OPENING SESSION

The Chair began with a land acknowledgement as an expression of gratitude that recognizes the Indigenous land we are situated on as a University community and to remember our shared commitment to understanding our history with the land:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

The Chair welcomed Peggy Garrity, Chancellor of the University of Alberta; and Kate Chisholm, Chair of the Board of Governors, to make a few comments.

P Garrity reflected on her term as Chancellor and thanked members for their service and support of the University. She expressed hope for the future of the institution. K Chisholm echoed this expression of optimism and recognised that the past three years of decision making had been difficult. She emphasized her belief in the importance of shared governance and her gratitude for GFC’s work.

The Chair thanked them for coming and made the following comments:

- Shape, the University Strategic Plan would be launched on September 19, 2023; and
- A search and selection committee has been struck for position of Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chetan Dave and Spencer Proctor have accepted to represent General Faculties Council.

Ceremony

Presenter(s): Elder Francis Whiskeyjack, Saddle Lake Cree Nation

The Chair welcomed Elder Whiskeyjack and thanked him for agreeing to come today to start GFC off in a good way.

Elder Whiskeyjack shared some wisdom and Indigenous teachings.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of GFC

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve the agenda. CARRIED
2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair’s comments were delivered before the meeting was called to order.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 29, 2023

THAT General Faculties Council approve the open session minutes of May 29, 2023.

CARRIED

4. New Members of GFC

TO RECEIVE:

The following statutory academic staff members who have been elected by their Faculty, to serve on GFC for a term of office beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2026:

- Esther Kim Rehabilitation Medicine
- Adetola Adesida Medicine and Dentistry
- Duncan Elliott Engineering
- Lindsey Westover Engineering
- Kenneth Gariepy Education
- Jodi Harding-Kuringer Education

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term extending for the duration of the appointment:

- Declan Ali Dean, Faculty of Science
- Tracy Raivio Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
- Doug Gleddie Acting Dean, Faculty of Education
- Denise LaFitte Acting Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
- Chris Andersen Dean, Faculty of Native Studies

The following ex-officio members to serve on GFC for a term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

- Tom Stelfox Dean’s delegate, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

CARRIED

TO APPOINT:

The following cross-appointed members to serve on GFC for a three-year term concurrent with their appointment to the Board of Governors:

- Dilini Vethanayagam GFC Nominee to the Board
- Stephanie Dickie NASA Representative

The following appointed ex officio members to serve on GFC for a term extending for the duration of their appointment:

- Brenda Hemmelgarn Vice-Provost and College Dean, Health Sciences
- Marvin Washington Vice-Provost and College Dean, Social Sciences and Humanities
- Ravina Sanghera Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
The following graduate student representatives to serve on GFC for terms commencing immediately and ending April 30, 2024:

- Zak Kaal, Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences
- Shubham Goswami, Mechanical Engineering

The following post-doctoral fellow representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing immediately and ending January 31, 2024:

- Olena Mykhailenko, School of Business

The following Libraries representative to serve on GFC for a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2026:

- Tim Klassen, Libraries and Museums

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Forward with Purpose - Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (SPRI)

*Presenter(s):* Aminah Robinson Fayek, Vice-President (Research and Innovation)

*Discussion:*
The Chair explained that GFC has overarching authority, subject to the authority of the Board, over the University’s academic mission and that research, innovation and creative activities are foundational to the University of Alberta’s mission and identity.

A Robinson Fayek spoke about the work that went into the development of the plan and expressed thanks to those who had contributed and offered feedback along the way. She noted the engagement of members of the GFC Academic Planning Committee and their recommendation of the plan at their meeting of September 6.

A member noted the importance of putting the plan into action with regard to undergraduate and graduate student research and contributions to research.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT General Faculties Council approve “Forward with Purpose: A Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation”.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

7. University of Alberta Students’ Union Goals
   Graduate Students’ Association Board Work Plan

*Presenter(s):* Christian Fotang, President, University of Alberta Students’ Union (UASU); Bishoi Aziz, President, Graduate Students’ Association (GSA)
Discussion:
C Fotang presented the UASU Executive Goals for 2023-24 including three major priorities: Amplify Student Voices, Enhance and Cultivate the Student Experience, and Promote Comprehensive Student Learning. He spoke about initiatives related to:

- Amplifying Indigenous and International student voices;
- Increasing non-student revenue streams;
- Accessible and gender neutral washrooms;
- Increasing the "moderate standard of living" threshold for the purposes of student loans, and awards and bursaries;
- Encouraging Faculties to increase their offering of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses; and
- The ZTCup, an award that will be given to Faculties to recognize achievement in reducing cost to students by significant adoption of the ZTC initiative.

