

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

Thursday, November 17, 2022
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:50 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Florence Glanfield
Gurleen Kaur
Jane Lee (delegate)
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Sujata Persad
Sean Robertson
Maite Shauwaert

Monisha Vinod (delegate)
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:
Bishoi Aziz
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Brad Hamdon
Anna Hughes

Stacy Lorenz
Brian Pardell
Hanne Pearce
Ali Shiri
Aman Ullah
Helen Vallianatos

Staff:
Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged, "that the University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant 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

Motion: 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:

In her comments the Chair spoke about the announcement of the appointment of Carries Smith as the Vice Provost (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity), the consultation for the University Strategic Plan that was underway, and some recent decisions on proposals from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

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.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 15, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of September 15, 2022.

CARRIED

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- Arts
- Education
- Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Saint-Jean
- 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 Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Education, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing, Rehabilitation Medicine, Saint-Jean, and Science.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Proposed Changes to Indigenous Admissions for the BSc in Dental Hygiene and the Doctor of Dental Surgery Programs, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Presenter(s): Steven Patterson, Associate Chair, Academic, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Discussion:

S Patterson spoke about the proposed changes and noted that they would align with recent changes made by the Faculty for admission to the Doctor of Medicine program. He explained that removing these quota barriers was an attempt to better respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Members asked questions and expressed comments about: the use of the term "aboriginal" in the legal context; the importance of removing barriers; whether these changes would apply to both Alberta and non-Alberta residents; support for Indigenous students once they are in the programs; efforts to ensure that more Indigenous students are able to meet admission criteria for health professions; and accreditation standards. Members also discussed ranking applicants based on scores, and that it was a more equitable admission evaluation strategy to require applicants to meet thresholds for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) and Grade Point Average (GPA) but not to use those scores to further rank qualified applicants.

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to admission requirements and regulations for the Doctor of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Science (Dental Hygiene) Programs, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachments 1-2, to take effect for Fall 2024.

CARRIED

6. Bachelor of Science Renewal, Faculty of Science Index Document Overview

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science

Discussion:

G de Vries presented an overview of the existing degree structure and the proposed changes that had been developed over a 4-year project to renew the Bachelor of Science Program Structure in the Faculty of Science. She made note of the problematic articulation and high variability between degree types, alignment with standards of comparator institutions, increasing student access to minors, and addressing academic standing issues and time-consuming administrative processes. G de Vries also spoke about the significant consultation with departments within the Faculty and with external Faculties, governance committees, and students.

During the discussion members asked question and expressed comments including but not limited to: the differences between disciplines of earth sciences in the Faculty of Science and environmental sciences in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; variable feedback from students, faculty, and industry; how the changes would impact students in the Bachelor of Science degree programs at Faculté Saint-Jean and Augustana Faculty; the importance of Science degrees across the university being comparable; and whether students admitted before fall 2024 would be able to move into the new framework.

A. Proposed New Ministry-approved Specializations in Astrophysics, Environmental Earth Sciences, and Paleontology, Faculty of Science

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the addition of Astrophysics as a new Ministry-approved specialization effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the addition of Environmental Earth Sciences as a new Ministry-approved specialization effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the addition of Paleontology as a new Ministry-approved specialization effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

B. Proposed Internal Suspension of all Science Specializations Programs, certain Honors Programs, and the Minor in Physical Sciences, Faculty of Science

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the suspension of the following BSc with Specialization programs for the period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029:

- a. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Astrophysics
- b. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Biochemistry
- c. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Cell Biology
- d. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Chemistry
- e. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Computing Science
- f. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Computing Science - Business Minor
- g. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Computing Science - Software Practice
- h. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology
- i. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Environmental Earth Sciences
- j. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Geology
- k. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Geophysics
- l. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Immunology and Infection
- m. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Integrative Physiology
- n. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Mathematics
- o. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Mathematics - Computational Science
- p. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Mathematics and Finance
- q. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Mathematics and Economics
- r. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- s. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Paleontology
- t. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Pharmacology
- u. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Physics
- v. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Planning
- w. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Psychology
- x. Bachelor of Science with Specialization in Statistics

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the suspension of the following BSc with Honors programs for the period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029:

- a. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Applied Mathematics - Minor in Computing Science
- b. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Applied Mathematics - Minor in Statistics
- c. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Mathematics - Minor in Computing Science
- d. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Mathematics - Minor in Statistics

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the suspension of the Minor in Physical Sciences for the period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029.

