GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY		ISTRY		Meeting Minutes				
Committee	FoMD Faculty	Council						
Members:		garn (Chair) e Post-Secondary Learning Act nted by those faculty members member present.	Date : Time:	March 25, 2025 4:00pm				
Called to Order:	4:00pm		Location:	Via Zoom				
Guests	None		Scribe:	Erin Neil				
Approval of agenda	Approved by co	onsensus with no additions.						
Approval of previous meeting Minutes	Date: Novembe	er 12, 2024 and January 25, 2025 Daniels and SECONDED by A. Underhill to a	pprove the mir	nutes as circulated. ALL IN FAVOU	R. CARRIED.			
Meeting Attachments:	All attachments	s provided via email March 4, 2025						
Торіс		Si	ummary		Action by whom	Target Date	Status	
2. Provin		 A celebration and acknowledgment The expression of interest for the pole Aim to have the new appointment i 2. Provincial Budget – Key Impacts Capital Funding: 	will be held. osition has close n place by July 1 ciences Building University and p (7.2% increase Y and CSB. erm decrease (~ generation effor R) ends in 2027. eral agreements institutions expe n, School of Pub of Health, AHS. collaboration wir	d; interviews are in progress. remodeling (not new construction). hilanthropy underway. OY). \$59M deficit). ts ongoing. involving provincial entities. cted. lic Health, effective July 1.	ics, Medicine, Surgery, Ob/0	Gyn, Anesthesia	ı, Oncology,	

Topic Summary	Action by Whom	Target Date	Status
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	Welcome extended to all new faculty members.			
	7. Biomedical Science Review			
	Led by Deputy Dean Dr. Tom Stelfox.			
	 Review prompted by changes in funding models and strategic needs. 			
	 Goal: Reassess and optimize structure/support for discovery science. 			
	Historical funding ended in 2011; need for sustainable recruitment and salary support strategies.			
2. Deputy Dean Report	Dr. T. Stelfox provided update:			
	Biomedical Sciences Review – Update			
	1. Background and History			
	 Discussions around the need for a Biomedical Sciences Review predated formal action. 			
	 Faculty Town Hall was held to begin formal consultation. 			
	• Terms of Reference were drafted by the Dean's Executive Committee, reviewed by department chairs, and approved on Jan 6, 2024.			
	Goal: Ensure future success in biomedical sciences across research, education, and service.			
	2. Working Group Formation			
	 Membership drawn from faculty nominations; voting used where needed. 			
	 Group includes diverse representation: trainees, early/mid/late career researchers, admin/technical staff. 			
	 Representation from 8 departments and various roles across the Faculty. 			
	3. Scope of the Review			
	 Focused on Pillar 1: Foundational biomedical science (molecular, cellular, physiological mechanisms of health/disease). 			
	 Encompasses research, education, and service across all relevant departments and units. 			
	4. Context and Rationale			
	 Institutional and external funding have declined (e.g., AFM(HFMR) discontinued, budget flat since 2020). 			
	• Aim: Reconcile reduced investments with people, programs, and infrastructure to sustain excellence and impact.			
	5. Work Plan Overview			
	Eight key components:			
	1. Define success for biomedical science at the faculty level.			
	2. Establish baseline: who is involved and how they allocate time.			
	3. Literature synthesis: organizational best practices.			
	4. Environmental scan: how other institutions adapt.			
	5. Internal consultations (ongoing).			
	6. External review (3 reviewers: 1 internal-UofA, 2 external).			
	7. Present at Faculty leadership retreat (May).			
	8. Final recommendations report by end of June.			
	6. Engagement Opportunities			
	Faculty encouraged to participate via:			
	 Town halls, focus groups, surveys. 			
	 Direct outreach to working group members. 			
	 Staying informed via website and Dean's newsletter. 			
	7. Upcoming Town Hall			
	• Date: April 16, 12:00–1:00 PM			
	Location: Classroom D and Zoom			

Topic

Vice Dean Education	
a. Update	Dr. S. Schipper provided update:
	1. Medical School Admissions
	 Successful MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews) held with hundreds of applicants.
	• Thanks extended to Laura Stovel and her team, faculty, and community members for their support.
	2. Medical School Expansion – Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP)
	Ongoing development of the Grand Prairie site.
	Upcoming leadership retreat in Grand Prairie to finalize key elements before welcoming students in August.
	 Special recognition to Daryl Rolston and Dr. Richard Martin for leadership and preceptor recruitment in Northern Alberta. DCME (Destanguistic Medical Education)
	3. PGME (Postgraduate Medical Education)
	 Preparation underway for Royal College and CFPC accreditation surveys in November. Theoleste Val Masses, De Levenses, Change descenterants and a decision to the fit for the inequality of the test of test
	 Thanks to Val Mason, Dr. Lawrence Chung, departments, and administrative staff for their efforts. 4. New Syllabus Tool
	 A new optional syllabus tool (not Canvas-based) is available to assist course organization and publication.
	 Faculty are encouraged to explore it and contact the Education Office for support or access.
	5. Medical Education Grants
	Health Professions Education Grants now available:
	• Two \$2,500 learner grants
	 One early-career faculty grant
	 One academic staff grant
	 One \$20,000 interprofessional team grant
	Contact: Dr. Hamza (PGME) for details.
	6. Med Ed Summer Studentships
	Funded through the Gilbert Chair, led by Dr. Carol Hodgson.
	 Supports medical education research projects (not basic science).
	• Faculty interested in hosting a summer student should reach out soon (deadline approaching).
	7. MD/MSc Program
	New MD/MSc degree program approved by Programs Committee.
	Congratulations to Dr. Alan Underhill and team for their work on this initiative.
	8. Awards and Recognition
	David Cook Award presented to the DDS Curriculum Renewal Committee for comprehensive curriculum reform.
	 Skakun Award for sustained excellence in education awarded to Dr. Shelley Ross – congratulations to all recipients.
	9. Admissions Committee Changes
	 Dr. Laura Stovel to present proposed changes to the MD Program Admissions Committee structure. Due to generate directly to changes acquire Foculty Council committee structure.
	 Due to governance, all substantive changes require Faculty Council approval, as the committee reports directly to Council. Depresed up dates aim to support the NAMP supportion and adjust upting membrane in accordingly.
	 Proposed updates aim to support the NAMP expansion and adjust voting membership accordingly.
b.	Dr. L. Stovel presented:
	MD Admissions Committee ToR with NAMP Edits Highlighted (February 2025) UPDATED.pdf
	Motion: That Faculty Council Approve the amended MD Admissions Committee Terms of Reference, to include changes related to the Northern Alberta