Members discussed the development of a certificate framework, the rate of completion for students, the increase to the moderate standard of living, the 7.55% tuition offset for International student financial supports, and whether more need-based financial supports could be created.

B Aziz presented the GSA Board’s Strategic Work Plan including commitments to:

- create more opportunities for graduate student awareness and improve GSA engagement;
- address the financial situation of graduate students;
- make graduate student supervision an institutional priority;
- advocate for minimum funding packages for PhD students;
- support research on Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and development of clear AI policies;
- reflect principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;
- Enhance support for organizations that support graduate students such as the Campus Food Bank; and
- Address sexual violence in experiential learning placements.

Members discussed strategies for helping international students to integrate into the university community, especially for those who do not arrive in the fall when most orientation activities take place.

8. Final Draft of the Budget Model

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance); Verna Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:
The Chair noted that GFC has played an important role in shaping the new budget model and that GFC and the Board approved changes to the principles underpinning the budget model in the previous academic year. He explained that the purpose of today’s item is to provide an overview of the model itself and to give members an opportunity to ask questions as we finalize the model and prepare to implement it.

T Gilchrist introduced the members of his team who were in attendance to support the discussion and noted that he and V Yiu were leading this work together. He spoke about consultative meetings with expert groups and the Faculty Deans and pointed to the expert group engagements summary included in the meeting materials. He also noted that:

- budget planning for fiscal year 2025 would begin next month for approval in March;
- the budget model will iterate as required as they learned more in the process and that a formal review would happen in three years; and
- That a working group for space optimization, led by the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), and a working group for a Faculty Cost Clusters approach to determining differential costs across programs would be starting up soon to support budget planning for fiscal year 2026.
V Yiu thanked the members of the experts groups and working groups and encouraged members to keep submitting their questions for the Frequently Asked Questions document that was being developed and would be shared back with GFC.

A member acknowledged that there were some concerns with incremental budgets but noted the benefit of that type of model for tracking the allocation of funds over time. He asked about the costs of the Colleges, Central Services, and Faculty services and whether the budget model would align with the strategic objectives of the University and deliver on the things that are most important: teaching and research. He observed that:

- Central Services appears to be paid first when the priority should be the Faculties;
- enrolment is the only lever available which does not seem to align with principles of Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and
- There was a lack of controls to keep the expansion of costs in Central Units in check.

He expressed that the model did not appear to smooth the impact of government grant fluctuations and that it was built upon an inequitable premise, providing more funds to those who already have more funds, which will compound and increase inequality over time. The member then made a notice of motion under GFC Meeting Procedural Rules 8.7: That GFC recommend to the Board of Governors against the approval of Budget Model 2.0.

T Gilchrist provided a response to the concerns raised by the member including answers and additional context including:

- Throughout the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) restructuring, there had been a shift from separate “Central” and “Faculty” Services, to “University Services” under One University, and that while it was impossible to compare the two directly, the Uniform data did indicate a reduction in costs;
- That the SET final report shows an overall $102 Million reduction in incremental administrative costs;
- That Budget Model 2.0 was an activity based model that would direct funds toward the core activities of the University: teaching, research, and community engagement, with a percentage set aside for a strategic initiatives fund and that the tuition percentage breakdown stabilises funding to the Faculties;
- That University Services would not be paid first and that as revenue changes, everyone would share reductions, but that as administrative services became more efficient they should cost less so that more funds could be directed to the core activities; and
- The new model would help to identify specifics through budget planning and the strategic subvention fund would be used to help ease the University into the change.

V Yiu noted that the budget model would provide clarity to the Faculty Deans so that they could plan accordingly. She acknowledged that not all Faculties would be able to use the levers and that the subvention funding can help offset equity issues. She expressed that this budget model provides transparency about what Faculties can do to bring in additional revenue.

Members discussed:

- The changes to shared services and a network of partners across the university instead of separate units;
- A preference for the activity based budget model because it directs funds to where the students are enrolled;
- The potential for awkwardness when a Faculty has to request subvention funding and that it would be better to have that written in to the budget;
- Faculties that already have more funds also have access to the levers and will be able to generate even more and this does not speak to equity;
- Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are not just up to Faculties but the whole University should collaborate on these common causes;
• How tuition revenue would be shared between programs and courses, Faculties and Departments, and that the Faculty Dean would allocate funds to Departments;
• Whether the amount of dollars directed to each Faculty would be public information; and
• Questions about the source of investment income and how it can be used to fund University-wide strategies.

