

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2011
3-15 University Hall
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Skidmore – Chair (Delegate), Ada Schmude (Delegate), Rory Tighe (Delegate), Vikki Northrup (Delegate), Natalie Sharpe, William Street (Delegate), Jim Bohun (Delegate), Harry Prest (Delegate), Elaine Geddes (delegate), Clive Hickson (delegate), Douglas Clark (delegate), Walter Archer (Delegate), René Poliquin (Delegate), John Law (Delegate), Joanne Olson (Delegate), Dion Brocks (Delegate), Pierre Baudin (Delegate), Lory Laing (Delegate), Sharla King, Pat Dalton, Alex Clark, Wayne Renke, Marlene Lewis – Coordinator, Lindsey Hornland – Scribe

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Pierre Baudin, Associate Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and Member of GFC ASC
Ellen Bielawski, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies
Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Pat Dalton, Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, and Member of GFC ASC
Wendy Doughty, Interim Director, Student Success Centre, Office of the Dean of Students
Clive Hickson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education and Member of GFC ASC
Tom Hinch, Professor and Associate Dean–Community and International Engagement, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Susan Oliver, Assistant Registrar, Special Registrations, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards
Ada Schmude, Associate Registrar and Director of Records, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, and Member of GFC ASC
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC ASC
Fern Snart, Dean, Faculty of Education
Bill Street, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Member of GFC ASC
Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar, International Admissions, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file. The Coordinator noted Item 10 is for recommendation to GFC APC and not for approval.

Motion: Sharpe/Street

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda as presented.
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CARRIED

2. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of May 19, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Baudin/Northrup

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of May 19, 2011.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair provided comments of interest to members regarding the following matters: items scheduled to come before GFC ASC in the new academic year; acknowledgment from the 'Luth Report' to the Committee; update on UAPPOL policies; recognition of Dr Dru Marshall's, Deputy Provost, imminent departure from the University of Alberta to assume the position of Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Calgary; and acknowledgment of many out-going members for their service and commitment to GFC ASC.

ACTION ITEMS

4. The Following Proposal(s) are Deemed Minor/Editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate) (3.A.i and iii)) by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) and Chair, GFC ASC and are APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM GFC IN A SINGLE OMNIBUS MOTION.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC ASC

- 4A. Faculty of Education and Augustana Faculty Admissions/Transfer Requirements for the Bachelor of Science /Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program (Augustana)

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/transfer requirements for the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program (Augustana) as submitted by the Faculty of Education and Augustana Faculty and as set out in Attachment 4A of the documentation, to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

- 4B. Office of the Registrar and Student Awards Course Approvals for June, 2011

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for approval of courses for transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards and as set out in Attachment 4B of the documentation, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

- 4C. Augustana Faculty and the Deletion of the Emergency Medical Technician Non-Credit Certificate Program, the Emergency Medical Responder Non-Credit Certificate Program and the Paramedic

Diploma Program

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the deletion of the Emergency Medical Technician Non-Credit Certificate Program, the Emergency Medical Responder Non-Credit Certificate Program and the Paramedic Diploma Program, as submitted by Augustana Faculty and as set out in Attachment 4C of the documentation, to be effective upon approval.

CARRIED

Omnibus Motion: Prest/Olson

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the above-noted editorial changes to academic standing/graduation/promotions, admission/transfer requirements, and changes to the University Calendar for Items 4A – 4C.

CARRIED

5. Faculties of Physical Education and Recreation and Native Studies (New) Embedded Certificate in Aboriginal Sport and Recreation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Pierre Baudin, Associate Dean–Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; Tom Hinch, Professor and Associate Dean–Community and International Engagement, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; and Ellen Bielawski, Dean, Native Studies

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to initiate a *30 embedded certificate in Aboriginal Sport and Recreation jointly sponsored by the Faculties of Native Studies and Physical Education and Recreation.

Discussion:

Mr Baudin introduced the item, noting this certification would be available in the Fall of this year, if approved.

Ms Bielawski provided further insight into the program by elaborating on the need for such a certification; sighting the Northwest Territories as a region with great demand for graduates with not only a degree in Physical Education, but also an understanding of the Aboriginal communities in which they will be working. Contact was established with many First Nations groups, and support for this certificate has been strong from these communities. Enrolment for this program is expected to be small with the majority of students coming from the Physical Education and Native Studies programs.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the amount of staff needed to support this new certificate; concern regarding the duplication of credits to allow for multiple certifications; additional fees (if any) associated with embedded certificates; further education for existing professors on this subject matter; and the suggestion to use this program as a way to recruit from the University's international partners.

Motion: Baudin/Geddes

That the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the new embedded certificate in Aboriginal Sport and Recreation, as submitted by the Faculties of Physical Education and Recreation and Native Studies and as set out in Attachment 1 of the documentation, for implementation in Fall, 2011.