Торіс	Summary	Action by Whom	Target	Status
			Date	

			Medical Program (NAMP). Moved by: Dr. L. Stovel. Seconded by Dr. A. Underhill. Opened for discussion. Vote: – 95% in favour.
4.	Vice	-Faculty Affairs	
	a.	Update	Dr. E. Yacyshyn provided update: 1. New Associate Dean Appointment • Dr. Sandy Dong appointed incoming Associate Dean, Clinical Faculty. • Thanks extended to Dr. Dong, the selection committee, and Dr. Jonathan Choy for his service in the role. 2. Faculty Development Associate Dean – EOI • Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Associate Dean, Faculty Development role has been announced. • Interested applicants encouraged to apply; questions can be directed to Faculty Affairs. 3. Faculty Annual Report (FAR) • FAR system expected to open May 1, pending IST confirmation. 4. Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) – Terms of Reference Updates • Proposed amendments to FEC Terms of Reference Updates • Deputy Dean (Dr. Stelfox) added to membership as ex officio, non-voting (votes only when acting as Dean's designate). • Assistant Dean, Access, Community & Belonging (currently Lisa Purdy) added as resource member. • Clarification of 3-year term for elected members, with eligibility for re-election. • Encouragement of greater departmental and equity-deserving group representation. PAPPOVEDEM DEC ALIG 2004 TOR for FEC FC March 2005 pdf Motion: That Faculty Council Approve the amended Faculty Evaluation Committee Terms of Reference. Moved by: Dr. E. Yacyshyn. Seconded by: Dr. A.
	b.	GFC Update	Simmonds. Opened for discussion. Vote: 88% in favour. Carried.
5.	Vice	-Deans Research	2025-01-27-gfc-report-to-senate.pdf 2025-02-24-gfc-report-to-senate.pdf
	a.	Update – Basic	Dr. R. Lehner provided presented:
	b.	Fall 2024 CIHR Project Grant Competition	Dr. R. Lehner spoke to: Fall 2024 CIHR Project Grant competition report.pdf
	C.	Third Party Process	Dr. D. Fast presented:
6.	Ann	ouncements	None

Торіс	Summary	Action by Whom	Target Date	Status
Next Meeting	May 27, 2025 – 400pm-530pm			
Approval Date:	Approved May 27, 2025			



Office of Accountability:	Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	MD Admissions
Approver:	Faculty Council (Dean's Executive Committee)
Scope:	Terms of Reference. Compliance with this policy applies to all members of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry MD Admissions Committee

MD Admissions Committee Terms of Reference

Overview

The Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act gives General Faculties Council (GFC) responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over "academic affairs" (Section 26(1)). Providing for the admission of students to the MD Program has been delegated by the GFC to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD). The MD Admissions Committee is a Standing Committee of the FoMD Faculty Council. The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) Standards and Elements document asserts the final authority and responsibility to the MD Admissions Committee for the selection of students to the program and requires that the selection of individual medical students for admission is not influenced by any political or financial factors. The accreditation standards requires that the faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection, and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and made decisions about, medical student application, selection and admission.

MEMBERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Working with the Faculty, recommend the criteria for the admission of students to Faculty Council such that students preparing to study medicine meet requirements to prepare them for success in completing medical school.
- b. Using the eligibility requirements and selection criteria approved by Faculty Council and listed in the University calendar, the committee will independently select students to offer admission to the MD Program, free of any influence from political or *financial factors*.
- c. Regularly evaluate the admissions process and student performance to ensure the Faculty's success in meeting the strategic plans of the Faculty, the University and the needs of the people of Alberta.



- d. The committee must develop and support an admissions process for applicants to medical school that broadens diversity (as referenced in the current Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Diversity Policy), and is approved by Faculty Council.
- e. All members of the MD Admissions Committee will abide by the University of Alberta (UAPPOL) Conflict Policy Conflict of Interest and Commitment and Institutional Conflict Policy.

In the context of the MD Admissions Committee, a conflict of interest includes the situation where a member of the Committee has a personal or financial relationship with an applicant or applicants, or a person connected to them, that removes or could be perceived to remove the Committee member's ability to be impartial and unbiased in carrying out their duties on the Admissions Committee.

MEMBERSHIP is representative of our Faculty, learners and the public and is composed of voting and non-voting members.

