

Position Title: Member, General Faculties Council

Term: Elected or appointed for up to a three-year term, with eligibility for renewal.

Position Description: This description applies to all statutory and appointed members of the General Faculties Council (GFC), including students and staff.

GFC is the University's senior academic governing body, as defined in the **Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)**. It is responsible for the academic affairs of the University, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors.

The information in this document is drawn from the GFC Governance Framework. For the definitive, original content, please refer to that Framework. In the event of any discrepancy, the information in the original document will **prevail**.

Key Responsibilities

Members of GFC are responsible for attending meetings, participating in GFC business, asking questions, and communicating information to their constituents.

When participating in meetings, members are expected to promote openness, transparency, and respectful communication while ensuring accountability and trust in decision-making. Members should adhere to the principles of collegial academic governance as outlined in the GFC Governance Framework.

To fully participate, members should prepare for meetings by reviewing agenda materials to enable candid and respectful discussion. Members are also encouraged to serve on standing committees. In their engagement, members should aim to capture both present-day responsibilities and their long-term impact on the University and its community. Each decision made forms part of a corporate record that dates back to 1908.

Questions can be submitted in advance or raised during meetings. While members are encouraged to communicate with their constituencies regarding GFC matters, they must always act in good faith, prioritizing the best interests of the entire University. Members should consider input from various groups and ensure that all constituencies are fairly considered in the decision-making process.

Time Commitment

GFC members are expected to attend GFC meetings. In addition, members are asked to serve on GFC committees, as appropriate, with varying time commitments required for each. More specifically:

- GFC meets formally six times per year. A special Budget Briefing is also offered to members and may take place outside of formal meeting times.
 - GFC standing committees meet between four and ten times per year.
 - There is normally a two-hour annual Joint Summit for the Board, the Senate, and GFC.
 - GFC members are invited to a one-hour orientation session before the first GFC meeting.
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Recognition of Service

Expectations for employee service, including participation in governance, are articulated in University of Alberta Collective Agreements, where applicable.

More information on GFC, including member roles, responsibilities, membership, and applications to serve, can be found on the [University Governance website](#).

Guiding Documents

[Post-secondary Learning Act](#)

[GFC Governance Framework](#)

[GFC and Committee Member Handbook](#)