



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
J Nelson Amaral
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
(delegate)
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Daniela Carbajal
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Nathalie Kermaal
Stacy Lorenz

Brooke Milne
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Donia Mounsef
Hanne Pearce
Christopher Sturdy
Aman Ullah
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon
Karsten Mündel

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of GFC Programs Committee (PC)

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Ullah

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that the University of Alberta had been granted delegated new program approval status by the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) and that the decision was based on the University's robust internal program development, quality assurance processes, and record of successful development and implementation of new program proposals. The change means that the University will no longer be required to submit Part B of the Ministry Template for new degree proposals to CAQC for review. Moving forward, following institutional review

of Part A and B of the Ministry template, the Office of the Provost will submit a "letter of attestation" to the CAQC who forward a request for Ministry approval of the new program immediately. The rest of the process remains the same with Part A of the proposal being submitted to the Ministry for system coordination review. The University may be subject to audits, so it is important that our internal processes remain as rigorous as they have been. The removal of the CAQC review of Part B will shorten the length of time required to receive a new program approval.

The Chair offered congratulations to the President-elect of the Students' Union, Abner Monteiro, and thanked the students who had put their names forward to serve on the Executive.

The Committee discussed meeting format and there was consensus about moving to a hybrid meeting format. Members emphasized the importance of improving the experience of members joining remotely using available technologies and noted considerations including the need to be inclusive of members from all campuses and to accommodate members who are managing COVID disruptions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Amaral/Seyl-Miyashita

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 10, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of February 10, 2022

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Business

- Science

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 Business and Science.

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. Program Regulations for Credit/No-Credit Courses, Faculty of Engineering

B. Advanced Standing/Laddering into the Master of Education Program, Faculty of Education

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve:

- Program Regulations for Credit/No-Credit Courses from the Faculty of Engineering, as set forth in attachment A;

- Advanced Standing/Laddering into the Master of Education Program from the Faculty of Education, as set forth in attachment B.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield; Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research); and Nella Sajlovic Indigenous Strategies Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee for discussion of the final draft of the Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan (IISP) goals and accountabilities and to solicit feedback on an affirmation document.

Discussion:

The Chair expressed gratitude for the work of Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) and noted that this was the final draft of the content that will form the Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan. F Glanfield explained that the plan had evolved based on feedback from the first round of consultations in the fall by integrating accountabilities and a new budget model that recognizes this work is to be integrated into everything the University does. She also emphasized that Indigenous members of the community had led the work on the plan. She explained that the Indigenous Advisory Council consists of First Nations, Métis and Inuit faculty and staff, and community members.

F Glanfield presented the plan and explained there are significant expectations from Indigenous partners and members of the community for the IISP to effect real change. This includes administrative processes, infrastructures to support student success, quality assurance processes that address curricular gaps in Indigenous ways of knowing, and ethical frameworks for Indigenous-engaged research. Finally, F Glanfield noted that members had received both the plan and an affirmation document that expresses a commitment that the University community is asked to make.

Members expressed strong support for the plan and made comments and asked questions, including:

- How the plan will support making a more just society, and the need for senior leaders to reflect the principles of equity and inclusion;
- How the plan will be picked up by different units across the university and which of the strategic objectives could be implemented first;
- The need for staff to be able to do the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) during work hours because this is part of the work that we all must do;
- That there is a strong foundation for the curricular work to integrate Indigenous world views and that the Programs Committee has an important role to play in advancing these objectives;
- That structures must be inclusive and attentive to Indigenous initiatives and that this should not be an “add-on” to the work of all units across the University;
- An observation that the plan aligns with other plans including the Internationalization of the University and a question as to how specific initiatives in the two portfolios intersect; and
- A question about how data from the Indigenous Student Survey informs the plan.

The Chair invited members to save June 24, 2022 in their calendars as a date for the official launch of the plan.

7. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for Undergraduate Programs in the 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 to provide enough background information for discussion in order to socialize the planned changes ahead of the formal governance approval process.

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members that Programs Committee has delegated authority to make these changes on behalf of GFC and invited G de Vries to present on the proposal for the Bachelor of Science renewal in the Faculty of

Science. The committee members considered the complexity of academic standing regulations within the Faculty of Science and heard about the objective to build a system that is clear for students, ethical and effective.

Members provided feedback, asked questions and made comments including:

- The importance of setting clear expectations for students and communicating them effectively;
- Whether this proposal would be brought forward at the same time as the BSc Framework;
- That all Faculty of Science undergraduate *Calendar* sections would be repealed as a part of the program approvals and that advisors will manage both the old and the new program requirements as the framework is implemented;
- The value of the fair warning system and that while students are responsible for knowing their program requirements, there is a lot of information for them to navigate; and
- That negative academic standing rulings are accompanied by an appeals process and that this process too will be revised.

ACTION ITEMS

8. Proposed Changes to the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Leo Wong, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business; Richard Field, Interim Director of the Peter Loughheed Leadership College (PLLC)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because we want to recognize and certify the knowledge about leadership that undergraduates receive in the course of their academic career.

Discussion:

R Field and L Wong provided a high-level overview of the proposal and the ongoing work to renew the PLLC, especially the changes to experiential learning components.

