



General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2013
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Bill Connor	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Gary Barron	Member (Delegate), Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Dustin Chelen	Member, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Business
Clive Hickson	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Education
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean, School of Public Health
Tim Joseph	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Engineering
Nathalie Kermoal	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Native Studies
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Stuart Landon	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Glen Loppnow	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Heather McRae	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension
Murray Diduck	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Ada Ness	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Harry Prest	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana Faculty
Marc Johnson	Member (Delegate), Director of the Student Ombuds Service
Jill McClay	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Liz Taylor	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Presenter(s):

Bill Connor	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Kathleen Brough	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dustin Chelen	Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union, University of

Steven Dew	Alberta Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering
Darin McKinley	Legal Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Colin More	Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association
Ada Ness	Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar
Lihong Yang	Assistant Registrar (Admissions), Office of the Registrar

Staff:

Garry Bodnar, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Joseph/Ross

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 17, 2013

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: d'Entremont/Chelen

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of October 17, 2013.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant items 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: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Omnibus Motion: Joseph/Diduck

4A. Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences: Proposed Changes to Existing/Approved Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing/approved admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and as set forth in Attachment A, to be effective in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer Requirements for the Dental Hygiene Diploma Program

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 Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment B, to be effective in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

4C. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals for November, 2013

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

CARRIED

4D. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Changes to Admissions Chart 6 (International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses Approved for Advanced Standing)

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Admissions Chart 6 (International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses Approved for Advanced Standing) of the University Calendar, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment D, for implementation in 2015/2016 and for publication in 2014-2015 University Calendar.

CARRIED

4E. Faculté Saint-Jean: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation requirements (highlighted in green only), as submitted by Faculté Saint-Jean and as set forth in Attachment E, to be effective in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

4F. Faculty of Science: 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/graduation requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Science and as set forth in Attachment F, to be effective in 2014-2015.

CARRIED

5. Proposed Revisions from the Office of the Registrar to Section 12.2 of the University Calendar (Undergraduate Application Procedures - Definitions)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar (Admissions), Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To revise the definition of a 'Previous Student' in Section 12.2 of the University Calendar (Undergraduate Application Procedures - Definitions) to include reference to a student who is reapplying to the same program after any absence of 12 consecutive months or more rather than strictly a voluntary absence (as currently stated).

Discussion:

Dr Lang explained that the proposal originated from an item presented to the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) at its June 6, 2013 meeting, adding that it revises language within the University Calendar to make it consistent with recent changes within the Code of Student Behaviour clarifying that, for suspensions less than 12 months, students would be permitted to re-enroll in their programs.

A member confirmed that this is consistent with the changes that were made recently to the Code of Student Behaviour and does adequately add clarity and that each Faculty, as *per* the separate Faculty sections within the University Calendar, can tailor their approach to this issue.

Motion: Geddes/Prest

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee proposed revisions to Section 12.2 of the University Calendar (Undergraduate Application Procedures - Definitions), as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon final approval and for publication in the 2014-2015 Calendar.

CARRIED

6. Proposed University Calendar Revisions from the Office of the Registrar to Requirements for Police Information Checks

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ada Ness, Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar; Darin McKinley, Legal Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Purpose of the Proposal: These changes provide clarification and state the possible consequence to students of being unable to satisfy the Police Information Check requirement of some programs. Legal Counsel has been working with the Office of the Registrar and affected Faculties in reviewing the language in the University Calendar that references the requirement of Police Information Checks in certain programs.

Discussion:

Ms Ness explained to members that following a lot of hard work and effort between the Office of the Registrar, the Office of General Counsel, and individual Faculties, the proposal now before members seeks to clarify the issue of mandated Police Information Checks within the University Calendar, adding that it outlines the possible consequences for students who are unable to satisfy the requirement.

Mr McKinley commented that the project was initiated in the Spring of 2013 and included extensive consultation across those Faculties which are required by law to request Police Information Checks and others which, by internal policy, require them. He noted that the intent of this project was to create more in-depth, consistent language surrounding this issue throughout the University Calendar, thereby ensuring clarity for both applicants and current students.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed the following comments and questions in relation to the proposal, including, but not limited to: expressions of support for the proposal; that the proposal provides much-needed clarification to Calendar regulations; that the proposal lacks information to address the need for annual Police Information Checks; that the proposal does not adequately address possible liability issues; a suggestion to amend the proposal to mandate a new Police Information Check prior to student community placements; that different Faculties possess different rules surrounding Police Information Checks; that the self-reporting by students of prior legal issues is not always reliable; that individuals with criminal records should not necessarily continue to have limited opportunities as a result of their records and that each case should be considered individually; clarification about student teachers and Police Information Checks; and whether the proposal could be amended to strengthen the policy surrounding self-reporting.

