



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Tammy Hopper, Chair
Scott Jeffrey
Joel Agarwal
J Nelson Amaral
Radim Barta
Angela Bayduza
Dion Brocks
Jason Carey
Janice Causgrove Dunn
Gerda de Vries
Bill Dunn
Nathalie Kermaal

Mia Lang
Andras Marosi
Bernadette Martin
Karsten Mündel
Rebecca Nagel
Norman Neumann
Shannon O'Byrne
Christy Raymond
Norma Rodenburg
Victoria Ruetalo
Hassan Safouhi
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison
(delegate)

non-voting:
Amy Dambrowitz
Yimmie Sonuga
Helen Vallianatos

REGRETS:

Mary Beckie
Marion Haggarty-France
Natalie Sharpe
Kristof Van Assche

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

Motion: Mündel/Amaral

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of ASC

Discussion:

The Chair gave an update on the work of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) and explained that they were currently working on scenario planning for fall 2020.

The Chair spoke about the development of the Non-Credit Credential Framework and noted that it was following an aggressive timeline with an approval target of the May 25th meeting of GFC.

The Chair also noted that the Ministry of Education had been keeping a close eye on suspensions and closures of low enrollment and satellite programs as they wanted to make sure they agreed with and supported the

university's suspensions. She noted that the community could expect more oversight and questions about suspensions moving forward.

Members asked questions about the potential for additional ASC meetings over the summer months to accommodate proposals that would be coming forward in response to budget cuts, and about the timeline for replenishment of committees that may need to be adjusted if there were summer meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Marosi/Causgrove Dunn

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 19, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of March 19, 2020.

CARRIED

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. Transfer Credit Approvals for April 2020, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals for April 2020.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Changes to Existing Regulations for Part-Time Registration, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide new and more specific language relating to requests for part-time registration in thesis-based graduate programs. The proposed language clarifies the circumstances under which a student can request part-time status, the procedures to follow, and the adjustments to time to completion.

Discussion:

Dr Causgrove Dunn highlighted some of the issues with the current regulations and explained how the proposed changes would allow for more flexibility for students to move to part-time registration. She also noted that there had been more challenges for students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic so FGSR was hoping to get these changes put in place as soon as possible.

During the discussion members asked questions and expressed comments, including but not limited to:

- the rationale for the limit of one time only for the change to part-time;
- that this measure was not meant to address financial need and there were other measures for that;
- that many students without funding had to work off campus to support themselves while in attendance; and
- a suggestion that since the proposed changed allowed for more flexibility than the current policy, they should be approved with follow up regarding equity concerns.

Motion: Mundel/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, new and amended language regarding Part-Time Registration Status, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Academic Standing and Readmissions at the Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Andras Marosi, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business; Nicole Lazorek, Academic Officer, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss and receive feedback on the proposed development of Academic Standing and Readmission rules for undergraduate students at the Faculty of Business (in preparation for direct entry).

Discussion:

Dr Marosi gave an overview draft changes to academic standing and readmission regulations and noted that they were before the committee to ask for feedback.

Members discussed:

- how the draft regulations regarding required to withdraw status, academic offenses, and eligibility for the fresh start program related to those regulations in other direct entry programs and whether there should be consistency across the university;
- that academic offenses would sometimes indicate "call for help" behaviour and mental illness;
- communication to students regarding appealable and non-appealable decisions;
- grade point average calculations for graduation;
- equity as it relates to eligibility for the Dean's list; and
- how students would clear probation.

7. Recommendations from GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of ASC, and Chair of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to close the loop and collect final feedback on consultations regarding proposed changes to program approval processes.

Discussion:

The Chair explained the process behind the development of the recommendations and noted the separation of the administrative and governance roles. She also outlined next steps toward final approval which would be sought in May.

A member asked about the theme of authority and process mapping and whether having the administrative level input before the Faculty approval was workable. The Chair answered that administrative consultation was encouraged, not mandated, but was meant to support and add value to proposals coming forward. A member

noted that there would be different levels of administrative input needed depending on the complexity of each item.

Members discussed: advice regarding changes to program and unit structure, committee composition, and the definitions of minor and substantive.

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

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Ms Peters noted that there was nothing new to report.

9. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by email ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.