Members suggested corrections to the list of eligible courses and that the Indigenous Canada MOOC should be included as a prerequisite to ensure students understand the connections between history and contemporary issues in Canadian society. Members noted that background knowledge and understanding of the history of colonization was needed in order for students to effectively engage with the Indigenous worldviews in the required courses. Members emphasized that because the program is training the leaders of tomorrow, it was essential that certificate holders have an understanding of structural racism in Canada. A personal perspective was presented from a student leader who reflected on having been influenced by the acquisition of this knowledge and that it had influenced their ability to engage with Indigenous content and leadership issues throughout their coursework. Members suggested the *Calendar* should indicate that history and Indigenous knowledge and understandings are essential to success in the program, that the Indigenous Canada MOOC is one way to acquire that knowledge, and that the *Calendar* could also indicate that there may be many ways of demonstrating sufficient background knowledge .

The proponents noted that the vision was to have students start on the certificate at the beginning of their studies and that their leadership will evolve as they move through the arc of required courses in the program. They articulated the need for this to be a more holistic vision of how students acquire this knowledge throughout their studies at the University and noted that the certificate's foundational courses will provide some ways for students to engage with Indigenous history. They further made the argument that the intention was that the certificate be less restrictive to allow for more students, potentially thousands, to enroll in the program. The embedded

certificate working group was discussed and their work to create a framework for certificates was noted as a forum for a conversation on whether all certificates should include the MOOC as a prerequisite.

The importance of consultation was discussed, especially of engaging with Indigenous stakeholders. The proponents provided some details on their process.

Members noted that the concerns that had been raised were substantial and asked for clarification on the decision they were being asked to make. The Chair clarified that the motion on the floor was to approve the certificate as set out in the materials before the committee members.

A member made a motion to table asking that there be discussions held about including the Indigenous Canada MOOC as a prerequisite for the program before the proposal be brought forward. The proponents noted that tabling would mean that the changes to the certificate may not be implemented in fall, 2022.

Motion: Pearce/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies as amended and as set forth in attachments 1 and 2 to take effect for fall 2022.

TABLED

Motion: Kermaal/Mounsef

THAT the GFC Programs Committee table the proposed changes to the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies until discussions are held about including the Indigenous Canada MOOC as a prerequisite for the program.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of the Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree Program.

Discussion:

The proponent provided a brief introduction and members discussed the requirements for the MD program.

Motion: Ullah/Seyl-Miyashita

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree as set forth in the attachments and for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

10. Proposed Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Douglas Gleddie, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education, Department of Elementary Education; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek approval for the termination of the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Graduate Certificate.

Discussion:

The proponents emphasized that this certificate had never been launched or enrolled students.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Glanfield/Ullah

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in the Faculty of Education.

CARRIED

11. Proposed Changes to Course Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR, Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the requirements outlined under the credential of Doctorate, Thesis-Based Masters, and Course-based Masters (editorial, and around course requirements).

Discussion:

B Milne explained that the proposal outlines changes for doctoral and thesis-based masters, as well as changes to course-based masters proposals. The Chair clarified that Programs Committee would recommend to General Faculties Council on this change because of the institutional scope of the change.

Committee members asked about implementation deadlines and inclusion in the *University Calendar* and heard that the motion would take effect upon approval by GFC and that it may be integrated into the *Calendar* as an addenda.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Seyl Miyashita

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the changes to the course requirements and exemptions policies for all graduate students, as noted in the included calendar change, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

12. Proposed Changes to Extra-to-Degree Regulations for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the Graduate Policies on courses declared extra-to-degree.

Discussion:

B Milne noted that there was currently no expectation for courses declared extra-to-degree and that students were sometimes enrolling in courses that were not immediately relevant to their degree. Members questioned the

relevance of the Exploration Credits proposal to the discussion noting that the GFC Programs Committee had recently approved it. The proponent clarified that the Exploration Credits was an undergraduate program regulation and that the proposed change is for graduate programs.

Members asked the proponent to articulate the disadvantage of the proposal from an institutional perspective and whether students are paying for the extra-to-degree courses. The proponent clarified that students are allowed a certain number of courses throughout their academic year in their tuition; however, that this proposal would also resolve an existing issue where students transfer credits to higher tuition course-based masters' programs.

A motion was made to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

Motion :Branch-mueller/Mofolayaso

THAT the GFC Programs Committee extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

CARRIED

Motion: Ullah/Haddadkar

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the changes and clarification to the regulations on courses considered Extra-to-Degree, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

13. Proposed Changes to Transfer Credits and Requirements for Graduate Programs, FGSR

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing changes to the "Transfer Credit, Course Exemption, and Credit by Special Assessment" and "Change of Program Requirements" regulations currently published in the calendar.

Discussion:

B Milne noted that the proposal aims to increase clarity for students.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Ullah/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the changes to the transfer credit and exemptions policies for all graduate students, as noted in the included calendar change, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Presenter(s): Carley Roth, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost

Discussion:

C Roth noted that the Office of the Provost was in the process of reviewing two new external program proposals from the University of Calgary - a proposal for a new Bachelor of Design in City Innovation, and from Red Deer Polytechnic - a proposal for a new Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies. She explained that there are currently no University of Alberta program proposals currently with the Ministry and there had been no new Ministry approvals since the February Programs Committee meeting.

15. Question Period

There were no questions.

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: April 14, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: March 21, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.