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

GFC Principles for Delegation of Authority

GFC Principles for Standing Committee Composition

GFC Roles and Responsibilities of Members

GFC Meeting Procedural Rules
Delegated Authority from the Board of Governors:

• To approve General Space Programs for academic units

• To approve proposals concerning the design and use of all new facilities and the repurposing of existing facilities
Responsibilities:

To recommend to APC concerning policy regarding:

• Planning – Comprehensive Faculties Development plan and LRDP

• Facilities – physical facilities, parking and transportation, land usage (owned or leased)
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 Outline of Issue

- 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)
ad hoc Committee Recommendations

So far:

- Orientation/ Education - GFC Guidebook
- Board/GFC/Senate Summit
- Early Consultation – weigh in on strategic issues
- Standing Committee Terms of Reference
What do we do if a fire alarm goes off during the meeting?
Questions?