INFORMATION REPORTS
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

9. Report of the GFC Executive Committee

10. Report of the GFC Academic Planning Committee

11. Report of the GFC Programs Committee

12. GFC Nominations and Elections

13. Report of the Board of Governors

14. Information Items:
   A. Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite

15. Information Forwarded to GFC Members Between Meetings
   - University of Alberta Mail - Message from President and Vice-Chancellor, Bill Flanagan

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
   - Next Meeting of General Faculties Council: October 16, 2023
ATTENDEES:
Bill Flanagan, Chair  
Verna Yiu, Vice-Chair  
Noor Abdelwahab  
Seun Akinfolarin  
Hussain Alhussainy  
Wajid Ali  
Declan Ali  
Pedro Almeida  
Chris Andersen  
Saadet Andrews  
Damon Atwood  
Bishoi Aziz  
Jill Bagwe  
Quinn Benders  
Barbara Billingsley  
Stanford Blade  
Angelina Botros  
Ahmed Bouferguene  
Marsha Boyd  
Jennifer Branch-Mueller  
Heather Bruce  
Jessica Butts Scott  
Jason Carey  
Susan Chatwood  
Pierre Chue  
Odile Cisneros  
Sharon Compton  
Greta Cummings  
Chathuranga De Silva  
Bipro Dhar  
Stephanie Dickie  
Ryan Dunch  
Duncan Elliott  
Roger Epp  
Carlos Fernandez-Patron  
Richard Field  
Shawn Flynn

Kyle Foster  
Christian Fotang  
Megan Garbutt  
Kenneth Gariepy  
Julianne Gibbs  
Todd Gilchrist  
Douglas Gingrich  
Eva Glancy  
Douglas Gleddie  
Taylor Good  
Shubham Goswami  
Goswami  
Lise Gotell  
Michael Griffiths  
Brenda Hemmelgarn  
Carol Hodgson  
Birkman  
Jelena Holovati  
Tammy Hopper  
Zak Kaal  
Matina Kalcounis-Ruepell  
Rija Kamran  
Esther Kim  
Tim Klassen  
Valentina Kozlova  
Denise LaFitte  
Adrian Lam  
Corrine Langinier  
Pierre Lemelin  
Liran Levin  
Jinfeng Liu  
Christopher Lupke  
Elan MacDonald  
Precious Majekodunmi  
Nikolai Malykhin  
Shivani Mandal  
Andrew McGee  
Danielle Millin  
Aamir Mohamed  
Weimin Mou  
Olena Mykhailenko  
Jennifer Passey  
Nathan Perez  
Sujata Persad  
Elena Posse de Chaves  
Spencer Proctor  
Kyra Pyke  
Muneeba QaDir  
Stephen Raitz  
Tracy Raivio  
Aminah Robinson  
Fayek  
Norma Rodenburg  
Dan Romanyk  
Kent Rondeau  
Ravina Sanghera  
Mikael Schmidtke  
Andrew Sharman  
Patricia Sherbaniuk  
Allison Sivak  
John Spence  
Chris Spursak  
Tom Stelfox  
Gordon Swaters  
Frederick Tappenden  
Nathan Thiessen  
Demetres  
Tryphonopoulos  
Dilini Vethanayagam  
Marvin Washington  
Yifeng Wei  
Lindsey Westover  
Shauna Wilton  
Robert Wood  
Richard Wozniak  
Minn-Nyong Yoon  
Tuesday Young

REGRETS:
Simaan AbouRizk  
Adetola Adesida  
Sandeep Agrawal  
Marie Carrière  
Jency Chhayia  
Chetan Dave  
Maesha Elm Elahi  
Zachary Friggstad  
Magda Grzeszczuk  
Jodi Harding-Kuriger  
Michael Hendzel  
Tracy Howlett  
John Hu  
Jun Hu  
Christine Hughes  
Jeff Johnson  
Vadim Kravchinsky  
Sandee Kumarn  
Ola Mabrouk  
Divya Maisuriya  
Vikas Mehrotra  
Pauline Paul  
Graham Pearson  
Bassem Raad  
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Heather Richholt, Scribe  
Faiza Billo  
Erin Plume  
Juli Zinkin