



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Tammy Hopper, Chair
Scott Jeffrey
Joel Agarwal
J Nelson Amaral
Radim Barta
Angela Bayduza
Mary Beckie
Dion Brocks
Bill Dunn
Mohamad Jamaledine
Nathalie Kermaal
Mia Lang

Bernadette Martin
Karsten Mundel
Rebecca Nagel
Norman Neumann
Christy Raymond
Norma Rodenburg
Hassan Safouhi
Kristof Van Assche
non-voting:
Amy Dambrowitz
Remonia Stoddardt-Morrison
(delegate)
Helen Vallianatos

REGRETS:

Jason Carey
Janice Causgrove Dunn
Gerda de Vries
Marion Haggarty-France
Andras Marosi
Shannon O'Byrne
Victoria Ruetalo
Natalie Sharpe

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, GFC ASC

Motion: Nagel/Amaral

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, GFC ASC

Discussion:

The Chair acknowledged the tragic loss of the victims of the crash of Flight 752 in Iran. She noted some of the supports available for those who were grieving and recognized the outpouring of support from the university community.

The Chair spoke about the recent Quality Assurance Suite of Activities program reviews for Sociology, Medical Genetics, Dentistry Graduate, and the unit review for the Office of the Dean of Students. She noted that there was good external feedback for the reviews.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Mundel/Kermoal

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of December 12, 2019

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of December 12, 2019.

CARRIED

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. Transfer Credit Approvals for January 2020, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals for January 2020.

CARRIED

B. Proposed Changes to Visiting Student Certificate Program Calendar Copy, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to Calendar information regarding the Visiting Student Certificate Program.

CARRIED

C. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements for the Doctor of Dental Surgery, Advanced Placement Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed change to entrance requirements for the Doctor of Dental Surgery, Advanced Placement Program.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposal from the Faculty of Extension for a Non-credit Certificate: Agrology Technologist Upgrade Certificate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mary Beckie Associate Dean (Academic and Student Affairs), Faculty of Extension; Christie Schultz, Assistant Dean (Academic), Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed Agrology Technologist Upgrade Certificate (Non-credit) is designed to provide specialized training, skills acquisition and knowledge for environmental professionals working within, or seeking to work within the field of agrology and aligned science.

Discussion:

Dr Beckie explained that the certificate was meant to provide professional development for working agrologists. Ms Schultz noted the suggestion of ASC SOS for further consultation with the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences and the resulting revisions to the proposal.

Motion: Jeffrey/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Agrolology Technologist Upgrade Certificate as submitted by the Faculty of Extension, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect Fall Term 2020.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Changes to Language Assessment for Students Registered in the Bachelor of Education Program, Faculté Saint-Jean

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martine Cavanagh, Associate Dean Academic, Faculté Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to lower the minimum acceptable score for the *Diplôme d'études en langue française* (DELF) as an admission requirement to the BEd Program after obtaining a first degree (BEd/Ad) and an admission requirement to the Field Experience for other programs.

Discussion:

Dr Cavanagh gave an overview of the proposed changes to the French language assessment and the rationale for lowering the required oral comprehension component for the DELF. She explained that the diverse francophone community and exposure to different accents outside of France did not mirror the oral comprehension of the DELF. She further noted that test administrators were aware of the test's limitations and were currently working on changes.

Members discussed work on individualized programs for students who had weaker scores in some components, potential exceptions, the elimination of the IB and AP high school exam results as equivalents, the level of French mastery needed to teach French in elementary and secondary school, and the accessibility and cost of the DELF.

Motion: Safouhi/Raymond

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to Language Assessment for students registered in the Bachelor of Education Program in the Faculté Saint-Jean, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Arts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee as the result of an Arts initiative to review and update its Calendar content. The changes are primarily editorial in nature, and focused on clarity of language and removing redundant or outdated material.

Discussion:

Dr Nagel explained that the proposed changes were mostly reorganizing content and information to make use of the online format of the Calendar. She noted the substantive change to the normal course load, from 30 to 24 units of course weight during the Fall/Winter.

Members discussed the differences between honors and general programs, the regulations for transfer into the honors programs from other universities and from other programs at the University of Alberta, and courses from outside of the Faculty of Arts available as electives for Arts degrees.

Motion: Brocks/Barta

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 undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts, as set forth in attachments 1-2, as amended, for publication in the 2020-2021 University Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Student Rights and Responsibilities Resource

Materials and presentation before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Akanksha Bhatnagar, President, University of Alberta Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to gain feedback on a planned approach to improving students' awareness of their rights and responsibilities in the context of University Policy.

Discussion:

Ms Bhatnagar presented the draft resource and noted that it was meant to address the lack of awareness of key policies that outline student rights and responsibilities. She noted that this document would provide a resource for students and staff to find all of the information they need in one place.

Members discussed Faculty specific procedures, the importance of ensuring that data and links are accurate and current, collaboration with the Office of the Student Ombuds and highlighting the help that is available to students, a suggestion to make the preamble language more positive, how the resource will be shared and its usefulness to students as well as staff, the inclusion of the Code of Applicant Behaviour, and that many issues are often handled informally at the Faculty level so it is important to encourage students with questions or concerns to contact their Faculty advisor first.

9. Proposed Revisions to the University of Alberta Handbook on University Certificate Development

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek input on the revisions to the Handbook.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the handbook was taken off the website because it required revisions and that the updated version would be posted as soon as possible.

Members offered feedback regarding the need for letters of support, language around phasing out or teaching out suspended non-credit certificates, and made some editorial suggestions.

10. Recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Dr Hopper stepped out of the Chair and Dr Jeffrey assumed the role.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to discuss the proposed changes to the process for program approval.

Discussion:

Dr Hopper outlined the recommendations of the GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes and asked members for their comments and questions.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed comments including, but not limited to: the recommendations to include someone with non-credit expertise and a support staff member in the composition; the procedure for selection of "appointed members", the Undergraduate and Graduate administrative committees and their links to the Programs Committee, the appropriate size of the membership, representation across the university, the role of the GFC Nominating Committee, and how to ensure the proper balance between administrative support and governance approval.

Dr Jeffrey stepped out of the Chair and Dr Hopper resumed the role.

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

There was no update.

12. Question Period (no documents)

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

Discussion:

A member asked about the selection of the Vice-Chair of the Academic Standards Committee.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by Email Ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.