Voting members include:

- a. Assistant Dean, MD Admissions who serves as chair and is responsible for calling all meetings; may invite non-committee members of staff and faculty to address specific issues or act as a resource as required.
- b. Ten elected Faculty representatives.
- c. Five members, recommended by the Assistant Dean, and appointed by the Dean, which include one public member, one Indigenous member of the Indigenous Health Admissions Subcommittee, one Black Scholar (FoMD Faculty representative), one rural representative, and the Regional Admissions Lead for the Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP).
- d. Five student representatives (voting):
 - One Preclerkship representative (Year II Student)
 - One Clerkship representative (Year IV Student)
 - One Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association (IMDSA) representative
 - One Black Medical Student's Association (BMSA) representative
 - One Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP) representative

Alternate student members will only attend meetings in the absence of the primary member:

- One Preclerkship representative (Year I Student)
- One Clerkship representative (Year III Student)



- One Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association (IMDSA) Alternate representative
- One Black Medical Student's Association (BMSA) Alternate representative
- One Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP) representative

Non-voting members include:

- a. Registrar, University of Alberta
- b. Associate Dean, MD Program
- c. Regional Academic Lead, Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP)
- d. Senate Observer, University of Alberta

Non-voting Registrar and Senate Observer members are included in the composition of the MD Admissions Committee membership per the University of Alberta Quota Program Admissions Committee Terms of Reference.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURAL RULES

- 1. Quorum is 50% of voting members plus one, and the Chair, in person attendance or by teleconference.
- 2. Chair votes in the event of a tie.
- 3. Meetings in which selection and adjudication decisions are made will be closed sessions. Secret ballots will be used for votes related to selection/adjudication as is feasible and at the request of a voting member.
- 4. The MD Program office is the official record holder for meeting materials and minutes. Minutes for open meetings will be available to the Faculty; minutes for closed meetings will be held by the MD Program office and will not be accessible to the public due to the confidential nature of the contents and because the materials document the adjudication process.
- 5. Proxies are not allowed.
- 6. The committee will meet twice each academic year and at the call of the Chair. The Chair is supported by the Admissions and Academic Records Coordinator, MD Program.
- 7. Attendance by faculty members is required and less than 50% attendance without advance notice to the Chair may result in review of membership.
- 8. The terms of elected and appointed members are four years in length with exception of the student representatives. Elected faculty may be offered one additional term.
- 9. The Chair may invite non–Committee members of staff and faculty to address specific issues, or act as a resource as required; these guests are non-voting.



- 10. Committee members also serve as readers and evaluators for applicants' personal activities and reference letters. Committee members are asked to refrain from writing reference letters for students applying to Medicine at the University of Alberta and to not participate in the MD Program Interviews.
- 11. In the event the Assistant Dean is unable to perform the duties of chair (for example, conflict of interest or emergency), a faculty member of the MD Admissions Committee may be elected by the committee to act as chair.
- 12. Final approval of procedure and policy changes concerning admissions is provided by Faculty Council (via the Dean's Executive Committee).
- 13. These Terms of Reference are to be reviewed and updated every three years at a minimum.

DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.

Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) <u>http://cacms-cafmc.ca/</u>	The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) ensures that Canadian medical faculties' MD programs meet the quality expected when producing tomorrow's doctors. Medical schools demonstrating compliance are afforded accreditation, a necessary condition for a program's graduates to be licensed as physicians.
Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP)	The regional campus of the University of Alberta's MD Program based out of Grande Prairie, Alberta.

RELATED LINKS

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Guide

<u>University of Alberta – Changing the Story: An Integrated Action Plan for Transforming</u> <u>Our Vibrant and Interconnected University Community</u>

<u>Conflict Policy – Conflict of Interest and Commitment and Institutional Conflict</u>

Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment Reporting and Assessment Procedure

Indigenous Health Admissions Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

Faculty Council - Section 55.5.10

Quota Program Admissions Committees: Terms of Reference



APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
Faculty Council	Approved	2014
MDCPC	Approved	July 7, 2017
Dean's Executive Committee (DEC)	Approved	March 3, 2025
Faculty Council (DEC)	Approved	September 5, 2023



Date: Jan 27, 2025 Location: Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Opening Session

The meeting commenced with the Chair acknowledging the territory and welcoming new members. The agenda was approved as presented and President and Chair Bill Flanagan provided updates on:

- The third-party encampment review
- Google storage update
- Budget Update

Consent Agenda

New members appointed to General Faculties Council (GFC)

ACTION ITEMS

Admission Policy - Rescission of Code of Applicant Behaviour (COAB)

N. Rodenburg emphasized aligning the change with the Student Academic Integrity Policy Suite (SAIP), incorporating Code of Applicant Behaviour (COAB) elements into the Admissions Policy. She noted its low utilization, with only six formal cases despite high application volumes. There were no questions and the motion was passed.

Admission Policy - Dates & Deadlines

N. Rodenburg proposed removing GFC approval for date and deadline changes in the *University Calendar* to improve clarity for applicants and students. She outlined an implementation plan pending approval.

Members raised concerns about:

- Ensuring applicants have access to updated deadlines.
- Potential challenges for smaller programs needing flexible adjustments and the risk of slowing the process further.

Composition of the GFC Programs Committee

The motion was approved that the General Faculties Council revise the composition of the GFC Programs Committee to include the Vice-Provost (Access, Community and Belonging) as a voting member to take effect upon approval.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

University Funds Investment Policy - Draft

T. Gilchrist connected the University Funds Investment Policy revision to demands from the 2024 encampments, highlighting the disclosure of three years of investment records and upcoming changes. He outlined next steps,



including the release of a "What We Heard" document and an expanded responsible investment section focusing on investor collaboration.

Members raised questions about:

- The impact of current student concerns on long-term endowment investments.
- The choice of an active investment strategy over a passive one.
- Prioritizing high returns versus long-term, lower-yield investments.
- Risk mitigation and how the policy changes align with that goal.
- Whether the proposed language meets industry standards.

Update on AI at the University of Alberta

K. Mündel provided an update on the steering committee's development of AI tools and resources, including the draft Framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI), inviting member feedback. He cited Gemini in Google Workspace as an example of AI integration.

Members raised questions and comments on:

- Monitoring AI use for grading and establishing accountability measures in course outlines.
- The availability of other Google Workspace AI tools beyond Gemini.
- Whether faculty, students, and staff can continue using other software.
- Ensuring data remains within Google Workspace, given current restrictions on Gemini's access to Drive data.

Online Graduate Strategy

J. Causgrove Dunn announced a call for proposals for developing interdisciplinary online graduate certificates targeting working professionals and mature students. These certificates will be designed to stack into future competency-based modules (CBMs). She highlighted the 230% growth in registrations since 2018/19 and emphasized the efficiency of modular development.

