

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair
Brandon Alakas
Wajid Ali
Pedro Almeida
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Odile Cisneros
Florence Glanfield
Hamid Hassani (delegate)
Anna Hughes

Hanne Pearce
Sean Robertson
Nathan Thiessen
John Ussher
Tracy Whatmore
non-voting:
Brian Pardell
Kate Peters
Ravina Sanghera
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Roger Epp
Rija Kamran
John Lemieux
Sujata Persad
Maite Snauwaert

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator
Faiza Billo

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

We are meeting today on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people.

The Chair asked members to begin by introducing themselves.

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 PC

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)
- Committee Vice-Chair

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

Discussion: The Chair thanked Aman Ullah for accepting to serve as Vice-Chair. She called members' attention to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training module and encouraged them to complete the training.

3. GFC Committee Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services; Heather Richholt, Associate General Faculties Council Secretary

Discussion:

K Peters and H Richholt provided an overview of the committee's authority and their roles and responsibilities as members of GFC. Members were encouraged to complete the University of Alberta's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training modules and to regularly review *Braiding Past, Present, and Future, the University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan*. H Richholt explained the committee's responsibility to approve course and minor program changes made by Faculty Councils in the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 22, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of June 22, 2023

CARRIED

5. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Native Studies
- Nursing
- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- University of Alberta International

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, Native Studies, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rehabilitation Medicine and from University of Alberta International

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Braiding Past, Present and Future and University Programs (no documents)

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research)

Discussion:

F Glanfield thanked members for sharing information about themselves and expressed a hope that by better knowing each other, they could work in better relations. She noted that this was a practice that was rooted in an Indigenous world view where each individual's history, family, and past shapes their perspective. She invited members to read *Braiding Past Present and Future, the University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan* and to learn about the history of relations with First Nations in Canada. She spoke to the history of the University's relationships with Indigenous, First Nations and Métis peoples.

She invited committee members to think of the Sweetgrass teachings as a lens for their work and to consider how people are the strength of the university and can support students becoming who they want to be. She noted that *Braiding* commits us to weaving Indigenous worldviews, histories and perspectives into all programs. She related her past experience as a member of the Academic Planning Committee where she asked all proponents to speak to their efforts to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. She encouraged members to use their voice to influence decision-making.

She pointed to the specific goals set out in the plan and the timelines for implementation. She noted that the work was beginning but that much work remains to be done to implement the goals set out in the plan. She provided an update on the Truth and Reconciliation Report to the Community that reports on the activities to respond to the Calls to Action. This will be the first report and the report will be updated every two years.

Members asked questions and made comments including, but not limited to:

- How the Report would be shared with the community;
- How members could review proposals using *Braiding* as a lens, especially as they acquire understanding of Indigenous worldviews;
- That word searches can be used to see if proposals integrate Indigenous world views, for example by searching for the terms "Indigenous", "Aboriginal", "First Nations"; and
- That reviewing proposals from this perspective was the responsibility of all committee members, not just the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research).

ACTION ITEMS

7. Program Revitalization for the Bachelor of Commerce Program, Faculty of Business

Presenter(s): Michelle Inness, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business

Discussion:

The Chair explained that the proposed changes fell into two categories – those that would be implemented immediately in an addendum to the 2023-2024 *University Calendar*, and those that would be implemented in the 2024-2025 academic year. She suggested that the motion set out in materials could be clarified by being divided into two decisions and asked for a motion to that effect.

There was no discussion on the motion to divide the question.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee divide the motion as follows:

1. THAT the GFC Programs Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Commerce Program for publication in the 2024-2025 Calendar as set forth in the BCom Program Revitalization Proposal, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the BUS Series Integration Change Documents Section 2: Impacted 2024/2025 Calendar Change Documents.

2. THAT the GFC Programs Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Commerce Program as set forth in Section 1: 2023/2024 Calendar Changes, 1A: Major Information and Course Sequencing, for immediate implementation, conditional upon approval by Business Faculty Council.

