



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Tammy Hopper, Chair
Joel Agarwal
J Nelson Amaral
Radim Barta
Angela Bayduza
Dion Brocks
Jason Carey
Janice Causgrove Dunn
Gerda de Vries
Bill Dunn
Nathalie Kermoal
Andras Marosi
Bernadette Martin

Karsten Mündel
Rebecca Nagel
Shannon O'Byrne
Christy Raymond
Norma Rodenburg
Victoria Ruetalo
Hassan Safouhi
Shirley Schipper
non-voting:
Meg Brolley
Marion Haggarty-France
Natalie Sharpe
Helen Vallianatos

REGRETS:

Amy Dambrowitz
Mohamad Jamaledine
Scott Jeffrey
Jeff Johnson
Fay Fletcher
Kristof Van Assche

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC ASC

Motion: Mündel/Kermoal

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC ASC

The Chair welcomed new and returning members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

The Chair noted that the Committee was now operating under new Terms of Reference as of July 1, 2019 and that ASC would be asked to review and comment on Program Proposals. The Chair also pointed to the Consent Agenda and explained that items that were not considered to require full discussion would be considered with one motion but that if anyone had a question or felt that an item in the consent agenda should be discussed they should let the Secretary to GFC know so that the someone will be at the meeting to speak to the item.

The Chair also briefly mentioned the Quality Assurance Review Process that was mandated by Campus Alberta Quality Council and that more information about reviews would be shared with the committee though the year.

3. Welcome and Committee Member Development and Orientation (no documents)

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France, University Secretary; Meg Brolley, Secretary to GFC and Manager of GFC Services

Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley gave a presentation on the structure of academic governance at the University of Alberta. They spoke about recent changes to processes stemming from the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority. They also covered the mandate and role of the Academic Standards Committee, recent agenda topics, and meeting logistics. Ms Haggarty-France and Ms Brolley highlighted the importance of early consultation which allows opportunities for members to engage in early and meaningful debate on important issues. They explained that by participating, members can contribute to the content of significant proposals and shape the direction of policy on matters of significant academic importance or interest before items proceed through the regular approval pathways.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Barta/Carey

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 20, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of June 20, 2019

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

5A. Transfer Credit Approvals for September, 2019

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals for September 2019.

CARRIED

5B. Proposed Changes to Application Deadlines for the BEd After Degree Program, Faculté Saint-Jean

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to application deadlines for the BEd After Degree Program in the Faculté Saint-Jean.

CARRIED

5C. Proposed Changes to Application Requirements for the Doctor of Medicine Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to application requirements for the Doctor of Medicine Program.

CARRIED

5D. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for the BSc in Human Ecology Program, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to academic standing regulations for the BSc in Human Ecology Program.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Elementary Education, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in the Department of Elementary Education, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in Medical Sciences – Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the MSc and PhD programs in Medical Sciences – Obstetrics and Gynecology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MSc and PhD programs in Cancer Sciences and Medical Physics in the Department of Oncology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

10. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Monika Keelan, Associate Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Maria Chia, Graduate Governance and Policy Coordinator, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

Discussion:

Dr Causgrove Dunn explained that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research had undertaken a project to ensure that all of the relevant program and regulation information for graduate programs was up-to-date and accurate in the University Calendar. She noted that as of the current meeting and the approval of items 6 to 11, 51 programs were completed and there were 21 to come forward for approval. The deadline for Departments to submit their approved drafts to FGSR was May 2020.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Ruetalo/Schipper

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the MSc and PhD programs in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

11. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for the Master of Arts in études canadiennes, Faculté Saint-Jean, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Samira ElAtia, Director of Graduate Studies, Faculté Saint-Jean; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Governance and Policy Coordinator, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

Discussion:

Members asked about the French language proficiency requirement. Dr ElAtia affirmed that the website would be updated and the calendar would link to the information.

Motion: Raymond/Mündel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MA in études canadiennes, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculté Saint-Jean, and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

12. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists Program, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jill Hall, Assistant Dean, Professional Programs, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Dion Brocks, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Student Affairs), Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to enable broader enrollment in the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists and to align the language regarding Required to Withdraw between professional programs at the Faculty.

