The University of Alberta governs itself with a bicameral governance structure (literally, it is governance in two chambers):

- **Board of Governors** and **General Faculties Council**

  Although the Board is the senior of the two, the Board and GFC **share and balance power** within the University.

The **University Governance** Unit, under the direction of the University Secretary, provides support for all areas of the Board and GFC.
Where Does GFC’s Authority Come From?

Province of Alberta enacts

LEGISLATION: *Post-Secondary Learning Act* of 2003 (PSLA) that establishes

AUTONOMOUS ENTITY: *University of Alberta*, with an

ACADEMIC GOVERNING BODY: *General Faculties Council* (subject to the Board)
System of governance that depends heavily upon the participation of colleagues to establish and realize a shared purpose.

Provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in decision-making, and it is the hallmark of academic decision-making.
GFC Standing Committees

- Academic Planning (APC)
- Executive (EXEC)
- Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)
- Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries (UABC)
- Facilities Development (FDC)
- University Teaching Awards (UTAC)
- Nominating (NOM)
- Student Conduct Policy (SCPC)
- Academic Standards (ASC)

Council on Student Affairs (COSA)
GFC Principles for Delegation of Authority

GFC Principles for Standing Committee Composition

GFC Roles and Responsibilities of Members

GFC Meeting Procedural Rules

Report of the GFC Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority - April 2017

Report of the GFC Executive Transition Committee - Implementation of ad hoc Committee recommendations - April 2019
Resources for Members

GFC Guidebook

Member Zone
  • Committee Terms of Reference
  • Past Agendas and Minutes
  • Upcoming Materials

Governance Team
GFC Academic Planning Committee

Mandate: Oversight of institution wide implications to the university’s longer term academic, research, financial, and facilities development. Internationalization, indigenous, and information technology policies and initiatives.

Some Previous Agenda Items:
• New Centres and Institutes
• Student Fees, New International Tuition Model
• International Strategic Plan
• Comprehensive Institutional Plan
• Enrolment
• Alberta Credentials Framework
• Quality Assurance Process and Reports
• Programs - New, Terminations, Changes
• Policy - Animal Ethics

GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference
What to Expect at a Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

• Action Items, Consent Agenda
• Discussion Items
• Early Consultation Items
• Information Items
• Question Period
What do we do if a fire alarm goes off during the meeting?
Questions?