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
- Self-governing

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)
General Faculties Council (GFC)

GFC Composition

- Ex Officio
- Elected Academic Staff
- Statutory Students
- Appointed Students
- Other Appointed Members*

* Board, Non-Academic Staff, Library Staff, APO, FSO, ATS, Dean of Students, St. Joseph’s College, AASUA, Chair’s Council
GFC Standing Committees

General Faculties Council - Academic Governance at the U of A
GFC Principles

Delegation of Authority
Committee Composition
Roles and Responsibilities of Members
Procedural Rules
Delegation of Authority

Timely and efficient decision-making
Allows GFC to focus on substantive and strategic issues
Accountable and transparent
Reviewed regularly

*Does not have to be exercised* – Option to refer matters within mandate to full GFC

Early consultation is built into the system

[**GFC Principles for Delegation of Authority**](#)
Standing Committee Composition

Diversity and broad representation

Elected members > ex-officio members

Majority of elected members from GFC

Election of vice-chair – GFC member when possible

Ex-officio and cross-reps only as necessary

GFC Principles for Standing Committee Composition
1. Understand GFC
2. Attend Meetings
3. Participate!
4. Manage Conflict of Interest and Act Ethically
5. Ask Questions
6. Communicate Information to Constituents

GFC Roles and Responsibilities of Members
Purpose:

To assist rather than impede the conduct of business

To facilitate inclusive and respectful dialogue

To ensure efficient decision making
Objective of the Executive Summary: Contains a high-level summary for the committee about why the proposal is before the committee for consideration.

- Action required by the committee (motion/ discussion/information)
- Purpose, rationale and a high level briefing of the proposal
The Executive Summary

**Engagement and Routing** (include meeting dates)

Consultation and Stakeholder Participation (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)

- **Those who are actively participating:**
  - 

- **Those who have been consulted:**
  - 

- **Those who have been informed:**
  - 

Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)

- Engagement and consultations (who has seen the proposal and in what capacity)
- Roadmap of the governance approval route
- Proposal’s alignment with the institutional strategic plan, *For the Public Good*
- Legislative compliance and jurisdiction (summary references to the applicable legislation, terms of reference, policy)
So far:

Orientation/ Education - [GFC Guidebook](#)

Board/GFC/Senate Summit

Early Consultation – weigh in on strategic issues

Standing Committee Terms of Reference
Delegated Authority:

- Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing Regulations
- Physical Testing and Immunization of Students
- Certificates
- Faculty of Extension Non-Credit Programs
**ex-officio** members:

- Chair
- Registrar
- Arts
- Science
- FGSR
- VPs(Academic) - SU and GSA

ASC members – 3 year rotation
What do we do if a fire alarm goes off during the meeting?
Questions?