Members raised questions about:

- How stackability will work, including potential repeated application fees.
- Competitor models offering admission-fee-free pathways.
- Program completion timelines and possible extensions.

Question Period

President Flanagan fielded questions and comments from members on various topics, including:

- The name change of the Office of the Vice-Provost (ACB), citing lack of student consultation and potential impact on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles.
- Whether the University plans to revise EDI terminology across policies and how this reflects institutional priorities.
- Possible confusion for academic staff applying for tri-council grants due to the terminology shift.
- The consultation process behind the name change and GFC's involvement in the decision.
- The rebranding of EDI to ACB without faculty association consultation, noting equity language in Article 23 of the Collective Agreement remains in effect until 2028.



- Student safety concerns, including security incidents, underreporting, and a recent case involving an Indigenous student, questioning the University's alert protocols and intervention processes.
- The move to a six-cycle GFC, questioning whether GFC had decision-making authority and expressing concerns about meeting constraints and deliberation time.
- The UASU's advocacy against "First Day Access," which led to an SU council decision opposing it, and a question about why the issue is not being discussed in GFC plenary.

Information Reports

Reports from various committees were noted.

Closing Session

The meeting was adjourned, with the next session scheduled for February 24, 2025.

This report encapsulates the key discussions and decisions made during the General Faculties Council meeting on January 27, 2025.



Date: Feb 24, 2025 Location: Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Opening Session

The meeting commenced with the Chair acknowledging the territory and welcoming new members. The agenda was approved as presented and President and Chair Bill Flanagan provided updates on:

- The Launch of Changing the Story: An Integrated Action Plan for transforming our vibrant and interconnected university community on February 12
- First Peoples' House, Information item 9.5, emphasized the importance of this new space for the University.
- The Provincial Budget will be released on Thursday, Feb. 27 the Chair has been invited to the lock-up and to watch the budget speech in the Legislature.
- Encouraged members to attend the special budget briefing for GFC members on March 10, 2025
- The Chair invited E Osei to provide some comments on behalf of the GFC Nominating Committee. She spoke to her experience and encouraged members to invite their students, colleagues and friends to put their names forward for the 52 forthcoming student vacancies on GFC.

Consent Agenda

New members appointed and received to General Faculties Council (GFC)

ACTION ITEMS

Built for Purpose: The University's Strategic Campus Plan - Draft

T. Gilchrist detailed the document's purpose, extensive consultations, and recent revisions. V. Yiu emphasized the plan's significance for enrollment management, and A. Bhatia thanked the steering committee, directing members to the "What We Heard" document. There were no questions and the motion was moved and seconded.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discrimination & Harassment and Accommodation Policy Suites - Draft

The Chair emphasized members' accountability for the policy suite and the role of standing committees in reviewing drafts. M. Chisholm introduced stakeholders involved in the updates, referencing the 2022 revisions for compliance and improvement.

J. Oltean outlined the new suite, highlighting the decision to create two policies and the University's legal obligations. R. Sanghera detailed key changes, including separate procedures for faculty and staff and a new student appeal accommodation review. C. Smith linked the updates to the Strategic Plan.



Members asked about interim measures, particularly non-disciplinary conditions for individuals accused of discrimination or harassment.

Annual Report on Enrolment

The President noted the value of this report in showing the University's progress in meeting its goals for growth, as set out in *SHAPE* the University's strategic plan.

N Rodenburg presented the report noting the joint responsibility to produce the report and noted:

- Total enrolment, the increase to the number of Indigenous students, and the breakdown of International enrolment;
- Retention rates, application statistics, and enrolment growth planning; and
- Trends in enrolment and application and enrolment pathways

A question was asked about reduction in thesis-based graduate students (but increase in certificate program enrolments). Further details will be forthcoming.

Members inquired about:

- Better illustrating undergraduate student distribution across faculties.
- Program fill rates.
- The impact of thesis-based program growth, student demographics, and comparison with the University of Calgary.
- Inclusion of postgraduate medical education data.
- International student yield rates amid IRCC policy changes.
- Data on postdoctoral fellows (PDFs), including demographics, international representation, and comparisons with other universities.
- The University's ability to attract PDFs and supporting data.
- How the report addresses accessibility, equity, and inclusion in enrollment management.

Report from GFC Programs Committee

J. Causgrove Dunn explained the rationale for updating GFC on the GFC Programs Committee's work. She noted that the report highlights program innovation approvals, as well as actions resulting from Quality Assurance reviews and responses to strategic priorities, such as the University's implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Members acknowledged the Graduate Certificate from the College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) and its collaboration with the Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and Science

Question Period

Regarding the question on potential labor disruption, members inquired about:



- How the University would manage the impacts of a strike, including grant management, CCID suspension, and procurement card usage, and expressed concern about the potential consequences for the University.
- D. Elliott, expressing concern that the previously provided responses were inadequate, reiterated the following questions for B. Flanagan, T. Gilchrist, and V. Yiu
- The distinction between a strike and a lockout, and whether the effects of each are controlled by the Association or the University.
- Whether the employer would commit to never locking out Association members during collective bargaining.
- Whether the University would disclose the government mandate influencing the employer's positions.

Regarding the First Day Access program, members discussed:

- The differences between the Academic Materials Program and the current iteration.
- The University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) position contesting the program.
- Whether the University will generate revenue from the First Day Access program.
- Given student dissatisfaction with the proposed program, why the University is proceeding with the initiative.
- Whether students, as the primary stakeholders, should have the final decision, regardless of potential financial impacts.
- Why an opt-in program was not considered.
- Whether an agreement could be established to ensure the program would never be used as a revenue source for the University.
- Whether the UASU will maintain a seat on the Coalition during the program's implementation.
- The negative impact of the student affordability crisis and the inadequacy of an opt-out program.
- Concerns that program proponents are not listening to student feedback, and a request for clarification on the definition of "consultation."
- How the First Day Access program will collaborate with teaching staff to prevent unnecessary expenses by including non-essential resources.
- The tendency for pilot program services to become permanent, and the University's commitment to program implementation timelines.
- Why First Day Access was not placed on the GFC agenda for decision.

