



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2015
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Brenda Leskiw	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nat Kav	Vice-Chair, Dean (Delegate)
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean
Nathalie Kermoal	Member (Delegate), Dean
Stuart Landon	Member (Delegate), Dean
Helen Madill	Member (Delegate), Dean
Paul Melancon	Member (Delegate), Dean
Sam Stowe	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Harry Prest	Member (Delegate), Dean
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Student Ombudservice
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), V-P Academic (GSA)
Kasia Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC)

Non-Voting Members:

Melissa Padfield	Member, Associate Registrar or Delegate
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Presenter(s):

Fraser Brenneis	Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Sharon Compton	Associate Chair/Director, Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Lihong Yang	Assistant Registrar (Admissions)
Brenda Leskiw	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Motion: Kav/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 21, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Discussion:

A member made note a few errors within the Minutes of May 21, 2015.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Prest

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of May 21, 2015, as amended.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

Dr Olive Yonge, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), provided members with an update on the University of Alberta budget. She also acknowledged the hard work of the Chair, Dr Brenda Leskiw.

The Chair commented on a number of relevant items to members. She thanked members for their hard work, as well as Ms Kate Peters and Ms Kathleen Brough, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the members of University Governance.

The Chair thanked Dr Harry Prest for his years of service on the Committee as he prepares to take administrative leave followed by retirement. She also recognized Ms Sam Stowe from the Office of the Registrar.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

The Following Proposal(s) are Deemed Minor/Editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate) (3.A.i and iii)) by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC ASC, and are APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM GFC IN A SINGLE OMNIBUS MOTION

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Discussion:

The Chair made note of a question submitted by Mr Fahim Rahman in regards to this item, adding that an adequate answer had been provided prior to the meeting.

Omnibus Motion: Kav/Landon

4A. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Department of Dentistry: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer and Physical Testing (Immunization) Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer and physical testing (immunization) requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Department of Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment A, to be effective in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed changes to Admission/Transfer requirements for BSc Radiation Therapy

THAT GFC Academic Standard Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to admission/transfer requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as outlined in Attachment B, to be effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

4C. Faculty of Arts: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission, Graduation Requirements for Co-operative Education (Work Experience) Program, and BA Criminology

THAT GFC Academic Standard Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to admission/transfer and graduation requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, and as outlined in Attachment C, to take effect in 2016-17.

CARRIED

4D. Faculty of Arts: Proposed Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements for a new Bachelor of Arts (BA) with Honors/Combined Honors in Human Geography

THAT GFC Academic Standard Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, and as outlined in Attachment D, to take effect in 2016-17.

CARRIED

4E. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals and Denials for June 2015

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the proposal for approval of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment E, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for an Embedded Certificate in Biomedical Research, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Fraser Brenneis, Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: To establish an embedded credit Research Certificate in Biomedical Research offered by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. To establish formal recognition of the many research

experiences in biomedical sciences which are available to undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Dr Brenneis thanked members of GFC ASC Subcommittee on Standards (SOS) for their careful, preliminary review of this proposal. He provided members with a brief summary of the proposal, noting that the departments listed in it offer an extensive amount of teaching and that the students within these departments conduct a substantial amount of research and that this certificate program aims to recognize these students for such endeavors.

During the discussion in regards to this proposal, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: support for this proposal; that Alberta School of Business students would welcome the opportunity to participate in this certificate; that the timeline of the certificate is problematic for students in Augustana Faculty; a suggestion for an editorial amendment to the Calendar copy.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Kav

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the Embedded Credit Certificate in Biomedical Research as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment 1 and 2, as amended, for implementation in Fall 2015.

CARRIED

6. Proposal to Suspend Admission to Dental Hygiene diploma program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis, Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Sharon Compton, Associate Chair/Director, Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed suspension of the Dental Hygiene diploma program is part of the School of Dentistry's Curriculum Redesign project. The diploma curriculum has expanded over many years without any increase in the length of study resulting in an extremely heavy load for students. The proposal outlines the need to suspend the Dental Hygiene diploma and describes how the curriculum will be redistributed over three years as part of the Bachelor of Science (Dental Hygiene Specialization) program.

