

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, February 08, 2024
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
Odile Cisneros
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Riija Kamran

Brian Pardell
Sujata Persad
Hanne Pearce
Tracy Raivio
Nathan Thiessen
non-voting:
Tim Tang
Kate Peters
Laurel Wilkie

Staff:
Faiza Billo

REGRETS:
John Lemieux
Sean Robertson
John Ussher

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory and welcoming a new member.

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

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

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 made comments regarding:

- The Student Experience Action Plan
- International enrolment
- Black History Month
- Revisions to the PC Terms of Reference

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

Members discussed the change and expressed support for the change especially the deference to Faculty council authority.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 11, 2024

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes
 - Arts
 - Business
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Law
 - Native Studies
 - Nursing
 - School of Public Health
 - Science

5. Terminations
 - Faculty of Arts First-level Specialisations
 - Faculty of Arts Second-level Specialisations
 - Faculty of Law - Dual Degree with the University of Colorado

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

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session consent agenda.	CARRIED
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ACTION ITEMS

A Ullah assumed the Chair for Item 6 and 9.

6. Updated Non-Credit Programming Framework & Guide

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion: J Causgrove Dunn and J Butts Scott presented the proposed changes to the Non-Credit Programming Framework (Framework) including removing the category of “series/citations/groups”; adding non-credit micro courses; and requiring assessment of all non-credit microcredentials. They emphasized the need to improve clarity and to support development of credentials that support upskilling and reskilling, respond to industry needs, and repurpose existing credit programming. They noted the consultation which included groups across the University.

Members thanked proponents for their work and asked questions and made comments related to:

- the definition of “online modality” and how it will be implemented in developing non-credit programs;
- assessment of non-credit programs and how to interpret and understand different forms of assessment;
- a suggestion that Bloom’s Taxonomy could inform understanding of assessment and be integrated into the guide;
- how laddering of non-credit credentials is anticipated by the framework and the possibility of laddering certificates into course-based master’s among others;

- whether non-credit certificates could be used to fulfill program requirements among other forms of transfer credit or recognition of prior learning;
- how groups may use the Framework to inform their decisions about whether to pursue a credit or non-credit program; and
- whether non-credit programs would be available to students enrolled in for-credit degree programs;

7. Major in Chemistry - Accredited option

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jocelyn Hall, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Science; Chris Cairo, Professor, Faculty of Science.

Discussion: The proponents noted that the need for the program emerged as a result of the Bachelor of Science revitalisation which revealed a gap in programming within the general science program. The new accredited option provides a tiered option for students within the Major in Chemistry. C Cairo noted that the program structure has already been reviewed by the accrediting document.

A member asked about the Indigenous course requirement and individual initiatives within the specialisation to highlight the work of Indigenous chemists. They asked about how this will be made explicit within courses to ensure that the aspiration is built into the structure of the curriculum. The member followed up with encouragement that this be clarified as soon as possible in the course requirements.

Members discussed the motion and suggested revisions to indicate immediate implementation to ensure that members who have already applied could access the new accredited option. The mover and seconder agreed to minor modification to the motion.

The motion as amended was moved and seconded:

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed Accredited Major in Chemistry, as proposed by the Faculty of Science, for immediate implementation and inclusion in the 2024-2025 *University Calendar*.

CARRIED

8. Suspension of the Specialisations in Educational Policy Studies and Elementary Education in the Doctor of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Dunn, Professor, Faculty of Education

Discussion: B Dunn noted that the Faculty was currently developing a new Doctor of Education (EdD) which will better meet the needs of learners and will be differentiated from the PhD. He pointed to the low enrollment in the EdD and expressed how a renewed program would meet the needs of potential applicants. He also reminded members that the EdD specialisations were aligned to departments which no longer exist within the Faculty of Education. He clarified that this is still an EdD program which is available for students.

Members asked about the vision for the PhD and the EdD going forward and how learners will be distinguished. They commented on the need for this revitalisation and for programs which meet the needs of educators.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that the GFC Programs Committee recommend the suspension of the specializations of Educational Policy Studies and Elementary Education under the EdD, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

9. Proposed New Master of Management Analytics Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Maier, Associate Dean, MBA Program, Alberta School of Business; Roveena Mecwan, Program Administrator, Alberta School of Business

Discussion: The Vice-Chair began by reminding members about the process for approval of new degree programs including submission to the Ministry of Advanced Education by the Office of the Provost. M Maier noted that the program fills a gap within the University's offerings and emphasized student demand. He explained the program is 39 credits and includes an optional six-month internship with all the courses completed in a full academic year (August to July). The internship program will be supported by offices within the Alberta School of Business.

The Vice-Provost (Programs) shared that in her work liaising with the Ministry, the Office of the Provost has learned that the program would be licensed for one year because the internship is not required for degree completion. Members confirmed the Alberta School of Business could develop a second, sixteen-month option within the program that has an internship.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority of General Faculties Council, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the new Master of Management Analytics (MMA) program in the Alberta School of Business for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

10. University of Alberta Foundation Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment); Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts

Discussion: R Nagel noted that the University of Alberta Foundation Program (Foundation Program) is an access program and outlined the content of the University Calendar Regulation the Committee is asked to approve. SHE explained how the admission of applicants considers how students who change their program pathways would be supported.

Members discussed:

- How the Foundation Program would be supporting the University's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by educating international students in alignment with *Braiding Past, Present, and Future, the Indigenous Strategic Plan* and *SHAPE, the Institutional Strategic Plan*;
- Whether the courses taken in the Foundation year are going to be used to evaluate admission to their program and how the students will be admitted with deficiency;

- The program maximum of 30 credit and whether there would be a minimum credit requirement for some program pathways; and
- Whether the progression from the Foundation program to the second year will be competitive.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Senate Lay Admissions Observers

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Amissa Jablonski, Academic Governance Initiatives Coordinator; Brian McPherson, University of Alberta Senator; Darren Adruko, University of Alberta Senator

Discussion: The Chair noted the origin of this discussion item which is related to the review of the PC terms of reference. A Jablonski presented the historic foundation of the Senate Lay Admissions Observers (Observers) which was to provide a community-oriented perspective to the admissions process. She noted that Observers are invited to sit on admissions committees for quota programs only, and that they are usually welcomed into the processes. D Adruko spoke of his experience sitting on the MD committee especially the evolution of the process in light of equity, enrolment of rural applicants, and evolving requirements in the program. B McPherson spoke to the value of his work as a senator, understanding the dentistry process from the inside and being able to bust the myths that may exist within the community. Senators noted their familiarity with the complexity of admissions and the efforts made to ensure the process holistically assesses applicants. A Jablonski noted that this practice of Observers is not documented in University policy and that there is no institutional definition of “undergraduate quota programs”.

Members expressed support for the idea of building connections with the community through this role and for the value of having an external perspective. They asked how the Observer role is communicated to faculties with quota programs. They reflected on how the program builds bridges between the University and community and how senators are selected and trained to serve in this role and report back to their community.

The members asked about next steps and discussed how to integrate the responsibility to receive the report in the PC Terms of Reference. They noted that the scope of the initiative could be examined, with non-quota programs perhaps seeing value in having Observers.

12. 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 the request for review via the Campus Alberta Quality Council’s System Coordination process for a new Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree program from the University of Calgary. She informed the committee of approval of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry’s proposal of the Bachelor of Biomedicine; and that two proposals remain with the Ministry for review and approval:

- MSc specialization in Études Interdisciplinaires en Sciences
- BSc in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering

13. Question Period

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

Discussion:

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of PC: March 14, 2024
 - Next Meeting of GFC: February 26, 2024