Information Reports

Reports from various committees were noted.

Closing Session

The meeting was adjourned, with the next sessions scheduled for March 10, 2025 (Online GFC Budget Update) and March 31, 2025.

This report encapsulates the key discussions and decisions made during the General Faculties Council meeting on February 24, 2025.

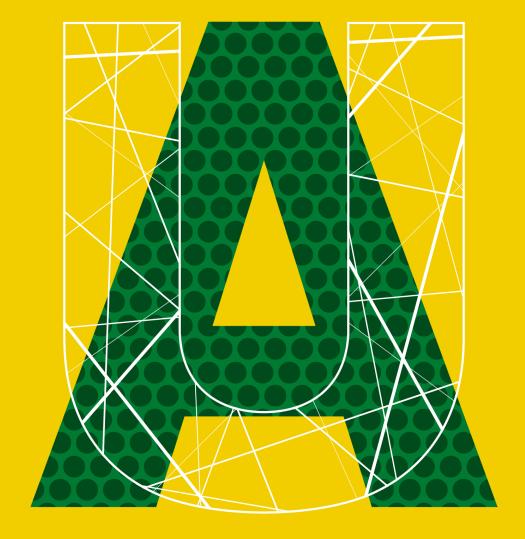
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry – Faculty Council

Vice Dean Research – Basic Science Dr. R. Lehner Update



CONGRATULATIONS!





Dr. Vivian Mushahwar (DoM)

- \$24M New Frontiers in Research Fund Transformation (NFRF-T)
- Only 6 awarded
- Interdisciplinary research program to develop smartwear with built-in sensors that will aid in the mobility and independence of individuals with neuromusculoskeletal weaknesses and motor impairment
- 64 researchers from UofA (CHS/CNAS/CSSH), Canada, US and Europe

• Appointed as the inaugural Director of iSMART

Fall 2024 CIHR PG Recipients

- National success rate 17%, FoMD success rate 21%; ~\$13.8M
- Additionally, FoMD faculty is a Co-PI on a PG awarded to an external PI

Babita Agrawal (Surgery) Todd Alexander (Pediatrics) Sean Bagshaw (Critical Care Medicine) Aminu Bello (Medicine) Wael Elhenawy (MMI, ECR) Paul Forsythe (Medicine) Zamaneh Kassiri (Physiology) Bradley Kerr (A&PM)

Fully funded PG awarded to FoMD faculty as Co-PI: Gavin Oudit (Medicine)

Priority Announcement funding to FoMD faculty as PI: Zhixiang Wang (MedGen)

Elaine Leslie (Physiology) Patrick MacDonald (Pharmacology) Puneeta Tandon (Medicine) David Olson (Ob/Gyn) Joseph Yuk Ting (Pediatrics) Frank Wuest (Oncology) Carrie Ye (2) (Medicine, ECR)

Dr. Anastassia Voronova (MedGen/CellBio)

• Killam Accelerator Research Award

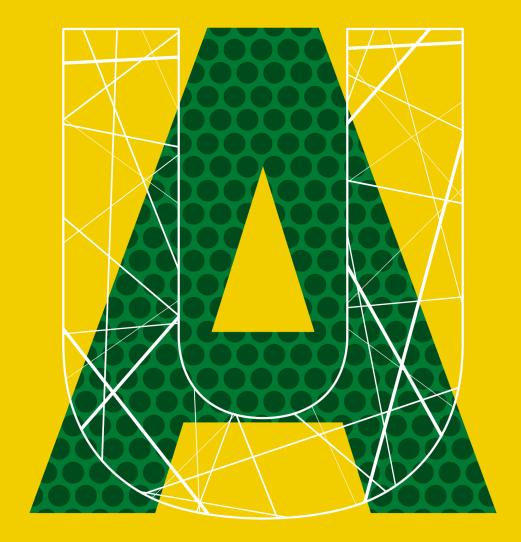
Awarded to early career faculty members based on the outstanding promise shown by the faculty member in their research output and the impact of their scholarly activity

VPRI:

'in recognition of outstanding promise as a leader in the field' 'demonstrated impressive research trajectory'

UPDATES





Institute Director Searches

- Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute (NMHI)
- Dr. Douglas Zochodne's term as Director is ending on June 30, 2025
- Internal call for applicants completed
- Search and Recommendation Committee formed
- Vision Presentations in April (will be broadly advertised)
- LKS Institute of Virology (LKS IoV)
- Dr. Lorne Tyrrell is stepping down from Director role
- LKS IoV Director Transition Advisory Committee formed
- Open call posting in late April (expected)



Prepared by Gareth Corry, Research Partner (College of Health Sciences), January 31, 2025

Purpose: To provide a rapid, institution-wide summary of the results of the Fall 2024 CIHR Project Grant competition for all applications submitted by the University of Alberta (UofA). **A more detailed analysis report, including comparison among U15 institutions and their affiliates, career stages, CIHR themes/pillars, etc., will follow within the next few weeks.**

Data source: National data were obtained from the CIHR Project Grant: Fall 2024 results <u>webpage</u> (posted by CIHR on January 30, 2025). Internal application data were provided by UofA Research Administration Services.

Key takeaway points

- The national success rate for fully funded Project Grants was 17%, while the UofA success rate was 21%. Both success rates are higher than for the previous competition (15% and 12%, respectively). For the first time since the Fall 2022 competition, the UofA success rate was both >20% and higher than the national success rate.
- The UofA submitted 121 applications in total, continuing an upward trend over the last five competitions. Of these applications, 25 received full funding, and three received Priority Announcement awards.
- The UofA was awarded a total of \$19,905,763 in the Fall 2024 Project Grant competition, including fully funded Project Grants and Priority Announcement awards. In comparison, the UofA was awarded a total of \$12,010,329 in the Spring 2024 competition. The average total budget for fully funded Project Grants awarded to the UofA was \$784,231, compared to the national average of \$907,743.

