



General Faculties Council  
Programs Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Tammy Hopper  
J Nelson Amaral  
David Draper  
Joel Gehman  
Florence Glanfield  
Nathalie Kermoal  
Brooke Milne  
Heather Seyl Miyashita  
Karsten Mündel

Melissa Padfield  
Hanne Pearce  
Sachiketha Reddy  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Christopher Sturdy  
Minn-Nyoung Yoon  
*non-voting:*  
Kate Peters  
Natalie Sharpe

**REGRETS:**

Brad Hamdon  
Donia Mounsef  
Helen Vallianatos

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 Programs Committee (PC)

Motion: Sturdy/Padfield

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

*Discussion:*

In her comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- GFC's recommendations to the Board of Governors on Academic Restructuring;
- updated public health restrictions announced by the Government of Alberta related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the delayed start of the 2021 winter term until January 11; and
- Dr Michael Houghton's Nobel Prize for Medicine.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Mündel/Gehman

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 19, 2020

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of November 19, 2020.

**CARRIED**

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- Augustana
- Business
- Engineering
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached course and minor program change submissions from the Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Augustana, Business, Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry, and Nursing.

**CARRIED**

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. Proposal to Allow for Supplemental Exams in the MBA Program

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to academic standing regulations to allow for supplemental exams in the MBA program for the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Proposed Changes to Admissions Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Dietetics Specialization

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Scott Jeffrey, Associate Dean/Academic, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES); Donna Vine, Program Chair, Nutrition and Food Science, ALES; Jim Bohun, Assistant Dean, Academic & Student Programs, ALES

*Purpose of the Proposal:*

The proposed admission change removes a requirement that applicants have no more than \*90 credits towards other BSc NUFS related degrees. In practice, this admission rule excluded potential BSc NUFS students as ineligible to apply to the Dietetic Specialization program, yet these students are the most qualified and the most interested in pursuing a health professional career as a Registered Dietitian.

The purpose of the proposed academic standing changes is twofold:

1. In the case of raising the continuing GPA to 3.0, this is to ensure students achieve the academic standard and demonstrate professional practice requirements of the program in order to gain the clinical knowledge and essential skills to meet competencies in dietetic practice. These requirements are essential in order for graduates of the program to apply and be successful in completing examinations to become an accredited Registered Dietitian, in accordance with requirements set by the College of Dietitians and Alberta Health Services; and
2. In the case of establishing a required course sequence, this is to ensure that students gain the sequential pre-requisite knowledge in courses to be successful in the program and to maintain their year of entry cohort into the program, which is a requirement of the program.

*Discussion:*

Dr Jeffrey and Dr Vine outlined the proposed changes.

There were no questions.

Motion: Ruetalo/Sturdy

THAT GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed admission and academic standing changes for the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Dietetics Specialization as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2021 admission and for publication in 2021-2022 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Changes to Admissions Requirements for Direct Entry to the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Food Science and Technology Specialization, the BSc Honors in Food Science, and the BSc Honors in Nutrition

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Scott Jeffrey, Associate Dean/Academic, ALES; Donna Vine, Program Chair, Nutrition and Food Science, ALES; Jim Bohun, Assistant Dean, Academic & Student Programs, ALES

*Purpose of the Proposal:*

The proposal is before the committee because ALES would like to attract high-quality students to the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Food Science and Technology Specialization, the BSc Honors in Food Science and the BSc Honors in Nutrition. Direct entry allows recruiters to more effectively market these programs as part of the comprehensive high school recruitment activities undertaken by the Faculty and the Registrar's Office. This change is being proposed to align with practices for Specializations and Honors programs in other Faculties.

Clarification of existing Academic Standing regulations for all three programs is included in the proposed calendar entries, but does not involve changes to any standards.

*Discussion:*

Dr Jeffrey and Dr Vine outlined the proposed changes.

A member expressed support of the move to direct entry as a benefit to students.

Motion: Padfield/Yoon

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed admission changes including direct entry from High School into BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Food Science and Technology Specialization, the BSc Honors in Food Science, and the BSc Honors in Nutrition as set forth in attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2021 admission and for publication in 2021-2022 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements to include a Situational Judgement Test, for Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Jennifer Tupper, Dean, Faculty of Education; Bill Dunn, Associate Dean Teacher Education, Faculty of Education

*Purpose of the Proposal:*

The proposal is before the committee to request approval for the proposed changes to the Admissions section of the University Calendar for the Bachelor of Education program. The specific proposed change is to add a situational judgement test (SJT) to the admission requirements. The proposed text for the University Calendar also includes some new informational notes for applicants.