CARRIED

C. Proposed New Internal Majors, Honors, Second-level Specializations, and EAS Major/Minor Name Change, Faculty of Science

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the following new internal Major programs, effective July 1, 2024:

- a. Bachelor of Science, Major in Applied Mathematics
- b. Bachelor of Science, Major in Biochemistry
- c. Bachelor of Science, Major in Cell Biology
- d. Bachelor of Science, Major in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology
- e. Bachelor of Science, Major in Geology
- f. Bachelor of Science, Major in Geophysics
- g. Bachelor of Science, Major in Immunology and Infection
- h. Bachelor of Science, Major in Integrative Physiology
- i. Bachelor of Science, Major in Mathematical Physics
- j. Bachelor of Science, Major in Mathematics and Economics
- k. Bachelor of Science, Major in Mathematics and Finance
- l. Bachelor of Science, Major in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- m. Bachelor of Science, Major in Neuroscience
- n. Bachelor of Science, Major in Pharmacology
- o. Bachelor of Science, Major in Physiology
- p. Bachelor of Science, Major in Planning

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the following new Honors programs, effective July 1, 2024:

- a. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Biological Sciences
- b. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Computing Science - Software Practice Option
- c. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Earth Sciences
- d. Bachelor of Science with Honors in Planning

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the following new second-level specializations, effective July 1, 2024:

- a. Minor in Astrophysics
- b. Minor in Biochemistry
- c. Minor in Cell Biology
- d. Minor in Climate Dynamics
- e. Minor in Geophysics
- f. Minor in Pharmacology
- g. Software Practice Option

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the following name changes, effective July 1, 2024:

- a. Minor in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (to Minor in Earth Sciences)
- b. Major in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (to Major in Earth Sciences)

CARRIED

D. Proposed Changes to Admission and Program Requirements related to the New BSc Degree Framework, BSc Renewal Project, Faculty of Science

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the attached changes for inclusion in the 2023-2024 University Calendar:

- a. Bachelor of Science General (UPDATED)
- b. Bachelor of Science Specialization (UPDATED)
- c. Bachelor of Science Honors (UPDATED)
- d. Bachelor of Science (Major and Honors) - Effective Fall 2024 (NEW)
 - i. Breadth from Outside the Faculty of Science Course Lists (NEW)
 - ii. Breadth from Within the Faculty of Science Course Lists (NEW)
 - iii. Lab/Field Experience Course List (NEW)
 - iv. Ecology, Evolution or Diversity List (NEW)
 - v. Genetics, Molecular Biology or Microbiology List (NEW)
 - vi. Physiology, Cell Biology or Developmental Biology List (NEW)
 - vii. EE&E Major/Honors Course Lists A - E (NEW)
- e. Faculty of Science Admission Requirements (UPDATED)
 - i. Subject Area Courses (NEW)
- f. Faculty of Science Admission Chart 7 (DELETED)
- g. Faculty of Science Admission Deadlines (UPDATED)
- h. Faculty of Science General Information (UPDATED)
- i. Faculty of Science Regulations (UPDATED)

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Proposed Revisions to the Bachelor of Commerce Degree Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michelle Inness, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business

Discussion:

M Inness outlined the proposed program changes for the Bachelor of Commerce degree program including declaring a major later, and moving the core business courses earlier in the program so that students complete them by the end of year 2, giving them more time to focus on their majors and other areas of interest such as minors and certificates. She also spoke about the development of 4 courses, one for each year of the program, which would provide all students with important content on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), Indigenization, international business, problem solving, teamwork, collaboration, and communication. M Inness also noted that the Faculty was working on a proposal for a new major in Business Analytics.

Members discussed: course requirements, and interdisciplinary and work experience opportunities; graduation GPA calculation and opportunities for exploration credits; and the balance between providing grounding in foundational core competencies and allowing for program flexibility.

8. 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 the following report:

We are in the process of reviewing two new external program proposals:

1. a new Master of Education with a Specialization in Catholic Education from St. Mary's University, and
2. a new Studio Art Specialization under an existing Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program from Alberta University of the Arts.

The termination of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene has been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Since our last meeting in September, the Ministry has approved:

- 2 suspensions:
 - BSc in Pharmacy
 - PharmD Bridging Program for BSc in Pharmacy Students
- 8 terminations:
 - Four 1st-level specializations under the BSc:
 - Animal Biology
 - Bioinformatics
 - Environmental Physical Sciences
 - Geography
 - Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy
 - MA in Comparative Literature
 - PhD in Comparative Literature
 - Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation / BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

9. Question Period

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

Discussion:

A member asked about next steps regarding the Embedded Certificate Working Group. The Chair answered that the proposed framework would go to the Program Support Team for discussion the following week.

A member asked about hybrid meetings of Programs Committee and whether the remote option would continue to be available in the New Year. The Chair answered that there were no plans to change the meeting format at that time.

A member asked if there would be an update on the implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan. Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research) F Glanfield replied that there would be an update at a future meeting.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings-University of Alberta Mail - Slides for Presentation on Embedded Certificate Working Group

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of PC: December 8, 2022
 - Next Meeting of GFC: January 30, 2023