Competition Results

Nationally, 2,631 applications were submitted to the Fall 2024 CIHR Project Grant competition. The number of fully funded Project Grants was 453, for a 17% national success rate. Additionally, 105 Priority Announcement awards were approved. No Bridge Grants were approved this competition.

The UofA submitted 121 applications to the Fall 2024 competition, up from 112 in the Spring 2024 competition. Of these applications, 25 were fully funded (21% success rate). Five (5) Early Career Researchers (ECRs) were awarded full Project Grants, two of whom submitted two fully funded applications. In addition to their two fully funded awards, both of these ECRs were awarded \$25,000 Early Career Investigator Prizes, one in <u>Cancer</u> and one in <u>Research in Aging</u>.

Of the fully funded UofA applications, sixteen (16) were awarded to Nominated Principal Applicants (NPAs) in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, four (4) were awarded to NPAs in the Faculty of Nursing, and one (1) was awarded to applicants in each of the Faculty of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculty of Science, and School of Public Health. A breakdown of results by Faculty can be found in **Table 1**.

Faculty*	# submitted	% of total submitted	# funded	% of number funded	% success	Total funding
ALES	4	3%	1	4%	25%	\$879,750
Engineering	4	3%	0	0%	0%	\$0
FoMD	78	64%	16	64%	21%	\$13,395,493
Nursing	10	8%	4	16%	40%	\$1,723,545
FPPS	6	5%	1	4%	17%	\$868,275
Rehab Med	4	3%	1	4%	25%	\$937,126
KSR	3	2%	0	0%	0%	\$0
Science	9	7%	1	4%	11%	\$665,550
SPH	3	2%	1	4%	33%	\$1,136,024
TOTAL (UofA)	121	100%	25	100%	21%	\$19,605,763

Table 1. Summary of submitted and fully funded applications by Faculty (UofA Nominat	ed Principal
Applicants).	

*ALES, Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences; FoMD, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry; FPPS, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; KSR, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation; SPH, School of Public Health

Nationally, approximately \$411 million was awarded in the Fall 2024 competition.¹ The average total budget for all funded Project Grants was \$907,743. A total of \$14,110,000 was awarded among 105 Priority Announcement grants, and 16 supplemental prizes were awarded for a total of \$400,000.

The total UofA funding amount for full Project Grants was \$19,605,763, up from \$11,410,329 in the Spring 2024 competition, a 72% increase. The average total budget for fully funded Project Grants at the UofA was \$784,231, down from \$815,024 in the Spring 2024 competition. A list of fully funded UofA applications can be found in **Table 2**. In addition, three (3) UofA applications received Priority Announcement funding, each for one year and \$100,000 (**Table 3**). In

¹ CIHR applied an across-the-board reduction of 23.5% to the budgets of funded applications to allow a larger number of highly ranked projects to be funded.

comparison, four (4) UofA applications were approved for Priority Announcement funding (total \$600,000) in the Spring 2024 competition.

Table 2. Fully funded Project Grants awarded to UofA Nominated Principal Applicants.

*indicates Early Career Researcher (within five years of the date of their first independent research-related appointment, plus any extensions (e.g., Covid-related) and eligible leaves).

Nominated Principal Applicant (bold) Other PI(s) listed after the NPA	Faculty	Project Title	Peer Review Committee	Total Award	Term (yrs)
Agrawal, Babita	FoMD	Studies on a broadly-protective novel lipopeptides-based intranasal vaccine for SARS-CoV2	Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$956,250	5
Alexander, Todd	FoMD	Altered Proximal Tubule Calcium Reabsorption: Molecular Studies Informing Targeted Kidney Stone TherapiesHematology, Digestive Disease & Kidney\$		\$983,025	5
Bagshaw, Sean Wald, Ron (University of Toronto)	FoMD	LoW Dose-Intensity vs. Standard Dose- Intensity COntinuous Renal ReplaceMent Therapy in Critically III Patients (WISDOM): A Pilot Randomized Trial	Clinical Investigation - C: Digestive, Endocrine and Excretory Systems	\$329,292	3
Beaupre, Lauren Jones, Allyson (FRM)	FRM	Adapting Rehabilitation Delivery for Maximum Impact at Home-2 (ReDI-2): A Pragmatic Randomized Trial Comparing Virtual Individual Physical Therapy (IPT) and Group-based PT (GPT) to each other and to Usual Arthritis Care for Rural Albertans living with Hip or Knee Osteoarthritis	Health Services Evaluation & Interventions Research	\$937,126	4.5
Bello, Aminu Jindal, Kailash (FoMD) Oudit, Gavin (FoMD) Sarin, Christopher (University of Calgary)	FoMD	Prevent and Treat Diabetes for Healthy Living in Indigenous Communities of Alberta (Prev-Treat)	Indigenous Health Research	\$734,400	5
* Duan, Yinfei Estabrooks, Carole (Nursing) Silvius, James (Alberta Health Services)	Nursing	Lifetime and workplace traumatic events among care aides who work in long-term care homes: Influences on job burnout, mental health, and intention to leave	Health Policy & Systems Management Research	\$350,369	3
*Elhenawy, Wael	FoMD	Deciphering the role of biofilms in Crohn's disease	Microbiology & Infectious Diseases	\$918,000	5