Discussion:

Dr Compton explained that the proposal aims to suspend the two year dental hygiene diploma program, adding that the intensity of this program has increased over the years but that the length of time for this program has not changed. She stated that this has resulted in feedback from students that this is an extremely challenging program to undertake, due to the increased content. She reported that there is a fourth year for this program already in existence, to allow students to earn a degree. She stated that data supports the fact that students are enrolling in this extra fourth year to earn the Bachelor of Science (Dental Hygiene Specialization). She noted that this also better aligns shared learning experiences with other students in the Department of Dentistry.

Dr Brenneis noted one minor change to the proposal regarding the proper application deadline and another regarding a minor detail which was inadvertently omitted in the Calendar copy.

During the discussion in regards to this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: support for this proposal; that this proposal allows students more time to study and enjoy campus life.

Motion: Ross/Madill

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission to the Dental Hygiene diploma program, as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect September 2017.

CARRIED

7. Proposal to revise English Language Proficiency requirement for applicants to Bridging Programs, Faculty of Extension

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar (Admissions)

Purpose of the Proposal: To increase the English Language Proficiency requirement for admission to Bridging programs by modification to the IELTS and Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) band score. Based on analysis of new students in 2012 and 2013, the Office of the Registrar found a positive correlation between success in the required English for Academic Purposes courses and higher IELTS overall and band scores for students in the Bridging Program.

Discussion:

Ms Yang provided members with a summary of this proposal, noting that it is evidenced-based and that it aims to establish minimum band score requirements for admission in relation to both IELTS and TOEFL. She noted that going forward, the Office of the Registrar will work closely with the Faculties to gather data in relation to students enrolled in degree programs.

The Chair noted that the name of the English Language Program has been changed to the English Language School. She also pointed out that the English Language School will no longer be conducting the IELTS.

During the extensive discussion surrounding this proposal, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: support for this proposal as a starting point to address the broad and very timely issue of English language proficiency across the University of Alberta; concern that this proposal does not go far enough; that the data suggests that this will only impact a few students; that most students meet the average due to higher scores on the listening and reading bands, but not necessarily on the writing band, which is problematic in a university setting; that the University of Alberta's minimum band scores are not in line with other large research-intensive institutions and that more needs to be done; that this issue is very crucial and that instructors are being forced to change their standards to accommodate the students who are not fluent in English; that this is not fair to domestic students enrolled in courses; that this is a large issue which impacts the University's reputation; that the University's recent approach to recruiting international students has been driven by financial necessity and that more has to be done to get the academy up to standards; that there is huge potential for cheating on these exams; that poor proficiency in written English can lead to discipline problems; that both written and spoken English skills are important for all students in the Alberta School of Business, because of the amount of team projects within the Faculty courses; that students panic and make choices which can lead to academic discipline issues, and that this is not fair to students, instructors, and other students in the classes; that there is a high financial and emotional cost to admitting students who do not possess adequate English

skills; that international students lacking adequate English skills also suffer in the appeal hearings; that this also negatively impacts relationships with clinical partners, for students participating in clinical placements as part of their program; a suggestion to remove stage one altogether; support for this proposal and that this is a step forward; that some courses offer extra assistance for students through Teaching Assistants, and that there have been instances where there is preferential treatment expressed towards assisting international students over domestic students; an instance of an instructor allowing students to write an exam in Chinese; whether there is a way to identify which students are coming through the English Language School versus those who enter at the Faculty level.

The Chair noted that this item should come before the Committee again for further discussion and possible additional action.

A member suggested creating a separate working group to examine this issue further. The Chair noted that Ms Melissa Padfield, Deputy Registrar, will keep this item before the Committee.

Motion: Kav/Landon

THAT GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to the English Language Proficiency requirement for applicants to Bridging Programs as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective Fall 2016.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item

There were no documents.

Presenter: Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

The Chair provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE):

To be Proposed:

- Suspension of BSc in Bioinformatics
- MSc in Audiology
- MSc in Urban and Regional Planning

Currently with IAE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Two post-Master's certificates in Business Fundamentals, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Suspension proposal for Bilingual BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

Currently with Campus Alberta Quality Council Undergoing Quality Review:

(To be submitted)- Master of Accounting

External Reviews of Proposals from Other Institutions:

- None

A member enquired about the prolonged Government approval of the Business certificates. A member provided an update in regards to several other pending proposals.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.