CARRIED

6. Office of the Registrar and Student Awards Changes to the Fresh Start Program to Allow Registration in Spring Courses

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Ada Schmude, Associate Registrar and Director of Records, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards; Wendy Doughty, Interim Director, Student Success Centre, Office of the Dean of Students; and Susan Oliver, Assistant Registrar, Special Registrations, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards

Purpose of the Proposal: Currently, Fresh Start students can only register in courses during the Fall and Winter Terms. The proposed change is to allow Fresh Start students with a GPA of 1.9 or higher to take Spring Term courses in order to re-establish satisfactory standing and regain eligibility for readmission to the Faculty in which they were originally registered or to another Faculty.

Discussion:

Ms Schmude introduced the proposal, noting the proposal was created in response to feedback given from Fresh Start students who were looking to have more options in the courses they took. The presenters acknowledged the limited number of students that would be affected by this change, but noted it would be positive change for those wishing to take courses in the Spring.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: whether the GPA minimum requirements of Fresh Start students would include courses taken in Spring, therefore lowering the requirement; and approval from members on the changes made to the proposal.

Motion: Schmude/Prest

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, changes to admission regulations in order to allow Fresh Start students to register in courses in the Spring Terms, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards and as set out in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and for publication in the 2012-13 *University Calendar*.

CARRIED

7. Faculty of Education Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Promotion Requirements for the Proposed First Year in the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Fern Snart, Dean, Faculty of Education; and Clive Hickson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: The Faculty of Education is proposing a return of year one to the four-year Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree program.

The primary reason for return of year one is to increase the pedagogical strength and comprehensiveness of our four-year undergraduate degree, and the secondary reason is to maintain and increase the Faculty of Education's recruitment success.

Over the past several years the inability to admit students directly into year one has become an impediment to recruitment in the Faculty, particularly as more provincial post-secondary institutions in Alberta gain teacher education programs. Students wanting a four-year BEd express confusion about the path to admission; as transfer students they can only apply to the Faculty following 24 to 60 units of transferrable credits, and they then must pay an additional application fee.

The Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta is one of the top research-intensive Faculties of Education in Canada and its professors consistently achieve success and acknowledgement through awards in both research and teaching. This BEd program is currently the largest in Canada, including after degree and combined degree options in addition to the four-year degree. We feel strongly that the University of Alberta's program will maintain its prominence in terms of attracting students, but the Faculty does have concerns about its ability to continue to recruit quality students to a 1+3 program. It has seen a concerning drop in applicant numbers to the 1+3 route.

Discussion:

Dr Snart introduced the item by noting it was never the Faculty of Education's intent to lose Year One of the four-year BEd degree. Dr Snart included competition, as well as the introduction of new approvals for teacher education programs, as reasons for a timely implementation of this proposal.

During the ensuing discussion, the proposers addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: whether the implementation of Year One will have an affect on class size or the Introductory Professional Term (IPT); what the changes will be to current staff members; the change of registration from within the Faculty to the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards; the availability of jobs for graduates today and over the next five years; and what the consultation process for this proposal included.

Motion: Hickson/Prest

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee admissions/transfer and academic standing/promotion requirements for the proposed first year in the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Education and as set out in the Attachments to Item 7, to take effect in 2012-13.

CARRIED

8. Faculty of Arts Admissions and Academic Standing Requirements for Various Degree Programs

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Bill Street, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts

Purpose of the Proposal: There are different reasons behind the varied proposals.

- BA Honors English: to harmonize with current course offerings and describe current practice.
- BA Honors Psychology: to recognize that not all students are able to take *30 per year and to recognize some students do not find their affinity with the discipline at the very beginning of their programs.
- BA Honors Sociology: to harmonize admission requirements with promotion and graduation

requirements in the discipline.

- BA Environmental Studies: regular program review plus addition of Academic Standing and Graduation requirements that were omitted from previous proposals.
- BA Honors Interdisciplinary East/West Stream: no student has ever taken this program and neither of the partner programs (East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature) wish to maintain.
- 15.2.13 – Postsecondary Applicants: to ensure applicants to the Environmental Studies program understand they must still present particular prerequisites for the program (specifically BIOL 30 and MATH 30-1).
- Cooperative Education (Work Experience) Program: The work experience program in the BA program has never been robust due to lack of support. This has now changed and, since the program requirements had not been reviewed for at least a decade, we also took the opportunity to make changes to the requirements that better reflect what employers might expect, and what the program can support.

Discussion:

Mr Street introduced the item, noting the various reasons for the changes requested. He noted on page 4 the title on Section 44.8.2 should state 'Asian Studies.'

During a brief discussion, a member of the Committee requested a re-wording of the content to ensure clarity in the expressed requirements for the Cooperative Education (Work Experience) Program.

Motion: Street/Baudin

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer and academic standing/promotion requirements for various Degree Programs, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and as set out in Attachment 1, to be effective in 2012-2013.