Forsythe, Paul	FoMD	Understanding Pulmonary Neuroendocrine Cells as Allergen	Respiratory System	\$918,000	5
		Sensors and Immune Modulators			
*Fowler, Casey	Science	Deciphering the complex biological program of Salmonella Typhi typhoid toxin			5
Kassiri, Zamaneh	FoMD	Modulation of endothelial cells to reduce plaque formation, independent from plasma cholesterol levelsCardiovascular System - A: Cells and Tissues		\$699,975	5
Kerr, Bradley	FoMD	Inflammation, plasticity and pain: Examining sex differences in autoimmune related pain Basis of Behavioural Processes		\$1,055,700	5
Kleib, Manal	Nursing	Empowering Canadian Nurses to Deliver the Digital Health Future	Health Services Evaluation & Interventions Research	\$275,400	3
Lavasanifar, Afsaneh	FPPS	Nano-carriers of novel inhibitors of DNA repair for enhanced therapy in unresectable lung cancer	Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$868,275	5
Leslie, Elaine	FoMD	The Influence of Selenium on Arsenic Transport Pathways in Human Hepatocytes and Erythrocytes	Pharmacology & Toxicology	\$1,074,825	5
MacDonald, Patrick	FoMD	Cellular mechanisms tuning insulin secretion to meet metabolic demand	Diabetes, Obesity, Lipid & Lipoprotein Disorders	\$872,100	5
Olson, David Chemtob, Sylvain (Université de Montréal)	FoMD	Prolonging gestation and improving newborn outcomes with a novel IL-1 receptor modulator	Commercialization	\$1,269,901	3
Proctor, Spencer	ALES	Validation and scale up of novel serum-free media variants of chP3R99 mAb against atherogenesis	Cardiovascular System - C: Vascular System	\$879,750	5
Spitzer, Denise	SPH	Coerced Contraception and Indonesian Migrant Workers in Asia: Implications for Reproductive Justice and Global Health		\$1,136,024	4
Tandon, Puneeta Wright, Gail (Canadian PBC Society)	FoMD	CarEL: A Caregiver E-health program for chronic Liver disease - a multicentre randomized controlled trial to improve caregiver outcomes		\$967,724	3.5

* Tate, Kaitlyn Cummings, Greta (Nursing) Hoben, Matthias (York University) Symonds-Brown, Holly (Nursing)	Nursing	The Supporting Older Adults at Home (SOAH) Project: Examining the association of home health service activities with the risk of transition from home to facility-based continuing care settings	Social Dimensions in Aging	\$569,926	3
*Tate, Kaitlyn Bartel, Reagan (Métis Nation of Alberta) Deschenes, Sadie (Nursing) Roach, Pamela (University of Calgary)	Nursing	Rooted in Home: Survey development and exploration of Métis perspectives on the care needs of older adults when aging in their communities	Indigenous Health Research	\$527,850	3
Ting, Yuk Joseph Beltempo, Marc (McGill University) Shah, Prakeshkumar (University of Toronto)	FoMD	Developing a national approach to surveillance and prevention for neonatal ventilator-associated pneumonia	Clinical Investigation - A: Reproduction, Maternal, Child and Youth Health	\$612,000	4
Wuest, Frank	FoMD	133/135La radiopharmaceuticals: Novel radiotheragnostics for PET imaging and Meitner-Auger electron (MAE) therapy in nuclear medicine	Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$906,525	5
*Ye, Carrie	FoMD	ChatRheum: Developing and evaluating a source-verified large language model to answer rheumatology patient questions	Health Services Evaluation & Interventions Research	\$504,900	4
*Ye, Carrie	FoMD	Gaining Insight into Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Associated Inflammatory Arthritis Using Administrative Health Data	Clinical Investigation – B: Arthritis, Bone, Skin and Cartilage	\$592,876	4

Table 3. Priority Announcement funding awarded to UofA Nominated Principal Applicants.

Nominated Principal Applicant	Faculty	Project Title	Peer Review Committee	Total Award	Term (yrs)
Davenport, Margaret	KSR	International Practice and Policy for Pregnant and Postpartum Athletes	Gender, Sex, & Health	\$100,000	1
Punjani, Neelam	Nursing	Co-Creating Innovative Digital Knowledge Translation Tools for Parents to Prevent Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	Knowledge Translation Research	\$100,000	1
Wang, Zhixiang	FoMD	Novel function of Rac1 in mRNA splicing and its regulation and implication in breast cancer	Cell Biology – Molecular/Fundamental	\$100,000	1

Analysis and summary

For the first time since the Fall 2022 Project Grant competition, the UofA success rate for fully funded awards was above the national success rate. National and UofA success rates over the past five years are shown in **Figure 1**. The UofA success rate was also above 20% for the first time since the Fall 2022 competition. Total funding for fully funded applications and total funding overall were both the highest amounts acquired by the UofA in the last five years (10 competitions) (data not shown).

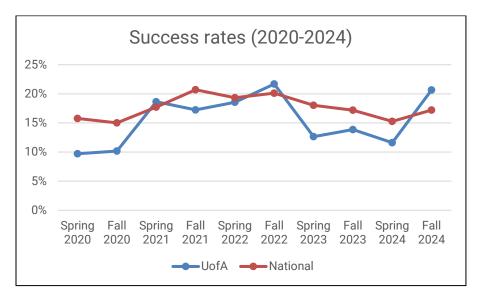


Figure 1. Comparison of the five-year UofA and national success rates for fully funded Project Grants.

The number of applications submitted to the Fall 2024 competition, both nationally and by the UofA, were higher than the previous intake (**Figure 2**). This continues an upward trend in submission numbers since the Fall 2022 competition. At the end of 2024, CIHR announced an infusion of \$540.3M over the next five years, including an increase to the total available funds for the Fall 2024 Project Grant competition.² As a result, the approximately \$411M allocated for the Fall 2024 competition was the most of any Project Grant intake, not factoring for inflation. The Fall 2024 competition saw 453 applications receive full funding, the most in the last ten competition. The 25 fully funded applications from the UofA were also the most in any competition submitted and funded nationally, the UofA increased its success rate considerably compared to the three previous competitions.

