

## **Submitted GFC Motion on Bill 18**

### **Moved by Professor GE Swaters, President of the Association of Academic Staff at the University of Alberta**

Whereas, in its current form, Bill 18 recently introduced by the Government of Alberta poses a threat to academic freedom and institutional autonomy by creating the potential for political interference in the funding of post-secondary research and scholarship in Alberta.

Whereas, unless Bill 18 is withdrawn or significantly amended, passage of Bill 18 has the potential to lead to the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in research and scholarship funding for the University of Alberta and other Albertan post-secondary institutions, funding that is critical to achieving the teaching, research, scholarly and artistic strategic ambitions of the University of Alberta specifically and of all Albertan post-secondary institutions generally.

Whereas Albertans are rightly proud of the top-5 national academic reputation of the University of Alberta specifically, and other post-secondaries in Alberta generally, to provide exceptional high-quality education and scholarship in all fields of knowledge and from all intellectual and epistemological perspectives, which has taken many decades of dedicated work by academic and other staff supported by provincial and federal research grants awarded based solely on intellectual and scholarly merit and not on conformity to any ideological agenda.

Whereas, in its current form, Bill 18 could potentially and significantly negatively impact the teaching, research and scholarly national and international academic reputation of the University of Alberta specifically and of all Alberta's post-secondaries generally; it would mar the academic research and scholarship done with the stamp of political interference, in turn suggesting that the research and scholarship produced is propaganda tailored to advance a political ideology, with the result that the best and brightest post-secondary educators and researchers may simply leave to go to other post-secondary institutions in jurisdictions where academic freedom and institutional post-secondary autonomy are respected, and with them, their students.

Whereas the General Faculties Council, as set out in Section 26(1) the Alberta Post-Learning Act, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, "is responsible for the academic affairs of the University."

It is therefore resolved that the General Faculties Council at the University of Alberta is opposed to Bill 18 as proposed, and unless post-secondary institutions are fully exempted from any and all provisions of Bill 18, calls on the Government of Alberta to withdraw Bill 18 in its entirety. Further, the General Faculties Council at the University of Alberta respectfully requests the President of the University of Alberta to notify the Premier and Minister of Advanced Education

of the Province of Alberta, respectively, of this resolution by the General Faculties Council of the University of Alberta.