CARRIED

9. English Language Proficiency Requirement for Undergraduate Admission

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Pat Dalton, Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards; and Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar, International Admissions, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards

Purpose of the Proposal: To add the Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST), the Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), and the Certificate in Proficiency in English (CPE) as recognized methods for meeting the English language proficiency requirement for admission to undergraduate programs as outlined in the proposed *University Calendar* copy.

Discussion:

Ms Dalton introduced the item, acknowledging the work undertaken by Ms Yang to put this proposal together.

Ms Yang noted the requests received by the University from international students wishing to use English proficiency tests not currently recognized by the University. The University currently acknowledges IELTS, CAEL, PTE, and TOEFL scores. The requirements for the proposed additional language proficiency tests are as follows:

- A score of at least a 4.5 on the CanTEST must be attained, with no part lower than 4.
- A score of at least a B on the CAE must be attained.
- A score of at least a C on the CPE must be attained.

Ms Yang also noted a 'C' score on the CPE is actually more difficult to attain than a 'B' score on the CAE.

During the ensuing discussion, Ms Yang addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: clarification of the scores required on each test; what framework and standardization has been set to allow for comparisons across all testing methods; and what language requirements are given to those in the health sciences professions.

Motion: Prest/Baudin

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, admission/transfer requirements regarding the Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST), the Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), and the Certificate in Proficiency in English (CPE), specifically as recognized methods for meeting the English language proficiency requirement for admission to undergraduate programs, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards and as set out in Attachment 2, to take effect upon approval and for publication in the 2012-13 *University Calendar*.

CARRIED

10. Use of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Reasoning Test Results and American College Testing (ACT) Scores to Fulfill Undergraduate Admission Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Pat Dalton, Associate Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards; and Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar, International Admissions, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards

Purpose of the Proposal: To incorporate the use of Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Reasoning Test results and American College Testing (ACT) scores as acceptable means of meeting science subject requirements for admission of high school applicants under American based curricula to undergraduate programs.

Discussion:

Ms Dalton introduced the item, explaining the proposal is a result of a re-grouping plan made in an effort to attract more students from the United States.

Ms Yang went into further detail of the proposal, which would allow SAT and ACT marks to fulfill admission requirements in cases where the regular science requirements are unable to be filled. Ms Yang reported that, currently, admission for these students depends on equating specific science matriculation subjects to the Alberta system by examining years of study. This is not favourable for students under American-based curricula as that curriculum generally includes only one full year of study in each of the sciences (biology, physics, and chemistry) which may be taken in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. The use of SAT Reasoning Test results and ACT scores would allow an alternative method of considering whether or not these applicants had achieved an acceptable level of academic competency and content in required science subjects for eligibility to undergraduate programs.

A pilot project began in 2009 by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, allowing students who did not meeting the existing science subject requirements to be admitted if they met the following criteria:

1. The student had taken the required science matriculation subject in their US curriculum high school (even if it is one year and even if it was in grade 9) AND,
2. The student presented a minimum score of 1100 in the Critical Reading and Mathematics portion (combined) of the SAT Reasoning Test (taken within the same testing date) or ACT with minimum composite score of 26 AND,
3. The student met the required admission average based on the average of the five matriculation subjects used for admission purposes.

The number of applicants who were aware of the pilot project was limited, and therefore registration under the pilot program was limited. Of the 15 students admitted under the pilot, nine were admitted using SAT RT or ACT to meet a science subject requirements (four in Fall 2009 and five in Fall 2010). Of the four admitted for Fall 2009, two took Science courses. Their performance in the Science courses ranged from B- to D+. One failed PHYS 126 and withdrew from PHYS 144. The one who received Academic Warning (GPA1.9) at the end of 2009/10 did not register in Fall 2010. Of the five admitted for Fall 2010, three took one or more Science courses. One student failed CHEM 101 and PHYS 124. The grades of the rest range from B- to D+.

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning the GPAs, success rates, and pre-requisite requirements of the students admitted under the pilot project. Ms Yang also addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: clarification on the given data; success rates of current students; whether the proposal is intended to relax requirements or to increase the opportunity for American students to apply; how the proposal would affect the admitted students planning to take courses which require pre-requisites; how many of the students were from the United States in the pilot program; and other possible reasons for the high 'required to withdraw' (RTW) rates.

Members agreed that the issue required additional discussion and asked that:

- Dr Leskiw to be present at the next GFC ASC meeting this item is brought forth as the Faculty of Science is most affected by these failure rates, as these students lack science pre-requisites.
- More data be brought forward about each student, which will help provide insight as to why the rate of failure is so high for this group of students. This will aid the Committee in determining whether or not having the appropriate pre-requisites is a major contribution factor, or whether the failure rates are attributed to an alternative cause.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item

Presenters: Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Ms Brough noted that there was no update available regarding 'External Programs for Review'.

Regarding 'Programs in Process', she reported the following: the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Performance Studies is still under review; and the Working program is still deferred pending a revised

funding model, however, they are looking to remove the deferral status.

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail Ballots

There were no items to date.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items to date.

15. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.