

Statutory/Ex Officio Members: Dr. Janis Goldie, Chair, Dr. Dawn Johnston, Vice Chair, Arif Ansari, Nicole Hamilton, Michelle Housley, 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: Jamie Kroeger, Laurel Johannesson, Dr. Kara Stone

Statutory Student Members: Abbey Leach, Evan Palmer

Other Members: Wendy Harding

Appointed Members: Mackenzie Kelly-Frère

Non-Voting Members: Cherie Tutt, University Secretary

Guests: Yoke-Sum Wong, Research Coordinator

GFC Meeting Resource Members: Su Soyer, Academic Coordinator

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum and welcomed Dr. Dawn Johnston, VP Academic, as the new Vice Chair of GFC.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

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

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of the February 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on February 23, 2026 be approved.

Carried

4. Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Janis Goldie included the following in her report:

- Alberta Budget Overview - Post-Secondary Institutions (PSIs):
 - The post-secondary sector received a small increase to its Campus Alberta Grant.
 - Targeted Enrollment Expansion (TEE) funding opportunities were announced, which may be applicable to AUArts.
 - Cutbacks were made to student aid.
 - There was minimal new capital funding, only 10% of capital requests were successful.
 - The government plans to implement the funding model recommendations from the Expert Panel on PSI within the next year.
- The Bachelor of Creative Industries (BCI) program has been approved.
- Attended the National Summit on AI and Culture, which convened leaders from the cultural, government, technology, academic, and civil society sectors (March 15–17, 2026).
- AUArts' hosted a campus visit from the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, and Mr. Corey Hogan, Member of Parliament, Calgary Confederation.
- Upcoming and ongoing initiatives:
 - External outreach activities, including hosting the Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) Stampede event at AUArts, July 2.
 - The Strategic planning process is underway.
 - Student engagement initiative: "Popcorn with the President".
 - Review of the events form and related processes.

5. Approval of the Suspension of the Bachelor of Design Photography Major

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

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the proposal is to suspend the BDes Photography Major, noting that a Photography Concentration, approved April 2024, within the BFA Studio Art or BDes programs supports the long-term sustainability of photography studies at the University. Admissions to the Photography Major were suspended in 2025; this proposal updates the program's official status in the Ministry's Program Approval and Program Registration System (PAPRS) to reflect the suspension and ensure accurate reporting.

- It was noted that no new students have been admitted to the program; this step primarily formalizes the change with the provincial government.
- There were no questions.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council (GFC) suspend the Bachelor of Design Photography Major, effective January 1, 2027, as set out in the documents provided to the GFC, as recommended by the Academic Planning and Oversight Committee.

Carried

6. Approval of the Dissolution of the Student Affairs Committee

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Cherie Tutt, Arif Ansari and Abbey Leach presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Student Affairs Committee has faced ongoing challenges in establishing a clear and effective role within the broader GFC governance structure. As a result, it has not consistently functioned as an efficient or valuable use of members' time, particularly given its large student membership and limited scope.
- The Committee has primarily served as a forum for Student Services staff to share information with students, rather than advancing substantive governance work. Despite continued efforts, the Committee has not consistently identified work aligned with a defined mandate or with GFC priorities that are not more effectively addressed elsewhere.
- Over the past two years, several other standing committees have been revised to include student representation, creating more meaningful and integrated opportunities for student participation in academic governance.
- In parallel, the Academic Student Leadership (ASL) group, comprising the Dean of Students, Vice-President Academic, and University Secretary, meets monthly with the Student Executive. ASL has proven to be a more flexible and effective forum for information sharing, relationship building, and timely problem solving, with significant overlap with discussions previously held by the Student Affairs Committee.
- It was noted that there is no requirement under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* to maintain a Student Affairs Committee or equivalent body under GFC.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council dissolve the Student Affairs Committee effective immediately, as recommended by the Steering Committee.

Carried

7. Academic Updates

Dr. Dawn Johnston included the following in her report:

- The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Craft Media Curriculum Revisions: A suite of changes has been proposed to streamline the program, provide greater clarity and support for supervisors, and address long term program sustainability. The proposed revisions are expected to be finalized in May.
- University Preview Evening: A key recruitment and retention event, designed for applicants holding conditional or full offers of admission. The event aims to build excitement, strengthen connection to the institution, and encourage applicants who have not yet accepted their offers to submit their confirmation deposits. Approximately 180-200 attendees are expected. The event will include campus tours, an open market with information tables, presentations, and studio tours. Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Dr. Alex Link or Jonathan Huntley.
- Works-in-Progress Conference and Exhibition: The conference will take place on April 24, with the exhibition running from April 22 to April 26, 2026. The Final schedule will be circulated soon.
- SAIT Health Clinic Closure: The SAIT Health Clinic will close on June 15, 2026, and is scheduled to reopen in mid-2027 in the new Campus Centre building. Current patients will receive direct communication regarding access to their medical records and continuity of care options.

8. Students' Association (SA) Report

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

Highlights:

- It was noted that a bylaw was recently passed to reduce the frequency of Student Leadership Council (SLC) meetings from biweekly to monthly.
- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is currently being scheduled, and details will be shared once confirmed.
- No updates currently regarding decertification from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Updates will be provided as they become available.
- SLC Elections: The election cycle is currently in the active campaigning period, with all positions open. Voting will take place March 23 to March 26, 2026.
- Applications for Winter 2026 microgrants remain open and are reviewed monthly until all funds are allocated.
- Community Pantry: Donations are accepted on an ongoing basis, including non-perishable food items and small toiletries.

9. School Council Minutes/Notes MFA Craft Media and SCD

10. APOC Approvals

- a) SCD Deactivations**
- b) SCD Course Modifications**
- c) SCEM Deactivations**
- d) SCEM/SVA Course Modifications**
- e) Fibre Curriculum/Concentration Modifications**

- f) **CCST Curriculum Modifications**
- g) **Academic Calendar: Supervisory Committee**

11. Board Report

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

12. Research Strategy World Café

Yoke-Sum Wong delivered a presentation on the Strategic Research Plan (SRP).

- The SRP is a planning document intended to capture the diverse activities and practices that shape the research environment at a university. It provides a framework to guide the growth, development, and overall direction of institutional research. It was noted that the SRP is an aspirational document.
- Purpose: An SRP is required or expected by bodies such as the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC), the Tri-Council agencies, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). It also strengthens applications to national post-secondary organizations, such as Universities Canada.
- The content and structure of an SRP depends on the size and context of the institution. Typically developed as a five-year plan, it should be flexible enough to adapt to change. Research themes and priority areas are generally broad to support collaboration and enable emerging research opportunities.
- The SRP is a community driven document, developed through broad consultation and dialogue across the university. In many cases, it is collaboratively authored.

World Café Activity:

Members participated in a World Café discussion to explore the following questions:

- What does research mean to you?
- How can the University support research?
- What are our thematic strengths?
- What are the most important features and benefits of an institutional research plan?

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 March 23, 2026 meeting by consensus at 3:30 p.m.