



General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Tammy Hopper, Chair
J Nelson Amaral
David Draper
Florence Glanfield
Nathalie Kermoal
Brooke Milne
Donia Mounsef
Karsten Mündel

Melissa Padfield
Hanne Pearce
Sachiketha Reddy
Victoria Ruetalo
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Christopher Sturdy
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Helen Vallianatos

REGRETS:

Ananya Ananya Sarkar
Brad Hamdon
Natalie Sharpe

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

The Chair proposed to amend the agenda to add a new discussion item: 13. GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference, in order to discuss a motion that was brought to GFC Executive on October 5 to amend PC's Terms of Reference.

Motion: Mündel/Padfield

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that since the agenda was very full she would defer her comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Pearce/Ruetalo

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 17, 2020

Discussion:

The Chair made a brief comment on the minutes to note that the original motions for item 6, the Direct Entry to the BCom program, indicated publication in the 2022-2023 Calendar; however, the attachments indicated publication in the 2021-2022 Calendar. She explained that since the direct entry program was being implemented for the application cycle starting Oct 2021 - with a start date of September 2022, the changes should be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar. The correct calendar year was reflected in the minutes and noted as a correction in the posted motions. The recommendation that went forward to APC was corrected as well. She encouraged members to reach out to the Committee Coordinator if they had any questions.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of September 17, 2020.

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Faculty of Business

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the course and minor program change submission from the Faculty of Business.

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

There were no items.

ACTION ITEMS

6. Election of a Vice-Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair noted that Dr Victoria Ruetalo was willing to let her name come forward for the Vice-Chair position.

There were no concerns and no other names were put forward.

Dr Ruetalo was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

7. Proposed New Course Designator, SUST (Sustainability), Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Scott Jeffrey, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of ALES; Robert Summers, Academic Director of the Sustainability Council

Purpose of the Proposal: Introduction of a new course designator of SUST in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology (REES)

Discussion:

Dr Jeffrey noted that ALES was the administrative home for the Certificate in Sustainability. He explained that none of the current course designators were appropriate and that the Department of REES was looking into developing more courses on the topic of sustainability as well.

Dr Summers noted that the Certificate in Sustainability was a popular program and that they were looking at restructuring the program to include more options and potentially create an advanced certificate.

In response to a question, Dr Summers explained that any changes would not apply to students already in the program and that the capstone project could be either credit or non-credit.

Motion: Sturdy/Padfield

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new course designator for Sustainability, SUST, as submitted by the Faculty of ALES.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Temporary Changes to the Doctor of Medicine Program Course Structure, Move to Omnibus Schedule

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mia Lang, Co-Vice Dean, Education, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry; Darryl Rolfson, Associate Dean, MD Program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: This proposal is before the committee in response to the severe disruption of clinical experiences and scheduling challenges for all years of the MD Program brought about by the pandemic. A need for ongoing longitudinal assessment is not well addressed by the current course structure. The MD Program is proposing changes to provide a seamless student learning experience.

Discussion:

The Chair thanked the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry for their work on this proposal. She explained that conversations about this had begun in May and the Faculty had been working hard to make sure that their MD students could continue to progress in their programs. She reported that the Undergraduate Program Support Team (UPST) had a good discussion on the proposal and provided some advice regarding the creation of the proposal summary document that was included in the meeting materials, work concerning academic standing and assessment, and identifying strategies to ensure students were aware of and understood the academic appeal processes.

Dr Rolfson presented an overview of the MD Program and explained how the course sequencing worked, and the urgent need to move to an omnibus year-long structure. He noted that the consequence of delay would be students unable to fulfill their clerkship requirements because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Lang remarked that there was a major reform happening across medical education towards competency-based medicine and that the University of Alberta would be pursuing this differently if not for the pandemic. She noted that the Faculty would take what they learn from this temporary shift, refine the changes, and eventually make them permanent.

