



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2020  
Virtual Meeting by Video/Phone  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Tammy Hopper, Chair  
J Nelson Amaral  
Angela Bayduza  
Dion Brocks  
Janice Causgrove Dunn  
David Draper  
Bill Dunn  
Purna Hariharan  
Scott Jeffrey  
Nathalie Kermaal  
Mia Lang  
Andras Marosi  
Bernadette Martin

Karsten Mündel  
Rebecca Nagel  
Norman Neumann  
Shannon O'Byrne  
Christy Raymond  
Sachiketha Reddy (delegate)  
Norma Rodenburg  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Remonia Stoddardt-Morrison  
(delegate)  
*non-voting:*  
Amy Dambrowitz  
Yimmie Sonuga

### **REGRETS:**

Radim Barta  
Mary Beckie  
Jason Carey  
Gerda de Vries  
Marion Haggarty-France  
Donia Mounsef  
Natalie Sharpe  
Helen Vallianatos  
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: Mundel/Nagel

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 spoke about the President's recent announcement that remote delivery of courses would continue into the fall of 2020. She noted that there was a plan to include in-person exceptions where possible but that the directives of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province would have to be observed. She also noted that the COVID-19 Public Health Response Team's Subcommittee on Academic Impacts was continuing to work on pandemic related concerns.

Members asked questions and expressed opinions including:

- Thoughts around making exceptions regarding the expiry of course credits;

- Accommodations for students who were not able to attend in-person courses;
- When students could expect to be notified about what their course delivery would look like; and
- Consideration for students who live in different time zones or have unreliable internet when planning remote course delivery.

The Chair noted that the final recommendations of GFC Executive's ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Processes and the Non-Credit Credential Framework would be considered for approval at GFC on May 25, 2020.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Mundel/Nagel

#### 3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 16, 2020

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of April 16, 2020.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

##### A. Transfer Credit Approvals and Denials for May 2020, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals and denials for May 2020, as set forth in attachment A.

**CARRIED**

##### B. Transfer Credit Updates for CMPUT Courses, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit updates for CMPUT courses, as set forth in attachment B.

**CARRIED**

##### C. Block Transfer Credit Updates for NAIT Programs, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, Block Transfer Credit Updates for NAIT Programs, as set forth in attachment C.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 5. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs in Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, and 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; Ingo Brigandt, Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*

Dr Causgrove Dunn explained that this item and the following item were part of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Calendar compliance project. Dr Brigandt agreed and noted that all of the information in the proposed document reflected current practice.

Motion: Jeffrey/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing entrance requirements and academic standing regulations for the MA and PhD programs in the Department of Philosophy, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs in Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science, Faculty Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, and 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; Ben Willing, Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*

Dr Willing pointed out that students were now required to maintain a GPA of 3.0 instead of 2.7 and made note of a few editorial corrections that were needed.

Motion: Jeffrey/Raymond

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing entrance requirements and academic standing regulations for the MAg, MSc, and PhD programs in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Suspension of the Sport Coaching Major in the Bachelor of Kinesiology Program, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Angela Bayduza, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee for the approval to suspend the Bachelor of Kinesiology Sport Coaching major in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation.

*Discussion:*

Dr Bayduza gave an overview of the proposal and explained the low demand and dissatisfaction with the program.

Members asked about the viability of the individualized major.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of Kinesiology Sport Coaching major, as submitted by the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2021.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 8. Emerging Issues for Fall 2020 (no documents)

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair opened the floor up to members who wished to bring up any items of concern for the fall 2020 term.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed opinions about the following issues:

- Reaffirmation that admissions to all University of Alberta programs would neither consider winter 2020 letter grades, nor require reference letters explaining where a student was at in relation to their classmates;
- Communications that had been sent to students clarifying that reference letters could be submitted in support of admissions but were not required;
- The decisions that were made by GFC on April 20, 2020 regarding:
  - the Registrar's form letter explaining the credit/no-credit grading scheme for winter 2020 grades, and
  - guidance for instructors wishing to provide optional commentary on student performance during the winter 2020 term;
- Whether there was the potential for the fall 2020 term to move to a credit/no credit grading scheme; and
- The process for applying for exemption to remote delivery for fall 2020, when an exemption would be appropriate, and consideration for students unable to attend in person for all exempted courses.

### 9. 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)

*Discussion:*

Ms Peters provided the following update:

Recently Approved:

- Name changes to the Ministry from Augustana

External Programs for Review:

- University of Calgary, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (received on April 24)
- University of Calgary for a new Doctor of Philosophy – Law program (received on April 24)

### 10. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.