*Discussion:*

The Chair introduced the proposal and noted that the Undergraduate Program Support Team reviewed it in October. She acknowledged that the Faculty of Education had been open to and receptive of the feedback that was offered including concerns about Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and fairness in admissions processes.

Dr Tupper confirmed that the Faculty of Education was committed to increasing diversity of teaching candidates and that they would continue to prioritize Indigenous applicants and those from other equity deserving groups. She observed that Grade Point Average (GPA) alone was not the best indicator of what would make a successful teacher and that GPAs and Grade 12 results were fraught with bias. Dr Tupper noted that the Faculty's position was that more points of information would allow for better admissions decisions. She also spoke about the review and consultation over 18 months that went into this proposal.

Dr Dunn noted that equity concerns were considered early on in their consultation and GPA, writing samples, and interviews were also problematic from an EDI perspective. He explained that the Faculty of Education was not finished with evaluating their admissions and would continue to examine their processes with an EDI lens.

During the discussion, members and presenters asked questions and expressed comments and responses including but not limited to:

- that action needed to be taken regarding EDI and admissions across the university and its programs;
- limits on the data that can be collected on applicants due to legislation;
- a suggestion that a pilot project using SJT would allow for more collection of data before making a decision to implement the test's use;
- that pilots could be problematic because they allowed for a small amount of data to be collected and a larger sample was needed;
- data collected related to the test's use in Australia for admissions to Education programs;
- questions about plans for the weighting of GPA and SJT;
- concerns that applicants may feel pressure to enroll in expensive test preparation courses to increase their score;
- the expense of the test and whether the Faculty would be able to offset the costs for low income applicants;
- concern that students would not have access to their test results;
- exceptions for combined degree students;
- how SJTs were being used for admission in other programs such as Nursing and Dentistry; and
- whether international students would see this test as a barrier and the relatively small number of international students in undergraduate Education programs.

A suggestion was made to amend the motion to require that the use of the SJT would be reviewed for final approval in advance of the 2026 admissions cycle. The proponents were amenable to the suggestion and the amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Dr Tupper noted that the Faculty of Education was deeply committed to EDI and would continue to work to ensure that commitment was not undermined. She noted that there was a substantial body of research that demonstrated that relying on GPA alone was inequitable, and that the Faculty would examine the data going forward with a view to increase EDI across their programs.

Motion: Sturdy/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Education program entrance requirements, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2022 Admissions and to be reviewed for final approval in advance of the 2026 admissions cycle.

**CARRIED**  
*6 opposed*

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 9. The Case for Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Course Signifiers

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Draper, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

*Purpose of the Proposal:* This proposal is coming to GFC PC as it centers around the creation of a new course signifier. Through the creation of a ZTC signifier, the option to create ZTC Certificates and Programs becomes available, a possible point of interest for GFC PC.

*Discussion:*

Mr Draper gave a brief overview of the potential use of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicators and spoke about the financial challenges facing students. He noted that there were several benefits to adopting ZTC indicators including signaling to students that this would be one less expense they would have to face. As there were courses on campus that were currently making use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) the adoption of an indicator would make this more clear to students. He also noted that Kwantlen University advertised entire ZTC degrees.

Members discussed the Library's support and encouragement for Instructors to use and develop OERs, the limitations with certain textbooks and publishers, and a voluntary signifier that was in development to be available for the 2021 fall term.

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

*Presenter(s):* Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

Ms Patrick provided the following update:

We have received three program approvals from the Ministry of Advanced Education since our last meeting, including

- The name change for Faculté's Baccalauréat en Éducation Primaire
- Augustana Faculty's name change proposals - Environmental Studies to Sustainability Studies and Psychology to Psychology and Mental Health

We have no outstanding proposals awaiting approval from the Ministry.

We have not received any System-wide coordination requests from the Ministry of Advanced Education since our last meeting.

### 11. Question Period

There were no questions.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

12. Items Approved by GFC Programs Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

13. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- Email Nov 20, 2020 - Programs Committee Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

**CLOSING SESSION**

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: January 14, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: January 25, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.