



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2015  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### Voting Members:

Brenda Leskiw	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Nat Kav	Vice-Chair, Dean (Delegate)
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean
JC Cahill	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean
Joanna Harrington	Member (Delegate), Dean
Nathalie Kermoal	Member (Delegate), Dean
Stuart Landon	Member (Delegate), Dean
Helen Madill	Member (Delegate), Dean
Marc Moreau	Member (Delegate), Dean
Ada Ness	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kathryn Orydzuk	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carla Peck	Member, Academic Staff
Harry Prest	Member (Delegate), Dean
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Student Ombudservice
Dave Magee	Member (Delegate), Dean
Harsh Thaker	Member (Delegate), Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), VP Academic, GSA

#### Presenter(s):

JC Cahill	Professor, Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science
Yvette d'Entremont	Associate Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Warren Gallin	Professor, Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science
Nat Kav	Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Ada Ness	Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar
Brenda Leskiw	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

#### Staff:

Andrea Patrick, Acting Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that the Agenda would be reorganized to accommodate a guest presenter.

Motion: Magee/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 15, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

*Discussion:*

A member noted an omission within the 'Attendance' section of the Minutes.

Motion: Prest/Cahill

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of January 15, 2015, as amended.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair invited members to introduce themselves and then provided a number of relevant comments to members.

## **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(s):* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Harrington/Ross

4A. Augustana Faculty: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer Requirements

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

**CARRIED**

4B. Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing academic standing requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and as set forth in Attachment B, to be effective in 2015-2016.

**CARRIED**

4C. Faculty of Science: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer 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 the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment C, to be effective in 2015-2016.

**CARRIED**

4D. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: 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 the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and as set forth in Attachment D, to be effective in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 (as noted).

**CARRIED**

4E. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals and Denials for March 2015

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

**CARRIED**

4F. Faculty of Law: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Law and as set forth in Attachment F, to take effect upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

5. Faculty of Science Proposal for the Suspension of the Honors and Specialization Program in Bioinformatics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* JC Cahill, Professor, Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science; Warren Gallin, Professor, Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To approve the suspension of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honors in Bioinformatics and the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Specialization in Bioinformatics effective fall 2016.

*Discussion:*

Dr Leskiw introduced presenters of this proposal to members.

Dr Gallin provided members with an overview of this proposal, noting that registration in this program has been low and the field of bioinformatics has grown beyond what was originally planned for in this program. He explained that its existence prevents additional, relevant development to applicable courses.

Dr Cahill noted that in 2007 the program was revamped in terms of accessibility and that there was not a substantial uptake by students. He stated that existing students within this program will not be impacted by this suspension.

A member enquired whether this proposal represents replacement or suspension of the program.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Kav

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admissions/transfer to the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honors in Bioinformatics and the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Specialization in Bioinformatics, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to be effective Fall 2016.

**CARRIED**

6. Bachelor of Science (Bilingual BSc ENCS) in Environmental and Conservation Sciences – Bilingual) Proposal for Program Suspension of Admissions/Transfer

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Yvette d'Entremont, Associate Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean; Nat Kav, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

*Purpose of the Proposal:* Approval of the (proposed) suspension of admission/transfer to the above-noted program.

*Discussion:*

Dr d'Entremont explained that this bilingual program has been reviewed by both Faculties and the results reflect low numbers of enrolment. She explained that students within the program will not be impacted by this suspension. She reported that the program will be reviewed for consideration of complete redevelopment or permanent suspension.

Dr Kav reported that the two Faculties are working on a Memorandum of Understanding in regards to offering bilingual students a transfer option from Faculté Saint-Jean to the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. He added that current resources in both Faculties are stretched thin.

Members, during the discussion surrounding this proposal, provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: clarification regarding the effective date of the suspension and the subsequent

impact on administration costs; that the larger costs are related to courses, and that this proposal does not eliminate courses; that this proposal does not seem to provide substantial cost savings; clarification surrounding the methods utilized to determine the cost savings in relation to this proposal; that suspending programs based on cost savings does not address whether they are actually valuable to the academy; clarification surrounding student consultation in regards to this proposal; whether students, during the consultation process, were informed that the program may be suspended; that there are student concerns surrounding this suspension; that this proposal is more about how to best offer this program as opposed to cost savings; whether the program could be reviewed instead of suspended; that Faculties retain the authority to determine program direction; that GFC ASC should not hold up such proposals; that decisions to suspend program preserve resources in other ways.

Motion: d'Entremont/Kav

Opposed: Orydzuk

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission/transfer to the Bachelor of Science (Bilingual BSc ENCS) in Environmental and Conservation Sciences – Bilingual) as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7. Amendments to Calendar Sections 13.1 and 23 to Provide Additional Information Related to Certificate Offerings at the University of Alberta**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Ada Ness, Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To update University Calendar sections 13.1 and 23 in order to provide greater clarity and information for students on Certificate offerings.

*Discussion:*

Ms Ness explained that as *per* previous discussions held at this Committee, this item relates to providing additional clarity around certificates within the University Calendar.

The Chair noted that this is a positive step towards providing students more clarification regarding certificates offered at the University of Alberta.

During the discussion surrounding this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: commendation and support for these revisions in a central location within the University Calendar; that there are current issues in regards to accurate information about certificates, since they are a relatively new item being offered; whether the term 'cost recovery basis' is defined within the University Calendar; clarification regarding the different versions of certificates; whether transfer credits can be applied to embedded or free standing certificates; clarification regarding embedded degree certificates and transfer students; whether these details are included within the University Calendar; clarification regarding students who intend to apply to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the opportunity to utilize certificates towards this goal; clarification surrounding graduate certificates and their potential impact towards graduate degrees; support for these revisions; that the Faculties can determine a lot of these issues during admissions processes; whether we can expect more certificates in the future and whether the Peter Lougheed Leadership certificates will be approved through GFC ASC; discussion

surrounding governance approval of certificates; discussion surrounding recent points introduced at General Faculties Council in regards to certificate approval.

Ms Ness advised that she will research whether 'cost recovery basis' is currently defined within the University Calendar and will provide a definitive answer accordingly.

The Chair thanked members for their commentary.

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

There were no documents.

*Presenter:* Brenda Leskiw, Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

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

*Discussion:*

The Chair provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE):

Recently Approved:

- Faculty of Arts proposal for Master of Arts in Gender and Social Justice Studies
- Faculty of Extension proposal for Master of Arts in Community Engagement

Currently with IAE Undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Two post-Masters certificates in Business Fundamentals, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Master of Accounting

The Chair added that questions from IAE have been received for both of these proposals and that responses have already been submitted, or are in the process of being drafted.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

10. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail 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 10:00 a.m.