CARRIED

The Chair invited M Innes to speak to the proposed changes and asked for a mover and seconder for motion 1. M Innes shared the goals for the proposed changes which relate to a revitalisation of the Bachelor of Commerce program.

Concerning Motion 1, the committee discussed:

- The impact of the change on students who may want to declare their majors earlier;
- The standardization of the second year of the program and whether removing some of the elective choices will discourage students from pursuing minors that are essential for interdisciplinarity;
- The impact of the second-year standardization on students pursuing embedded certificates in other faculties;
- How students would be supported in their decision-making on declaring a major;
- How the School of Business was addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Committee Calls to Action and how Indigenization of curricula was contemplated in the program revitalisation; and
- Whether declaring a major later will make it more difficult for students to choose.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Commerce Program for publication in the 2024-2025 Calendar as set forth in the BCom Program Revitalization Proposal, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the BUS Series Integration Change Documents Section 2: Impacted 2024/2025 Calendar Change Documents.

CARRIED

The Chair asked M Innes to clarify why corrections to the 2023-2024 *Calendar* were necessary. M Innes noted that the changes were required to ensure course progression in each of the majors was clear. The complete integration of courses in the calendar will make requirements for progression clear for students already enrolled. The Chair noted that the proposed changes before the Programs Committee had not yet been approved by Business Faculty Council and that members had the option to approve motion 2 with a condition of the approval of faculty council, or to have an e-vote when the Business approval was confirmed.

Members asked questions and made comments:

- That Business 303 had nothing in the course description or learning outcomes concerning Indigenous worldviews;
- That the committee was being pushed to approve before faculty council approval;
- That course descriptions needed to be changed to ensure that courses will include Indigenous content;
- That Business 222 had Indigenous content; and
- How course sequencing can impact student progression.

Concerning the approval, members asked about the number of students on faculty council. Given that there were two student members, members requested that the vote come after faculty council approval so that students had sufficient time to consult their constituents and make their decision.

There was no further discussion and members were informed that they would receive motion 2 by email for electronic vote.

8. Indigenous Course Requirement for BSc program, Faculty of Science

Presenter(s): Jocelyn Hall, Associate Chair, Undergraduate, Biological Sciences, Science, Biological Sciences

Discussion:

J Hall reminded members about the Bachelor of Science (BSc) renewal process where the Faculty of Science had determined they would start a process to Indigenize curricula. She noted that the Faculty had struck a working group that was accompanied by an Elder and that they had recommended that all Science students take one course to introduce them to Indigenous worldviews. They decided that the whole course would need to cover Indigenous perspectives from the country we now call Canada. The Faculty of Science had generated a list of courses which could satisfy this requirement. She noted that the Faculty of Science anticipates that many students will take a course from outside the faculty, Indigenous worldviews in TechnoScience offered by the Faculty of Native Studies.

Members expressed their thanks to the Faculty of Science for doing this work.

There were no further questions.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the addition of an Indigenous Course requirement for Faculty of Science undergraduate programs as set forth in the attachments.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Quality Assurance Templates and Orientation

Item was deferred.

10. 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 University was reviewing seven new program proposals from post-secondary institutions in Alberta, including five from the University of Calgary. She reminded members that the Ministry was still reviewing new programs approved by GFC to be offered by Campus Saint-Jean and that there had been no new program approvals since the June meeting of Programs Committee.

11. Question Period

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

Discussion:

Members asked about the Transdisciplinary program proposals from the University of Calgary. J Causgrove Dunn noted that these programs are being proposed by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Graduate Studies and will act as a home for students wishing to pursue interdisciplinary studies from more than one faculty. She committed to sharing information with the Programs Committee about these program structures.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. ACAT Transfer Credit Approvals/Denials

The Chair noted that as set out in the UAPPOL Transfer Credit Procedure and under the direction of the Vice-Provost and University Registrar, the Administrative Committee for Transfer Credit (ACTC) is tasked with administering transfer credit procedures. She explained that the Programs Committee engaged in this activity in support of the expressed value of increased student mobility by the Province of Alberta.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of PC: October 12, 2023
 - Next Meeting of GFC: September 18, 2023