

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee (PC)
APPROVED Open Session Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:55 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Roger Epp
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Gurleen Kaur
Stacy Lorenz
Heather Seyl Miyashita

Adekunle Mofolasayo
Hanne Pearce
Sujata Persad
Sean Robertson
Maité Snauwaert
Monisha Vinod (delegate)
non-voting:
Brian Pardell
Kate Peters
Laurel Wilkie (delegate)

REGRETS:

Bishoi Aziz
Helen Vallianatos
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison
Tahmid Al Hafiz

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator
Faiza Billo

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair deferred her comments to allow more time for discussion with A Gaudry.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Indigenous Course Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Adam Gaudry, Vice-Dean and Associate Professor, Faculty of Native Studies

Discussion:

A Gaudry began by providing a definition of Indigenous Content Requirements (ICRs), some of the variety in what this content entails, and the debate on how best to complete these requirements. He noted the accountability built into *Braiding Past, Present, and Future, the University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan* and provided context on the experience of implementing a required Indigenous course at the University of Saskatchewan. He presented research on the structural considerations of ICRs including how to calculate institutional capacity, the need to be attentive to Indigenous faculty and staff workload, and how to empower existing structures to scale-up without overwhelming them.

He described pedagogical considerations including:

- The risk in having sessional instructors taking on the often difficult work of teaching ICRs without adequate support or job security;
- The need to articulate the goal of the ICR whether it is decolonisation, increasing understanding of the history of relationships with Indigenous peoples, or creating structural change to reduce oppression and racism within society;
- The imperative of specialised training to teach ICRs, especially introductory courses, on both the content and pedagogical strategies that are most effective; and
- That Indigenous faculty should not be expected to take on service teaching because of their identity.

He explored ideological considerations including:

- The need to teach for at least two audiences: Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and how to ensure the ICR does not alienate either group;
- The possibility of individuals refusing to complete requirements and that the University should prepare for this eventuality; and
- The need for leadership at multiple levels in the University who actively support ICRs in both their words and actions.

He highlighted practical considerations including:

- How to define "Indigenous Content" and curate a list with acceptable amounts of content;
- Setting a standard for content that meets the goal set out in the ICR policy and thinking through how content will be assessed to determine if it meets it;
- How to manage the financial considerations; and
- The need to anticipate and plan for reputational risks inherent in having individual faculty members, departments, and the University take on an ICR.

In conclusion, A Gaudry offered advice to the GFC Programs Committee on best practices. He emphasized:

- The need to plan with Indigenous-facing units and faculty members for teaching a critical mass of students;
- The need for sufficient resources to develop courses and train instructors;
- That instructors need support and protection when teaching ICRs;
- Empowering experts to vet ICR courses and course content; and
- The need for leadership and support across the University, not just from Indigenous leaders.

Members discussed:

- The need to carefully consider the safety of Indigenous faculty and staff;
- The capacity within the University including human resources, the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), existing required courses in the Faculty of Education, and experienced instructors and doctoral students;
- The need for student support and for student narrative on why this requirement is important;

- How requirements are articulated – whether as credit/non-credit or professional requirements;
- The presence of Indigenous Canada MOOC as a prerequisite for registration in some programs;
- The comparison with the ethics and professional development requirement at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR);
- That the policy should anticipate requirements evolving;
- Concerns about additional requirements, especially if programs are already heavily programmed, and the need for students to receive credit;
- The need for a slate of options that might be implemented in different program contexts;
- Which U15 comparators have an institution-wide ICR and that it is more common for faculty-level or program-level ICRs;
- That the University of Alberta is uniquely placed to put in place an institution-wide ICR;
- That professional programs have already put in place these requirements and they are influencing other programs;
- How courses are perceived by different student perspectives – domestic and international non-Indigenous students and Indigenous students from Canada or elsewhere;
- Training of instructors to teach and support ICRs and how to plan for supporting instructors in case of disruption in the classroom including the possibility of resources to ensure instructor safety;
- The need for additional funding to “backstop” what the budget model already supports with money following the student;
- The value of team-teaching in these courses to train instructors and the possibility of bringing in additional teacher’s assistants;
- The need for central funds;
- That the Faculty of Native Studies has only 18 faculty members;
- That a pilot may help to ease into a requirement;
- How online sections can help; and
- That this would mean 8-10 thousand students a year in these courses.

