



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2014  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Bill Connor	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nat Kav	Vice-Chair, Dean (Delegate), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Dustin Chelen	Member, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Joanna Harrington	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Tom Hidson	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Clive Hickson	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Education
Tim Joseph	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Engineering
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Stuart Landon	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
John Law	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Law
Glen Loppnow	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Helen Madill	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension
Marc Moreau	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Harry Prest	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana Faculty
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Student Ombudservice

#### Non-Voting Members:

Pat Schultz	Member, Associate Registrar (Enrolment Management), Office of the Registrar
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#### Presenter(s):

Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Kathleen Brough	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Tom Hidson	Assistant Registrar (Records, Registration and Fees), Office of the Registrar
Stuart Landon	Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts

#### Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee  
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Prest

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 20, 2014

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Motion: Joseph/Loppnow

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of March 20, 2014.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant items to members. He took this opportunity, as well, to thank Mr Chelen for his engagement on the Committee. Mr Chelen, in turn, introduced to members the incoming Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), Ms Kathryn Orydzuk.

Dr Connor welcomed Dr Helen Madill, the new Faculty of Extension representative on GFC ASC, to the meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

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 Instruction) 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:* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Omnibus Motion: Prest/Chelen

4A. Augustana Faculty: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements for the Faculty's Certificate in Writing Studies

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation requirements for the Faculty's Certificate in Writing Studies, as submitted by the Augustana Faculty and as set forth in Attachment A, to be effective in 2015-2016.

**CARRIED**

4B. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer, Academic Standing/Graduation, and Reexamination Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer, academic standing/graduation, and reexamination requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment B, to be effective in 2015-2016.

**CARRIED**

4C. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals and Denials for April, 2014

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the proposal for approval of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment C, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

4D. Faculté Saint-Jean: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer and academic standing requirements, as submitted by Faculté Saint-Jean and as set forth in Attachment D, to be effective in 2014-2015.

**CARRIED**

5. Suspension of Admission/Transfer to Selected Programs/Majors in the Faculty of Arts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Stuart Landon, Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The approval of suspension of admission/transfer to the program and majors/routes in the Faculty of Arts, as set out in the material before members. Minors will continue to be available in Italian, Russian, and Ukrainian. The Department of Music is also taking this opportunity to rationalize its Bachelor of Music (BMus) program requirements and MUSIC course offerings to align with available faculty.

The number of students who have declared majors in these areas/routes is minimal. As the Departments are released from being required to offer sufficient (specific) courses in each of these areas to support the majors, resources can be redirected toward areas of study which are in greater demand.

The suspension of the Middle Eastern and African Studies (MEAS) program has also been requested by the Faculty of Arts' Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (OIS). The program review conducted in 2012-2013 confirmed that this program is not satisfactory in its current guise for either the students or faculty involved. Faculty will continue to be able to teach in areas of interest within their Departments, and the program may be reimagined in the future.

No adverse impact is anticipated for graduates of these programs. The degrees alumni in these majors have earned are valid and official documentation continues to be available.

Active students have been identified across the majors/routes and programs proposed for suspension, and detailed analyses of remaining requirements for their programs have been completed. Students are being advised, in writing (by e-mail), of the pending suspension and the deadline by which they must complete all program requirements and be awarded their degrees. This communication will be ongoing until each student has either completed the degree or left the University.

*Discussion:*

Dr Landon explained that this omnibus proposal is intended to address two issues. First, with respect to the (proposed) suspension of the MEAS program, he noted that there is widespread student and faculty member dissatisfaction with this program currently and that the program is not functional. Second, he stated that, last summer, there was a Faculty-wide review to identify programs which have had low to no demand from students. He reported that, following this review, the Faculty of Arts selected programs to suspend in order to preserve resources. He commented that admission/transfer to the affected programs identified in the material before members had already been suspended as of September, 2013 (with the agreement of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)) and that very few students are impacted by the changes set out in this omnibus proposal. He explained that students who are impacted have been accommodated appropriately.