² See: <u>https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/54123.html</u>

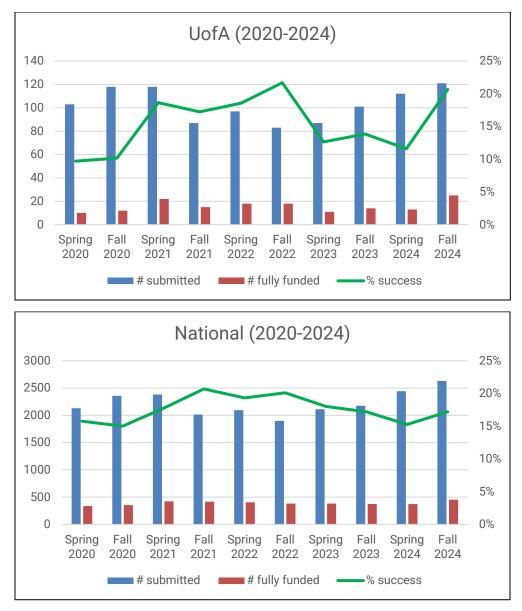


Figure 2. Comparison of applications submitted and funded by the UofA (top) and nationally (bottom) over the last ten Project Grant competitions.

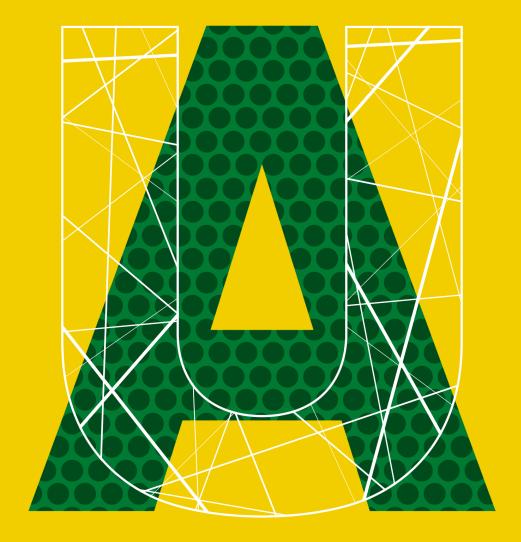
Based on a high-level analysis of the results, the Fall 2024 Project Grant competition represents one of the UofA's best overall performances of the last several years. It will be important to analyze the UofA's results and compare them to national data to gain a better understanding of what factors underlie this improvement in performance. As stated above, the recent infusion of Tri-Agency funding allowed CIHR to support more applications than was originally planned.³ As such, the increase in the number of the UofA's fully funded grants could merely be a result of the increase in overall funding, i.e., "a rising tide lifts all boats." Nevertheless, surveys of UofA applicants to the last couple of Project Grant competitions suggest that institutional supports,

³ See: <u>https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/54185.html</u>

such as professional editing, internal peer review, and reference documents created by the Research Partner Network, are desired and are generally found to be helpful in developing competitive applications (data not shown). Continued grant development support for Project Grant applicants and, indeed, all CIHR applicants, will be imperative to maintaining a strong showing by the UofA in future funding competitions.

3rd Party Processes





Context

- Capturing value of research through company creation is valued
- Early stage companies require nurturing
- We have to balance support for these ventures with capturing costs of resources used.

3rd Party Definitions

- Spin-Offs
 - have signed a Master Relationship Agreement with UA
- Off Campus Groups
 - outside academic associations, community, NPGs
- Commercial Ventures
 - incorporated established companies
- Other Groups
 - government agencies (AHS, APL), hospital groups, etc.

Spin-Offs

- Based on discoveries, inventions, technologies, IP developed at UA by UA researchers
- IP, inventions or technologies fully disclosed to Tech Transfer Services, and have an active report of invention (ROI)
- Have to have a formal relationship agreement with UA (TTS)
- Need approvals from the Dean or delegate and UA to operate on campus (requires a lease agreement issued by USOF)
- COI disclosures and management plan need to be provided by any UA staff involved in the Spin-Off
- Must operate with their own staff, no UA personnel (excluding the PI) can serve as Spin-Off employee at the same time without a reduced UA appointment

3rd Party

Funding managed by 3rd Party: Venture capital, Grants, Contracts

3rd Party projects only

Executed by 3rd Party researchers and employees

Academic

Funding managed by UA: Grants, Donations, Contracts (to PI)

Academic & negotiated contract projects only

Executed by UA students, postdocs, research associates, technologists

AGREEMENTS

Management of COI, IP UA agreement Lease agreement Insurance Business visitor waivers Facility access agreements

Spin-off costs

- Year 1 heavily subsidized (operating costs less 50%) ICR at 10%
- Year 2 lightly subsidized (operating costs less 25%) ICR at 10%
- Year 3 at operating costs, ICR at 10%
- Year 4 initial step toward market rates (operating costs plus 25%) ICR at 30%
- Year 5+ (with special approval may be up to operating costs plus 200% for offices, operating costs plus 800% for labs)
- if the entity has raised more than \$5 million in capital, the Year 4 rates apply effective the next anniversary of the relationship with UofA
- Where rates apply in excess of operating costs (year 4 and year 5 only), the Procedure outlines the intention that this revenue will be held in a capital reserve to be prioritized for equipment by VPRI to support Core Facilities.
- Fee for service type work (core labs, animal use, etc) charged at industry rates

3rd Party Process FoMD

- 1. Request for space (External Parties' Use of FoMD Space Form)
- 2. FoMD 3rd Party Assessment Committee (3PAC)
- 3. 3PAC provides recommendation to the Dean (via DEC)
- 4. Approval by Facilities and VPRI
- 5. Decision letter to the 3rd Party requestor
- 6. Occupancy allowed only when all agreements are signed

3PAC Composition:

- **Co-Chairs:** Vice Deans, Research (Basic and Clinical)
- Members:Vice Dean, Faculty AffairsFaculty General ManagerDirector, Research and InnovationDirector, Facilities Planning and Projects