

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023
SAB 2-31
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

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

Hanne Pearce
Maite Snauwaert
Nathan Thiessen
John Ussher
Tracy Whatmore

non-voting:

Brian Pardell
Kate Peters
Ravina Sanghera
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Wajid Ali
Rija Kamran
John Lemieux
Sujata Persad
Sean Robertson

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

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.

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)- FGSR Name Change

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

Discussion:

The Chair shared information about a name change from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to be considered by the General Faculties Council. She provided details on the University of Calgary's Transdisciplinary graduate program proposals.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Members discussed a change in the course and minor program changes from the Faculty of Augustana and Education regarding status and non-status Indians, Inuit, and Métis applicants. It was suggested that the language should refer directly to *The Constitution Act, 1982*, and the Calendar editor, R Liaw, accepted to make the change. Representatives from the Faculties of Education and Augustana expressed support for the change and the Chair noted this change would be reflected in the motion for the Course, Minor Program and Minor Regulations Changes.

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

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 14, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of September 14, 2023.

CARRIED

4 Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Augustana / Education
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
- Rehabilitation Medicine

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculties of Augustana and Education (as amended), Medicine and Dentistry,, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, and Rehabilitation Medicine.

CARRIED

- ### 5 A. Proposed New Course Designator, DA (Dental Assisting), and New Courses
- B. Program and Regulation Calendar Language for the Certificate in Dental Assisting

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

- ### 6. Proposed New Bioprocessing & Biomanufacturing Option and Suspension of Biomedical Option for the BSc in Chemical Engineering

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Pierre Mertiny, Associate Dean, Undergraduate programs, Faculty of Engineering

Discussion: The Chair noted that the proposed changes related to second-level specializations in existing degree programs and that the Programs Committee was asked to approve. P Mertiny explained rationale for suspending the Biomedical Option, a second-level specialization, emphasizing there were no students currently enrolled. He

provided an overview of the proposed new second-level specialization in Bioprocessing and Biomanufacturing noting the industry demand and the ongoing renewal of programs in the Faculty of Engineering.

Member asked questions and made comments including:

- Whether students could take a biomedical engineering specialization in the Department of Biomedical Engineering which currently only offers graduate programs;
- Consultation with the Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences concerning bioprocessing; and
- Access to Co-op opportunities in the proposed specialization, and how the Faculty will be supporting students to find discipline-specific experiential learning opportunities.

The motions were moved and seconded.

MOTION 1. THAT the GFC Program Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed second-level specialization, Bioprocessing & Biomanufacturing Option, for the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering for implementation in July 2024.

CARRIED

MOTION 2. THAT the GFC Program Committee with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the suspension of the second-level specialization, Biomedical Option for the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering for implementation July, 2024.

CARRIED

7. Time in Program While on Leave, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Micah True, Associate Chair, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Arts

Discussion:

M True presented the proposed regulation to clarify existing language on regular leaves as well as withdrawal or lapsed program changes. He noted the rationale of improving clarity and reducing ambiguity for students.

Members asked about the implementation date and noted that the motion indicates that it will take effect upon approval, meaning Fall, 2023. M True noted that this is not a change to practice, rather, the change is to clarify existing language so the proposal can be implemented upon approval. Members asked for details on implementing the change through communication with graduate departments.

Members asked about loss of access to resources including libraries and databases when they go on leave from their programs.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the changes to regulations regarding Graduate Student time in program while on leave, for implementation upon final approval, and inclusion in the 2024-2025 Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Draft Micro-credential Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of PC; Jessica Butts Scott, Associate Vice-President, Online and Continuing Professional Education

Discussion: The Chair noted that in addition to the Framework for Microcredentials, the Committee could expect to see a handbook in the coming months. J Butts Scott spoke to the work of a Microcredential Action Group who are establishing common definitions of microcredentials and non-credit programming; core principles that underpin micro credential programming for the University; and operational considerations for student centered development and delivery of microcredentials.

She provided an overview of the changes to the Microcredential and Certificate Framework including clarified language, the need for rigorous assessment, strategically aligned credentials, and the learner value proposition.

Members asked questions and made comments including:

- The role of microcredentials in responding to the needs of industry and whether all credentials will need to align with the framework;
- Whether industry had to be involved;
- How the Framework will impact existing programming, for example, the collaboration with Yellowhead Tribal College;
- Membership on the Action Group and the need to ensure that the Faculty of Arts be represented;
- The value of uniformity but the need to allow for unique programming offerings;
- Whether a competency framework will support development of certificates and microcredentials to ensure that students are aware of the skills they are expected to acquire;
- Whether diplomas will figure in the changes to the Framework and impacts to existing diplomas;
- Student-loan eligibility and the mechanisms that will be put in place to support access and affordability; and
- That the Canada-Alberta Job Grant supports access to non-credit programming when they are connected to an employer.

9. Quality Assurance Templates and Orientation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion: The Chair reminded members that they had received the reports from the 2022-2023 academic year in the previous Spring and that Programs Committee may, in the future, have delegated authority from GFC to consider reports. She asked the committee to review the changes to quality assurance processes that have recently been implemented. She provided an overview of the process, the need to comply with standards set by the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) in a streamlined and efficient process. She noted that the University had just completed a full cycle of reviews and had been audited by the CAQC in 2018 and that the next process is coming up soon. She noted that some of the changes include:

- Extending timelines;
- Clarifications to the crosswalk process between accreditation and quality assurance processes;
- Changes to the templates and additions of best practices in selecting comparator institutions; and
- Revision of documents through the lens of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Members asked:

- How departmental and faculty accountabilities over graduate programs intersect with quality assurance; and
- How program revitalization and revised programs are subject to review when they have been subject to major modifications.

10. GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, GFC Secretary and Manager, GFC Services

Discussion: K Peters provided an overview of the process to review each GFC standing committee's terms of reference on a three year cycle and asked committee members to provide feedback and input on the authority, composition, and responsibilities.

There was no discussion.

11. 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 there were no new external program proposals that are currently under review and that the following programs remain with the Ministry for review and approval.

- Bachelor of Biomedicine
- Études Interdisciplinaires en Sciences specialization under the existing MSc
- Études Transdisciplinaires specialization under the existing PhD

12. Question Period

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

Discussion:

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Supervisory Development Citation - Non-Credit Program Suspension
14. Advanced Citation in Global Leadership change to Certificate in Global Leadership
15. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
- UAlberta Email Request for an Electronic Vote of the GFC Programs Committee

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of PC: November 9, 2023
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 16, 2023