During the discussion, members expressed opinions and asked questions including but not limited to:

- language around “temporary” or “pilot program” change and whether new courses could be approved to be used as needed; advice that was given to ask for temporary changes for now and then revisit the situation to make sure the changes were made properly;
- concern with the length of time the temporary changes would be required, how long the pandemic was expected to last and that they should be reviewed sooner;
- where in the new structure doctors would learn about working with indigenous populations and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) expertise in the Faculty;
- how academic standing and student progression would need to be updated with a change from "course" to "component" and how this had to be explicit for students so that they could navigate the appeals process and academic probation, when necessary; and

- how many students were currently in the program and needing to move to this course structure.

The Committee agreed to amend the motion to make the temporary changes effective for two academic years and requested that they be reviewed in 12 months.

Dr Rolfson thanked members and also noted his thanks to the UPST for their advice and support with the proposal.

Motion: Sturdy/Pearce

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed temporary changes to the MD Program course structure, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect immediately for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Academic Years.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to the Bachelor of Education (BEd), the BEd After Degree and the Combined BEd/Bachelor of Science Programs in Faculté Saint-Jean

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean; Martine Cavanagh, Associate Dean, Education, Faculté Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal:

- to align our education programs with Alberta Education's new requirements in the areas of inclusive and Indigenous education
- to align our education programs with Campus Saint-Jean's recently revised French education competencies
- to strengthen the links between theory and practice and equip students better to respond to diversity in the classroom
- to improve our students' abilities in several key areas (mastery of French, teaching English, and integrating technology, Indigenous education, literacy and pedagogical differentiation into their teaching)

Discussion:

The Chair explained that Faculté Saint-Jean had been working on the proposed changes for the past year through a very consultative process.

Dean Mocquais spoke about the Faculté's mandate to educate francophone and immersion teachers, and efforts to modernize the official languages act and strengthen access to education in both official languages from early childhood education to the PhD level. He noted that school boards from all over Canada, including Quebec were recruiting our students and that graduates had high rate of employability. He explained that the proposed changes responded to a shift in EDI and Indigenization of the curriculum and the need for enhanced competencies.

Dr Cavanagh noted that the proposal was also responding to student input and suggestions, input from school boards and changing education standards. She provided an overview of the proposed changes.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- concern about practicums during the pandemic and that all the current students were able to find practicums so this was unlikely to change;
- how the after-degree program change in the credit requirements matched up with other programs in the province and what impact the additional two credits would have on students;
- that additional courses would be offered in spring so that the program would still be two years;

- that the additional two courses, one in technology competency and one in practicum and observation, were important for students and would set them up for success;
- that many students in the after-degree program had strong degrees but no knowledge of Alberta and Alberta school systems; and
- whether an additional two courses in spring would be burdensome to students.

During the discussion, members raised concerns with the language related to Practicum Rules and refusal of a placement in Attachment 5. Members felt very strongly that the university must clearly indicate that students who felt they were in an unsafe situation could and should come forward and have the full support of the university. Since the committee was supportive of the new courses and the program changes proposed in that section, they agreed that Faculté and the Office of the Registrar would handle the matter editorially and that the revisions would be brought back to the committee for their review before publication of the 2021-2022 *University Calendar*.

Motions: Mündel/Amaral

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the name change from "Elementary/Élémentaire" to "Elementary/Primaire" for the Bachelor of Education program in Faculté Saint-Jean, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the termination of the Inclusive Education minor in the Bachelor of Education program, as set forth in Attachment 2, effective July 1, 2021 and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the load change from *60 to *66 for the Bachelor of Education After Degree as set forth in Attachment 3, to take effect July 1, 2021 and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the changes to the existing admission requirements and admissions/readmissions deadlines for the Bachelor of Education After Degree as set forth in Attachment 4, to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar and to take effect for applicants applying to begin their program in fall 2022.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the new courses for the Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Education After Degree, and Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Science programs, and related minor program changes in Faculté Saint-Jean, as set forth in Attachments 5, 6, 7 and 8, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2021-2022 Calendar.

CARRIED

Motion: Mündel/Draper

Motion from the Floor:

THAT the GFC Programs Committee extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes.

