



General Faculties Council  
 Academic Standards Committee  
 Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2019  
 2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:**

Tammy Hopper, Chair  
 Joel Agarwal  
 Dylan Ashley  
 Angela Bayduza  
 Dion Brocks  
 Amy Dambrowitz  
 Gerda de Vries  
 Bill Dunn  
 Rebecca Gokiert  
 Scott Jeffrey  
 Andras Marosi

Karsten Mündel  
 Rebecca Nagel  
 Shannon O'Byrne  
 Tracy Raivio  
 Norma Rodenburg  
 Victoria Ruetalo  
 Shirley Schipper  
 Remonia Stoddardt-Morrison  
 (delegate)

**REGRETS:**  
 Radim Barta

Jason Carey  
 Mohamad Jamaledine  
 Jeff Johnson  
 Nathalie Kermaal  
 Bernadette Martin  
 Paulin Mulatris  
 Tanya Park  
 Natalie Sharpe

Staff:  
 Heather Richholt, Coordinator  
 Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Nagel/Mündel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 16, 2019

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Jeffrey/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of April 16, 2019.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

The Chair welcomed the new student members to the committee.

The Chair noted that the GFC Executive Committee's *ad hoc* Committee on Program Approval Processes was scheduled to meet the following week and would report back in the fall.

Ms Brolley reminded members that the Deans would be asked to re-confirm their delegates on this committee for 2019/20.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Jeffrey/Gokiert

##### 4A. Transfer Credit Approvals for May, 2019, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals for May 2019.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. Proposed Embedded Certificate in Archaeology, Faculty of Arts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Hijmans, Department of History and Classics, Faculty of Arts; Robert Losey, Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts; Candace Rice, Department of History and Classics, Faculty of Arts

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To establish an embedded Certificate in Archaeology. This will be an embedded multidisciplinary certificate aimed at developing students' research skills in archaeology through a combination of course work and hands-on research experience.

Dr Hijmans gave an overview of the proposed embedded certificate including the available archaeology courses and field schools. He explained the research and training required for the credential and noted that it would help students prepare and demonstrate their abilities for employment and graduate school opportunities.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the university's regulations for embedded certificates, the multidisciplinary nature of archaeology, and accessibility to students outside the Faculty of Arts.

Motion: Jeffrey/Gokiert

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed Embedded Certificate in Archaeology, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2019.

**CARRIED**

#### 6. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for the Bachelor of Arts Program, Faculty of Arts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Student Programs); Kristy Wuetherick, Senior Officer, Student Programs & Services

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To seek approval for the proposed changes to the Academic Performance for Graduation requirements for the Bachelor of Arts program.

Ms Wuetherick explained that the proposed changes would bring the Arts process in line with that of other programs at the university.

*Discussion:*

Members asked about the process used at Arts Faculties at other universities.

Motion: Marosi/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Academic Standing Regulations for the Bachelor of Arts program, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2020.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Andie Palmer, Graduate Associate Chair, Department of Anthropology; Tracy Raivio, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Calendar Project, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To ensure that all Academic Regulations are listed in the Calendar.

Dr Raivio noted that items 7-9 were part of the FGSR's calendar compliance project which was undertaken to ensure that all program requirements and regulations were accurately reflected in the Calendar. She noted that the project was also encouraging the use of clear and consistent language across programs. She noted that changes to the minimum English Language Proficiency requirements for FGSR had been submitted for approval and that information in the Calendar would be updated once those approvals were received.

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Jeffrey/Ashley

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for graduate programs in Anthropology, 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 2020-2021 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Drama, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Kathleen Weiss, Professor, Department of Drama, Faculty of Arts; Tracy Raivio, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Calendar Project, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To ensure that all Academic Regulations are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Nagel/Mündel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for graduate programs in Drama, 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 2020-2021 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs in Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Uwe Hacke, Associate Chair, Department of Renewable Resources; Tracy Raivio, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Calendar Project, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To ensure that all Academic Regulations are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*  
There was no discussion.

Motion: Jeffrey/Schipper

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for graduate programs in Renewable Resources, 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, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2020-2021 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

10. Proposed Changes to Existing Minimum Entrance Requirements for Graduate Programs, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Tracy Raivio, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Calendar Project, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To revise existing Application and Admission requirements for graduate programs.

Dr Raivio explained the proposed changes and noted that items 10 and 11 were meant to ensure that all the FGSR regulations were updated and clear and reflected current practice.

*Discussion:*  
There was no discussion.

Motion: Gokiart/Agarwal

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed revisions to existing minimum entrance requirements for graduate programs, 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 2020-2021 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

11. Proposed Changes to Existing Transfer Credit and Course Exemption Regulations for Graduate

Programs, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Tracy Raivio, Associate Dean, FGSR; Maria Chia, Graduate Calendar Project, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To ensure that all Academic Regulations are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion*:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Ruetalo/Schipper

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed revisions to existing transfer credit and course exemption regulations for graduate programs, 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 2020-2021 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12. Curriculum Renewal at Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Karsten Mündel, Associate Dean, Academic, Augustana Faculty

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The proposal is before the committee to discuss curricular changes proposed by Augustana Faculty, involving the adoption of a new Liberal Arts and Sciences Core, the creation of new multi-disciplinary fields of study within the Augustana Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program, and the corresponding suspension of several current majors in the Bachelor of Arts program.

Dr Mündel presented the curricular changes proposed by Augustana Faculty and explained the key drivers for the change including sustainability and revitalization.

*Discussion*:

Members expressed several comments and questions including, but not limited to: implications for admissibility to graduate programs; consultation with related departments on main campus; identifiable disciplines and courses within the new, multi-disciplinary fields of study; and how interdisciplinary classes would increase the student complement and richness of class discussions.

13. Thesis Learning Outcomes Initiative, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Deborah Burshtyn, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR; Maxine Clarke, Senior Officer Strategic Initiatives, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal*: The proposal is before the committee to provide an update on work presently underway to develop a system to support U of A PhD programs in explicitly articulating their learning outcomes.

Dr Burshtyn spoke about the working group that was established to improve assessments and expectations for PhD students. She explained that better communication around requirements and expectations would benefit all stakeholders and that the conversation had expanded to include Masters students as well.

Ms Clarke noted that learning outcomes could also communicate the value of graduate degrees to the broader community, including potential employers.

*Discussion:*

Members expressed several comments and questions including, but not limited to: Calendar language in the main FGSR section; the components listed in the Alberta Credentials Framework; teaching skills; leadership development; skills regarding self-care and work/life balance; collaboration and communication skills; and inter-cultural competencies.

Dr Burshtyn noted that the FGSR minimum should be clearly established and that different departments would be free to have additional requirements, as necessary, as long as they were clearly articulated and communicated to students.

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

*Presenter(s):* Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost

Ms Patrick provided the following update:

Proposed to Government:

- Thesis-based Master of Library and Information Studies load changes
- Arts terminations - Chinese language and Japanese language
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership and Administration - Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and Faculté Saint-Jean
- Graduate Certificate in School Leadership, FGSR and Faculty of Education

Currently with Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) undergoing Quality Review:

- New major in Media Studies - approved at APC June 20, 2018

15. Question Period

There were no questions.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

There were no items.

17. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

**CLOSING SESSION**

18. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.