General Faculties Council (GFC)
Approved Minutes
Monday, April 27, 2026
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Room 532

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

Statutory/Elected Members

School of Communication Design: Nick Johnson, Narges Rezaian

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

School of Visual Art: Alana Bartol, Megan Dyck, Richard Clements

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

By Degree Area: Jamie Kroeger, Laurel Johannesson

Statutory Student Members: Abbey Leach

Other Members: Wendy Harding

Appointed Members:

Regrets: Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Naoko Masuda, Evan Palmer

Non-Voting Members: Cherie Tutt, University Secretary

Guests: Jessica O'Connell, Executive Director, External Relations

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

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded
That the Agenda for the April 27, 2026 General Faculties Council meeting be approved. **Carried**

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of the March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

Moved/Seconded
That the Minutes of the General Faculties Council meeting held on March 23, 2026 be approved. **Carried**

4. Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Janis Goldie included the following in her report:

- The exceptional tuition increase has been approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education and is applicable for new students only. In response to a question, the approximate increase per credit was shared (~$50)
- The President attended the Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) Retreat on April 9 & 10, 2026 with 26 Alberta post-secondary institution (PSI) presidents, and met with Calgary PSI presidents with guest Mayor Farkas on April 15, 2026.
- The President is participating in the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) Global Connectedness Working Group, which fosters dialogue, reciprocal learning, and critical reflection to deepen understanding of global perspectives and strengthen engagement.
- Interviews for the Dean of Students position were conducted in March and April.
- The “Popcorn with the President” event took place on April 1, and the University Preview Evening was held on April 17.
- The President attended meetings with arts organizations, including Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA), Werklund School of Education, Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, cSpace Projects, and Alberta Craft Ccouncil, throughout March and April.
- It was noted that the Staff Town Hall and School of Communication Design Portfolio Night were held on April 22, and a tour of the SAIT Student Centre took place on April 23.
- Upcoming UAD4 visits include Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University on May 5 and Emily Carr University of Art + Design on June 11.
- The University is continuing to explore the Universities Canada application process.
- Work is also underway on data gathering for the Mintz funding model.

5. Approval of Changes to the Student Awards Policy and Procedure

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Arif Ansari and Jessica O’Connell presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the Student Awards Policy and Procedure have been updated to reflect minor changes in practice and to better align with the format of other student policies and procedures. Given the extent of the revisions, a clean version of the procedure was provided, as a marked-up version was difficult to follow.
- In response to a question, it was clarified that these apply to both graduate (MFA) and undergraduate students.

- It was noted that with respect to the establishment of awards, individual gift terms of reference will be more robust. Many older, more established awards do not have formal terms of reference in place; moving forward, there should be greater rigor and, where possible, increased standardization, including assessment criteria, which will assist the award review committees in their work.

Moved/Seconded

That the General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Student Awards Policy and Procedure, in the forms provided to the GFC, effective for the Fall Term 2026, and as recommended by the Academic Policy Committee.

Carried

6. Approval of the Changes to the Student Academic Accommodation Policy and Procedure

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Arif Ansari presented this item.

Highlights:

- Over the past six months, processes related to Accessibility Services have been closely reviewed, alongside an examination of emerging practices at other post-secondary institutions. Rather than revising the existing Student Accommodations Policy and Procedure, a new approach was taken to develop updated documents from the ground up, drawing on policies from peer institutions as a foundation. This work aims to provide greater clarity in both documents, particularly with respect to roles and the processes for establishing student accommodations.
- The GFC discussed:
  - Attendance accommodations.
  - The accommodation plan and signing off on the plan.
  - A tool kit for faculty is being developed and will be shared in the Fall School Council meetings.

Amendments:

- A typographical error was noted in the Policy, Scope, delete "applies" in the 3rd paragraph.
- A typographical error was noted regarding Item B, Procedures 1.1 (page 8): "than" should be corrected to "when" in the phrase "accommodations at a later date than they believe is necessary."
- In 4.2(b)v change "duly" to "solely due."
- Correct timelines to reflect clearer standards: change "5 days and 5 days" to "10 business days" for consistency. Section 4.2(d) to be corrected to state "normally within 5 business days," and Section 4.2(e) to be revised to "normally within 3 business days."
- Section 3.3 vs. 2.1: wording to be revised for consistency to state that the "student is required to discuss" rather than the current phrasing.

Moved/Seconded
That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the changes to the Student Academic Accommodations Policy and Procedure, in the forms provided to the GFC, effective Fall Term 2026,

and as recommended by the Academic Policy Committee, with the requested amendments.
Carried

7. Approval of Changes to the Undergraduate Academic Standing Procedure

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Arif Ansari presented this item.

Highlights:

- In response to questions from students, it was noted that the Undergraduate Academic Standing and Graduation Procedure underwent a major revision in 2024. Since its implementation, concerns have been raised regarding students who, due to academic accommodation, are unable to complete a 12-credit course load. This creates an inequity in eligibility for the President's Honour Roll. To address this issue, it is proposed that new language be added to establish a second eligibility category for students in this situation. This provision would allow students with a reduced course load to qualify for consideration.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - Academic leadership discussed whether to set a specific credit threshold (e.g., 6 or 9 credits). However, given the variability of individual circumstances and the potential for inconsistent or difficult judgment calls, a more flexible approach is recommended. As such, academic leadership supports open-ended wording that allows recommendations to be made by Student Accessibility Services.
  - Honour roll is not currently posted to the website, but is noted on the transcript.

Amendments:

- Section 3.8: Revise title from "Dean, Academic Programs" to "Vice-President, Academic".
- Section 1.2: Update the term "academic alert" to align with current terminology.*
- Remove the large formatting gap between Sections 3.7 and 3.8.
- Suggested revisions for clarity include adding the word "respectively"

*It was noted that Section 1.2 will be reviewed with the incoming management position once hired and any recommended changes will be brough back through governance.

Moved/Seconded
That the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the changes to the Undergraduate Academic Standing and Graduation Procedure, in the form provided to the GFC, effective Fall Term 2026, and as recommended by the Academic Policy Committee, with the requested amendments.
Carried

8. Academic Updates

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

Highlights:

- MFA: The MFA Curriculum Working Group is advancing a suite of changes focused on streamlining the program, supporting MFA student research, and providing greater clarity and guidance for supervisors, with an emphasis on long-term program sustainability. These changes are expected to move through governance in May. All thesis defenses have now been completed.
- University Preview Evening: This key recruitment and retention event saw strong engagement, with total attendance of 214. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and there was a notable influx of confirmation deposits over the weekend. This event also had the highest level of faculty participation to date and is considered a strong success.
- Works-in-Progress Conference: The conference featured 39 presentations across 14 sessions, included 12 artists in the faculty exhibition, and welcomed 129 registrants and guests.
- Year End Reflections: The year included the launch of a new degree program, significant curriculum development, and notable achievements in research, creative practice, and teaching.

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

10. APOC Approvals

   a) CCST 204
   b) CRMC New Courses

11. GFC Bi-Annual Survey

Instructions and the link were provided to participate in the survey.

12. 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 April 27, 2026 meeting by consensus at 3:11 p.m.