Members provided a number of comments and questions in relation to this proposal, including, but not limited to: the expressed opinion that the suspension of the MEAS program reflects poorly on the institution and that there is considerable current student investment in the institution from Middle Eastern countries; concerns with the timing of the suspension of the MEAS program; clarification surrounding the cost savings associated with the suspension of the MEAS program; an expression of concern that there has been an insufficient amount of time to appropriately consider the suspension of the MEAS program; the expressed opinion that the material in support of this proposal does not accurately describe all rationale for this suspension; clarification regarding the plan for the impacted course offerings; that these suspensions could provide an opportunity for future curriculum redevelopment in the Faculty of Arts; that the MEAS program is unique within Alberta; a query as to whether or not the MEAS courses would continue to be offered; that this represents both a downgrading of value and a diminishing student demand in the humanities in North America, which are unfortunate; that now, more than ever, there is an increased need for the study of the Ukraine and Russia; clarification of the impact on morale of students interested in continuing on with graduate programs in the affected areas; that these suspensions disadvantage certain students; and clarification regarding the process that led to determining which of the Faculty's programs would be suspended and eventually eliminated entirely.

Motion: Landon/d'Entremont

Opposed: Sharpe/Brock/Chelen

**Motion:** THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission/transfer to the following programs and majors in the Faculty of Arts:

- Bachelor of Music (BMus) – Music History Route, School Music Route, and World Music Route only;
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) and BA (Honors) Majors only – Italian Studies, Russian Language and

Literature, Ukrainian Folklore, Ukrainian Language and Literature;  
➤ BA Combined Majors only – French and Italian, German and Scandinavian, Italian and Spanish, and Russian and Ukrainian [not to be confused with “single” or “double majors”];  
➤ BA, BA (Honors), and Certificate – Middle Eastern and African Studies (Major, Minor and Certificate),  
as submitted by the Faculty and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6. Proposed Changes to Section 23.9.2 (Academic Regulations/Student Records/Academic History (Transcript) Records) of the University Calendar – Removal of the Basis of Admission from the University of Alberta Student Transcript

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Tom Hidson, Assistant Registrar (Records, Registration and Fees), Office of the Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The Office of the Registrar is proposing the removal of the ‘Basis of Admission’ from the University of Alberta student transcript. The Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada’s (ARUCC) *National Transcript Guide For Use in Canadian Postsecondary Institutions* outlines best practices for post-secondary institutions in relation to their transcript. From Section III.3 (Basis of Admission), it reads: “elements defining previous educational background, be it at the secondary school or equivalent level or at the postsecondary level (college or university studies), including standard test scores, are essential for the database, but are not recommended for the transcript”. Research has indicated that nine of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities do not include the ‘Basis of Admission’ on their transcripts. The removal of this field would save staff time (both in data entry and searching/correcting errors) and, more importantly, ensure that data entry errors do not appear on the transcript. Faculty input was solicited regarding the impact of such a change.

*Discussion:*

Mr Hidson provided members with a brief overview of this item and invited members to provide their feedback.

During the discussion of this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that certain Faculties find the ‘Basis of Admission’ on the student transcript helpful and that removing this information could be problematic; clarification on how this proposal would save staff time; expressions of support for the removal of this information from the transcript; that this could lead to the requirement of more documents from students; clarification surrounding where this information will be located online, if removed from the transcript, itself; that the mention of preventing human error should be removed from the rationale for this proposal, as this did not appear to be a truly valid reason for making the (proposed) change; clarification that the information is not being lost but, rather, is stored online and is accessible to Faculty representatives; clarification about the ability to query this information; and that there is a difference between the collection methods of this data and its presentation on the transcript.

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

There were no documents.

*Presenter(s):* Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For discussion/information.

*Discussion:*

Ms Brough provided an update with regard to programs currently being considered by the Provincial Government:

Currently with the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE) Undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Faculty of Extension Proposal for the Master of Arts (MA) in Community Engagement

External Reviews of Proposals from Other Institutions Completed:

- Bachelor of Health Sciences in Aboriginal Health at University of Lethbridge (review by the Faculty of Extension)

Outstanding:

- Master of Arts (MA): Major in Culture, Theory, Social Change and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Arts: Major in Culture, Theory and Social Change, both from the University of Lethbridge (review by the Faculty of Arts)

Ms Brough invited members to contact her with any questions regarding the status of proposals from other institutions.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

### 9. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

### 10. Question Period

There were no questions.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

### 11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.