



1. **Purpose of the Committee** The General Faculties Council (“**GFC**”) Committee for the Verification of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (“**FNMI**”) Documentation (the “**Committee**”) is a standing committee with delegated authority from GFC to determine the standards, and approve policy and **Regulation** respecting the verification of Documentation for FNMI, as outlined in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act (1982)* (Canada). These documents are verified to determine eligibility of **FNMI Applicants** for **Admissions** and **SFS** in cases where they are reserved for FNMI students and applicants.

2. **Delegated Authority from GFC**

Given the specific responsibilities of the University to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and as permitted by the PSLA, GFC has delegated to the Committee the following powers, duties and functions:

- 2.1. **Determine Admission Regulation - PSLA s. 26(1)(n)**

GFC is responsible for establishing Regulations respecting the Admission of persons to the University as students. In order to ensure that decision making is informed by FNMI perspectives in cases where seats are reserved for FNMI students, GFC has delegated to the Committee the authority to:

- (a) verify **FNMI Documentation** to determine eligibility for Admission of FNMI Applicants;
 - (b) determine Regulation respecting the kinds of information required of FNMI Applicants to support application(s) for Admission; and
 - (c) deliberate on cases of FNMI Applicants who could obtain FNMI Documentation but who have not done so.

- 2.2. **Make Regulations Respecting Academic Awards - PSLA s. 26(1)(m)**

GFC has the authority to make rules and Regulations respecting academic awards. GFC has approved the *Student Financial Supports Policy* to establish Regulation of SFS. In order to ensure that decision making on Regulations respecting SFS for FNMI Students is informed by FNMI perspectives, GFC has delegated to the Committee the authority to:

- (a) verify FNMI Documentation to determine the eligibility of students and applicants for SFS reserved for, available or offered to, FNMI Students, as per the **SFS Terms of Reference**; and
 - (b) determine Regulations respecting the kinds of information required of FNMI students to support application(s) for SFS.



3. **Composition of the Committee**

Members (14)

All appointed members of the committee shall be asked to provide First Nations, Métis and Inuit documentation to the Co-Chairs for verification.

Ex-officio (5)

- Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research), co-Chair or delegate
- Deputy Provost (Students & Enrolment), co-Chair or delegate
- Dean, Faculty of Native Studies or delegate
- Assistant Dean, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students (or Director of First Peoples' House) or delegate
- Assistant Registrar, Indigenous Enrolment Management Office of the Registrar or delegate

Appointed (9)

- Three (3) FNMI community members to be recruited, selected and appointed by the co-Chairs. Such members will serve for a 3-year term, renewable for additional 3-year terms, with a maximum service of 9 years:
 - One (1) First Nations representative
 - One (1) Métis representative
 - One (1) Inuit representative
- Four (4) FNMI employees to be appointed by the co-Chairs and asked to serve a 3-year term:
 - Three (3) from Faculties with Admissions pathways reserved for FNMI Applicants
 - One (1) nominated by the Vice-Provost & Dean, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
- Two (2) eligible First Nations, Métis or Inuit students to serve a 1-year term:
 - One (1) undergraduate student to be selected by the Indigenous Students' Union
 - One (1) graduate student to be selected by the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association

Non-voting Resource Members (5)

- Vice-Provost & University Registrar (or designate)
- Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support (Resource Member)
- Representative from Legal Counsel (Resource Member)
- Representative from Information and Privacy Office (Resource Member)
- Representative from University Governance (Resource Member)



4. **Decision Making and Reporting**

- 4.1. Subject to a determination by the co-Chair, any meeting, or part of a meeting of the Committee, may be designated as a closed session to deal with confidential matters. All closed session matters, including discussion, action, and review of FNMI Documentation, will be kept in confidence by members of the Committee. Minutes summarizing the discussion and decisions of a closed session will be taken and provided to the Committee for approval at the subsequent meeting. Records will be filed confidentially with the Office of the University Secretary.
- 4.2. In relation to Section 2.2, the Committee will have the responsibility to report to GFC annually on the Committee review process and any changes to the list of FNMI Documentation.

5. **Definitions and Interpretations**

- 5.1. In these Terms of Reference, and in addition to terms otherwise defined in these Terms of Reference, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (a) **“Admissions”** means, for the purpose of Admission of FNMI Applicants, acceptance of a candidate for enrolment in a specified program and Faculty;
 - (b) **“Application”** means an Application for Admission to the University of Alberta whether submitted in electronic or paper format;
 - (c) **“Faculty”** means a division of the University governed by a faculty council;
 - (d) **“FNMI Applicant”** means, for the purpose of application and Admission to the University, and consistent with Section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act (1982)* (Canada), an individual who is a First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis person of Canada who has submitted a University application for Admission and/or:
 - (i) has submitted any documents intended to support the individual’s application to the University;
 - (ii) sits a University sponsored or administered exam, the successful completion of which is considered an application or Admission requirement;
 - (iii) displays an intention to seek Admission to the University at any time;
 - (e) **“FNMI Documentation”** means documentation submitted to support applications for Admissions, and SFS reserved for an FNMI Student which is published on the Office of the Registrar’s website;



- (f) **“FNMI Student”** means a First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit student who is currently enrolled (full-time or part-time) in undergraduate or graduate studies at the University and who is seeking to be eligible for SFS reserved for FNMI Students;
- (g) **“PSLA”** means the *Post-secondary Learning Act* S.A. 2003, c. P-19.5, as may be amended from time to time;
- (h) **“Regulation”** means rules, procedures, policies, standards, frameworks and other regulatory content approved by the General Faculties Council; and
- (i) **“SFS”** means student financial supports which are items of monetary and/or other value awarded to a student by the University or by donors through the University on the basis of completion of requirements outlined in the selection criteria or terms of reference and may include:
 - (i) merit-based student financial supports such as awards, scholarships, prizes, and University medals. Merit-based financial supports are competitive; successful completion of the requirements does not guarantee receipt of the funding;
 - (ii) need-based student financial supports such as bursaries, loans, and emergency funding;
 - (iii) hybrid awards require undergraduate academic performance and indicated financial need, and will be titled as “Awards”;
- (j) **“SFS Terms of Reference”** provide all relevant information regarding how the student financial support will be disbursed, including the financial terms, the selection and eligibility criteria, and any other information pertinent to the administration; and
- (k) **“University”** means the University of Alberta, a body corporate continued under the PSLA.

6. Links

[List of FNMI Documentation from the Office of the Registrar](#)

[Admissions Policy](#)

[Student Financial Supports Policy](#)

Approved by General Faculties Council:

June 6, 2021

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