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

LEGALISATION: *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)
Collegial Governance

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
Mandate:
The Council on Student Affairs is charged with providing considered input to ensure proposals and policies before GFC are evaluated in light of their impact on students at the University of Alberta.

COSA Terms of Reference
What to Expect at a Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

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