Discussion:

Dr Hall gave an overview of the changes and explained that they were removing the specific Alberta registration requirement to allow broader enrollment of practicing Pharmacists from across Canada. Other updates were meant to align the regulations with the Faculty's other programs.

Dr Brocks noted that the program was successful and expansion was a positive move for the Faculty and the profession.

Members discussed the logistics of organizing practicums across Canada and professional relationships with other provinces, accreditation practices, and the variations in entry to practice degrees for Pharmacists.

Motion: Nagel/Marosi

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to entrance requirements and academic standing regulations for the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program, as submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and as set forth in attachments 1 and 2, for implementation in Winter 2021 and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations, Faculty of Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because the Faculty of Science would like feedback on the proposed changes that will impact the awarding of First Class Honors, With Distinction upon graduation, as well as eliminating First Class Standing in the assessment of Academic Standing.

Discussion:

Dr De Vries explained that it was not always possible to determine if a student's life circumstances warranted the accommodation of a reduced course load. She pointed out that students are facing diverse situations and that accommodation through Accessibility Services was not always appropriate. The Faculty of Science wished to treat students equitably and felt that removing First Class Standing as an annual academic standing honorific, and removing the 24 credit per academic year course load restrictions for 'First-Class Honors' and 'With Distinction' upon Graduation, was the best way to do this.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to: the history of privilege and class in post-secondary and how it relates to first class standing; how the definition of a student has changed over time; whether or not students who can attend full-time should be considered privileged; programs that require full-time attendance and do not have a part-time option; the Duty to Accommodate Policy; alternative, more equitable ways to award first class standing thorough a student's career; what, if any, impact honorifics have on a student's academic or career prospects; the fact that graduate students do not receive honorifics; potential implications for student awards; practices at peer institutions; and the university's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity.

Dr Hopper stepped out of the Chair and Dr Causgrove Dunn assumed the role.

14. Early Consultation – Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC ASC

Discussion:

Dr Hopper explained that the report of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority, in April 2017, made eleven recommendations related to program approvals on campus. Essentially, the pathways were found to be burdensome and convoluted. The GFC Executive Transition Committee, charged with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations, concurred with the findings and, even as some of the recommendations were addressed through revisions to committee terms of reference, noted that further work was needed to achieve the outcomes envisioned by the ad hoc Committee. With this in mind, the GFC Executive Committee established an ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways in January 2019, with a mandate to review the current processes, the recommendations and input from GFC and other stakeholders, and to provide recommendations toward a transparent and straightforward approach consistent with the GFC Principles and Principles of Collegial Governance.

Dr Hopper noted that the committee met over 1.5 days in May, 2019, and that the recommendation coming forward is the establishment of a new GFC standing committee, the GFC Programs Committee, which would consolidate work currently under the responsibilities of APC, ASC, EXEC, and the GFC Policy Manual Section 37. This proposal includes that the components of program approval would be removed from the terms of reference for APC and EXEC, the GFC Policy Manual Section 37 would be rescinded, and ASC would be disbanded. Dr Hopper noted that the key to the success of this model would be that the Programs Committee have a clear governance focus with matters of an administrative nature residing in the Provost's or Registrar's offices as appropriate. She spoke about the Administrative Support Committee to which proposals would come for feedback on all aspects before being routed to the Programs Committee.

Members discussed concerns with the workload, how that could be off-set by administrative work before items enter governance, the memberships of the Programs Committee and the Administrative Support Committee, and that governance oversight should be higher level.

Dr Hopper stepped back into the Chair.

15. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item (no documents)

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Ms Peters gave the following update:

Recently approved:

- New Major in Media Studies
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership, FGSR and Faculty of Education
- Augustana Bachelor of Management Name Change
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership and Administration - Administration scolaire - FGSR and FSJ
- Augustana suspensions - 9 Approved in 2 weeks

Proposed to Government:

- Thesis-based Masters of Library Information Studies load changes

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

Request for External review of the Master of Science in Information Security and Privacy and the Master of Science in Information Security and Privacy. from the University of Calgary

16. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

17. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by email ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

18. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.