The Chair thanked A Gaudry for his time and committed to continuing the discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

4. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 9, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of February 9, 2023.

CARRIED

5. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Arts
- Education
- Nursing
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached course, minor program, and minor regulation change submissions from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Nursing, and Science.

CARRIED

Discussion:

A member asked a clarification question about the course and minor program changes from the Faculty of Nursing and the possibility of courses being used for exploration credits in the Nursing After-Degree program. They suggested that students should be able to take courses a second time where they have taken required courses as exploration credits. The committee discussed the policy which emphasizes that students must carefully consider using courses as exploration credits because of implications for future study. The deadline for exploration credits is the course withdrawal deadline, allowing students sufficient time to make their decision and consider the possible impacts.

ACTION ITEMS

6. Faculté Saint-Jean (FSJ) Proposal: Certificat supérieur en sciences de l'éducation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Samira ElAtia, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, FSJ; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

Discussion:

The Chair invited R Epp and S ElAtia to provide an overview of the three proposals and noted the years of work that had gone into them. S ElAtia noted that this proposal will remove a barrier that currently exists for faculty at FSJ who can't supervise students and expressed a hope that the impact will be felt at the local, regional and national level. She spoke to the certificate which will be available to educators to meet their professional development requirements and progress in their career all while working and potentially juggling family responsibilities. She spoke to the coursework which includes Indigenous content, EDI, Neurodiverse students and the French language.

The Chair suggested that the committee work through items 6, 7, and 8 in turn. She invited discussion on the graduate certificate.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council

CARRIED

7. FSJ Proposal: Maîtrise en sciences

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Samira ElAtia, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculté Saint-Jean; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Programs Committee, recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Maîtrise en sciences in the Faculté Saint-Jean, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

8. FSJ Proposal: Doctorat Etudes Transdisciplinaires

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Samira ElAtia, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculté Saint-Jean; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Discussion:

Members expressed strong support for the proposal and the impact on the University.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Doctorat Etudes Transdisciplinaires in the Faculté Saint-Jean, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

9. Course Exclusions for Exploration Credits Policy, Faculty of Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jocelyn Hall, Associate Chair, Undergraduate, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science; Erik Rosolowsky, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science

Discussion:

The proponents noted that they support the Exploration Credits policy and that the courses put forward for the consideration of the committee had been carefully selected because of their unique characteristics. They described some of the characteristics of three groupings of courses where exclusions were requested.

Members discussed whether the professional certification was a sufficient rationale for students not being allowed to take courses and whether there were alternate courses that would offer students the same experience.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached list of Department of Physics courses for exclusion from the Exploration Credits policy.

CARRIED

10. Office of the Registrar: Degree Program Regulations, *Calendar* Effective Date

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Anna Hughes, Associate Registrar, Enrolment Management

Discussion:

A Hughes described the changes which clarify for students which *Calendar* they are to follow.

Members discussed the term "interested students" and how students might understand the use in the regulation, and a suggestion that "interested" could be removed from the sentence to clarify the section.

The proponent accepted the change as a friendly edit.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the *Calendar* revisions as amended for the 2023-2024 *Calendar*.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Presenter(s): Carley Roth, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost

Discussion:

C Roth provided an update on communications with the Ministry noting there were no new external program proposals under review and that the three new first-level specializations put forward as part of the BSc Renewal project had been approved. She noted that two suspensions approved by Programs Committee in January had been submitted: the graduate certificates in Stroke Rehabilitation and Bridging to Canadian Physiotherapy Practice, and that the Dental Assisting Certificate and the proposed Bachelor of Biomedicine remained under review by the Ministry.

12. Question Period

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC Programs Committee (PC)

Discussion:

Members inquired about requirements for capstone projects for course-based masters' programs and specifically the MEng program.

A question about the Embedded Certificate Framework coming to GFC was asked and specifically whether students would be able to use coursework to meet program requirements and to obtain embedded certificates. The Chair clarified that a course that meets both the degree requirements and the requirements of the embedded certificate can be used for both, but the same course could not be used for more than one certificate.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: April 13, 2023
- Next Meeting of GFC: March 20, 2023