

General Faculties Council  
Programs Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 11, 2024  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
10:00 AM - 11:55 AM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair  
Brandon Alakas  
Pedro Almeida  
Odile Cisneros  
Jennifer Branch-Mueller  
Anna Hughes  
Riija Kamran  
Sujata Persad  
Hanne Pearce

Nathan Thiessen  
Micah True (delegate)  
Tracy Whatmore  
John Ussher  
*non-voting:*  
Tim Tang  
Kate Peters

Staff:  
Faiza Billo

**REGRETS:**

Wajid Ali  
Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair  
Florence Glanfield  
John Lemieux  
Tracy Raivio  
Sean Robertson  
Brian Pardell

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and Vice-Chair, GFC Programs Committee

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)- Suspensions of Embedded Certificates on Consent

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and Vice-Chair, GFC Programs Committee

Members asked a question about provisions for exceptions to the requirements set out in the Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework.

The Vice-Chair committed to sharing this information with the Office of the Provost.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 9 and December 7, 2023

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences
- Arts
- Business
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing
- Office of the Registrar
- Science

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session consent agenda.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

5. Addition of CASPer standardized situational judgment test to PT Admissions

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Mark Hall, Teaching Professor, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

*Discussion:* M Hall emphasized the competitive nature of admissions for the program and expressed a hope that this change would allow for more inclusive consideration of applicants to the program.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the Admissions Requirement for Master of Science in Physical Therapy, for inclusion in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Graduate Program Calendar Harmonization, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Alan Underhill, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

*Discussion:* A Underhill presented the proposal and recognized the work of G Funk and L Crilov to develop the changes. He spoke to benefits for students through fair and equitable regulations.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the proposed changes to the University Calendar to harmonize the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's Graduate Program admission and program requirement regulation as outlined in the attached submission, for implementation in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

7. Changes to the BSc (Major and Honors) and regulations - Faculty of Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Jocelyn Hall, Professor, Faculty of Science

*Discussion:* J Hall thanked members for their work to review the package and explained the changes. She noted the rationale for the broader Bachelor of Science revitalisation. She noted in particular, the removal of first class standing for reasons of equity moving forward from Fall, 2024.

Members noted that Faculty of Science students were in support of the proposal and asked for confirmation that students would still have access to graduation honorifics.

The motions were moved and seconded.

**Motion 1:** THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science (Major and Honors), as proposed by the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 2:** THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Science (Major and Honors), as proposed by the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment 3, to take effect in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 3:** THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to Faculty of Science General Information, Regulations, and Courses, as proposed by the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment 4, to take effect in the 2024-2025 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

8. Graduate Embedded Certificate in Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Susan Chatwood, Professor, School of Public Health

*Discussion:* The Vice-Chair invited members to consider Items 8 and 9 together. S Chatwood presented the rationale for the two certificates in succession noting that the creation of embedded certificates followed the creation of a new Master of Public Health.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Program Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed Graduate Embedded Certificate in Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics as proposed by the School of Public Health and as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation upon approval and inclusion in the 2024-2025 University Calendar

**CARRIED**

9. Graduate Embedded Certificate in Global Health Equity

Discussion of this item took place as part of Item 8.

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the new Graduate Embedded Certificate in Global Health and Equity in the School of Public Health for implementation upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

10. AI Everywhere Embedded Certificate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Adam White, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science - Computing Science

*Discussion:* A White explained that this certificate aims to support broader understanding of AI and machine learning for students across the university in ways that don't require advanced mathematics or statistics.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the establishment of the undergraduate embedded certificate Artificial Intelligence Everywhere, as proposed by the Department of Computing Science and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2024.

**CARRIED**

11. Suspension of Minors in Mathematics and Statistics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Rebecca Nagel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts

*Discussion:* R Nagel presented the proposals and noted the rationale for moving forward with elimination of the options. She emphasized the efforts that will be made to ensure that students are informed about their options.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission/transfer to the Minor in Mathematics (Faculty of Arts) and the Minor in Statistics (Faculty of Arts).

**CARRIED**

## 12. Graduate Certificate Admissions

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Micah True, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Post-doctoral studies and Professor, Faculty of Arts

*Discussion*: M True noted the aims of the proposal including more equitable inclusion of students and facilitating pathways for students.

There was no discussion.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the proposed changes for Graduate Certificate regulate as set out in the Academic Requirements, Laddering, and Maintenance of Registration sections, for inclusion in the 2024-2025 University Calendar, and implementation upon approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 13. Development of a U of A Foundation Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment); Rebecca Nagel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, and Founding Academic Director, U of A Foundation Program

*Discussion*: M Padfield presented the rationale for the program as an access initiative which intends to facilitate inclusion of students in key programs. She noted the efforts to mitigate risks for students and the University, and to support students in moving into key programs across the University. R Nagel explained how the program will work with admission into Open Studies and spoke to supports for academic success. M Padfield articulated the goal that over the next four years, 1800 students would move through the program.

Members asked questions and made comments, including:

- How many course units the students would take in their first year and what happens in their second year regarding their progression in the program;
- Whether students would receive credit for the Foundation year and how those credits would be integrated into their academic program;
- Whether the Foundation students would be accepted into their second year academic program using their GPA from the Foundation year;
- How such a large number of students would be supported in the program and whether the Transition Year Program is a good comparator given the limited number of students;
- Where students would be coming from and target source countries;
- Whether students would be mixed with students already admitted to the academic program and how instructors could manage potential disparities between admitted students;
- How the admission GPA will be met as students transfer into their second year in the academic program;
- Whether in some cases, students would be asked to complete more than 30 credits in order to qualify for admission into their academic program if they need to meet additional requirements;
- A concern that students would not be able to meet the requirements for admission of their academic program given the significant challenge of integrating into the Canadian context, the University, and the needs of the academic programs;
- The role of International Student Services to support these students and whether there would be support for Immigration advising to obtain a full study permit;

- The rationale for developing a Foundation Program as opposed to the existing International recruitment initiatives;
- Concerns about the existing challenges facing International students and how the University plans to mitigate them;
- A question about transitioning students out of the Foundation Program into their academic programs where there will be fewer supports; and
- A concern there will be a discrepancy between Foundation students and other International students in the university.

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 and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:* C Roth noted there were no new external program proposals under review and shared that Campus Saint-Jean's proposal of the PhD specialization in Études Transdisciplinaires had been approved. She spoke to the three proposals which remain with the Ministry for review and approval:

- o Bachelor of Biomedicine
- o MSc specialization in Études Interdisciplinaires en Sciences
- o BSc in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering

15. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and Vice-Chair, GFC Programs Committee

There were no questions.

**CLOSING SESSION**

16. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: February 8, 2024
- Next Meeting of GFC: January 29, 2024