CARRIED

10. Proposed Name Changes and Associated Substantive Program Changes to the Bachelor of Arts Majors in Psychology and Mental Health, and Sustainability Studies, and the Bachelor of Science Majors in Chemical and Physical Sciences, Computing Science and Mathematics, and Integrative Biology, 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 rename the Majors in ‘Environmental Studies’ and ‘Psychology’ in the Bachelor of Arts program and the Majors in ‘Biology’, ‘Chemistry’, and ‘Computing Science’ in the Bachelor of Science program offered through Augustana Faculty, to the ‘Sustainability Studies major’, and ‘Psychology and Mental Health major’ in the Bachelor of Arts program and ‘Integrative Biology major’, ‘Chemical and Physical Sciences major’, and ‘Computing Science and Mathematics major’ in the Bachelor of Science program, and to approve substantive associated program changes.

Discussion:

The Chair mentioned the discussion at the UPST meeting regarding the proposed changes for item 10 and 11 and their relationship to other recent changes at Augustana, and questions posted about student and faculty consultation, admission requirements, and the rigor of programs.

Dr Mündel provided an overview of the overarching curricular changes at Augustana with the goal of developing more interdisciplinary programming as well as responding to budget pressures.

Members noted support of the curricular changes.

Motions: Seyl Miyashita/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change to the Bachelor of Arts major in Psychology, to Psychology and Mental Health, and associated program changes, as set forth in Attachments 2 and 3, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change to the Bachelor of Arts major in Environmental Studies, to Sustainability Studies, and associated program changes, as set forth in Attachments 4 and 5, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change to the Bachelor of Science major in Chemistry, to Chemical and Physical Sciences, and associated program changes, as set forth in Attachments 6 and 7, to take effect in Fall 2021

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change to the Bachelor of Science major in Computing Science, to Computing Science and Mathematics, and associated program changes, as set forth in Attachments 8 and 9, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change to the Bachelor of Arts major in Biology, to Integrative Biology, and associated program changes, as set forth in Attachments 10 and 11, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

11. Proposed Substantive Program Changes to the Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Arts Majors in Physical Education, and the Bachelor of Science Major in Environmental Science, 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 make significant program changes to the Majors Physical Education in the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science program and to the Major in Environmental Science in the Bachelor of Science program, offered through Augustana Faculty.

Discussion:

There were no questions.

Motions: Padfield/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed program changes to the Bachelor of Science Major in Physical Education, as set forth in Attachment 2, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed program changes to the Bachelor of Arts Major in Physical Education, as set forth in Attachment 3, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed program changes to the Bachelor of Science Major in Environmental Science, as set forth in Attachment 4, to take effect in Fall 2021.

CARRIED

12. Proposed Adoption of SAT/ACT Test-Optional Approach for Applicants with US-Patterned Curriculum in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Amy Dambrowitz, Associate Registrar; Tim Tang, Assistant Registrar and Director, Admissions

Purpose of the Proposal: To adopt an SAT/ACT test optional admissions assessment for applicants presenting US-patterned curriculum from accredited institutions applying for Fall 2021 admission as a temporary measure in response to Covid-19 disruptions causing school and/or test centre closures.

Discussion:

The presenters gave an overview of the proposal and noted that while this temporary change was proposed due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the future of standardized testing for university admissions was also being discussed, and that they may soon propose a more permanent waiving of the test for accredited American curriculum schools.

A member noted the importance of the global conversations happening around standardized testing and equity.

Motion: Mundel/Draper

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from GFC, the proposed temporary

change to undergraduate admission requirements as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Winter 2022 admissions.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference (no documents)

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair explained that there was a motion brought by a member of GFC to GFC Executive Committee related to the Programs Committee's Terms of Reference and that she thought it was important for the committee to discuss it. She added that since there was not enough time to have a fulsome discussion at this meeting, she would be sure to follow up with members on the issue soon.

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 and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

Ms Patrick provided the following update:

Currently there is one program proposal awaiting approval from the Ministry, and that is the name change for the MA en Études interdisciplinaires canadiennes.

Also, since the last meeting, we have received one System-wide coordination request from the Ministry of Advanced Education for a proposal from the Visual College of Art and Design for a new Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design degree program.

15. Question Period

Presenter(s): Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

16. Items Approved by GFC Programs Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

17. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

18. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: November 19, 2020
- Next Meeting of GFC: October 19, 2020

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.