts SA elections.
- The annual SA elections will open on February 22, 2026. All elected positions will be available, including Executive Council roles.
- The Show + Sale team has completed grant reporting for the Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA).
- Applications for Winter 2026 Micro Grants are now open. Applications will be reviewed monthly until available funds are fully allocated.
- The Community Pantry fridge is now being stocked with goods from Odd Bunch, replacing the previous partnership with Fresh Routes. Donations of non-perishable food items and small household supplies are being accepted.

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

12. APOC Approvals

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

- a) Drawing 205
- b) MADT Curriculum
- c) Pre-College Name Change
- d) Non-Credit Master Weave and Master Spinner Olds College
 - 1.d.1. It was noted that a more thorough review is required. A full evaluation will be conducted, which will allow for refinement and resolution of any issues and determine whether adoption for 2027 aligns with institutional interests. Olds College will be offering the programming this summer.

13. AUArts Good News Moment

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

Adjournment

The GFC adjourned the February 23, 2026 meeting by consensus at 3:05 p.m.