Motion: Geddes/Landon

That the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the proposed University Calendar changes to the Police Information Check, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Final Report – Provision of Advice to the Office of the Provost

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Dustin Chelen, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union; Steven Dew, Associate Dean (Research and Planning), Faculty of Engineering; Colin More, Vice-President (Academic), Graduate Students' Association

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek advice from the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) on how best to promote awareness of the list of graduate attributes approved by the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) at its June 5, 2013 meeting and, in particular, to seek input on how these attributes might figure in the design of academic programming and courses.

Discussion:

The Chair introduced presenters of the item and explained that the project, which stemmed from work undertaken by GFC CLE, falls in line with current practices of other Canadian universities who have recently developed similar attributes and competencies. He noted that Faculties could use the report in any manner that they see fit (ie, in a tailored approach) and that the list of attributes and competencies applies to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Mr Chelen reported that as set out in the content related to the development of attributes and competencies within *Dare to Deliver 2.0*, GFC CLE struck a subcommittee in 2011 to further investigate the issue. He added that, following extensive work which included consultation with undergraduate and graduate students, the list of attributes and competencies was narrowed down and drafted in a final report that was finally endorsed by GFC CLE in the Spring of 2013. He stated that the Attributes and Competencies Subcommittee's Final Report was submitted in turn to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for consideration and that the next steps include discussing implementation with Faculties.

Mr More explained that the list of attributes and competencies is increasingly important for graduate students, noting a shift in attitude wherein potential employers expect an increased focus on skills as opposed to scholarly work completed by graduate students. He added that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has endorsed the GFC CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies Final Report. He invited members to provide feedback and advice on implementing the attributes and competencies.

Dr Dew explained his involvement on the Subcommittee as a faculty representative, noting that his experiences in the Faculty of Engineering proved beneficial in determining educational outcomes. He invited members to consider the Report as it would apply within their own Faculties.

During the lengthy discussion regarding this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that it is expected during the accreditation process that Faculties formally assess and evaluate the educational outcomes for their students; that prescribing standardized attributes and competencies across the board is problematic, as Faculties and programs are so varied; that students can graduate without the ability to properly articulate their employability skills and that educating students about skills and attributes is the key issue; that certain Faculties are currently developing tools to address these issues; that some students do not necessarily want to possess and/or have the skills or personalities to attain all of the attributes and competencies outlined; that students and Faculties could work together to develop the attributes and competencies specific to their disciplines; that the list of sub-attributes could be controversial and encounter a lack of faculty member support; an expression of concern about the language used within the Report; that the recommendations in the Report may inadvertently narrow opportunities on campus instead of broaden them; that the Report is too prescriptive; that students

often complete a lot of complementary work outside of their Faculties; that there are existing methods for students to develop some of the attributes and competencies within Faculties; that caution should be taken in drafting student satisfaction surveys within Faculties; that some Faculties measure confidence-level, not actual skill level, for certain of the attributes and competencies; that the Report should include examples of what the attributes are; and that the Report should be posted clearly on the University Governance website. On the final point, the Coordinator recommended the Report would be better situated at this juncture on the website for the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

Dr Connor thanked members for their comments and suggestions and stated this was the beginning of an ongoing discussion on how best to deploy across the institution the attributes and competencies set out in the aforementioned report. He noted that this item would next come up for discussion at a Deans' Council meeting in January, 2014.

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

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Ms Brough provided an update of current programs being considered by the Provincial Government:

Currently with the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) Undergoing System Coordination Review:

Faculty of Extension Proposal for Master of Arts (MA) in Community Engagement

Currently with Campus Alberta Quality Council Undergoing Quality Review:

Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) Proposal for New Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy Majors

Faculty of ALES Proposal for Changes to the Nutritional and Food Science (NUFS) Programs

Faculty of ALES Proposal for the Sustainable Agriculture Major

Recently Approved:

Faculty of Arts: Name Change for the Women's Studies Undergraduate Program to Women's and Gender Studies

External Reviews of Proposals from Other Institutions:

Bachelor of Applied Science in Resource Management and Restoration from Lethbridge College – Review by the Faculty of ALES (proposal has not yet been submitted to EAE; the University of Alberta was notified directly by the institution and provided a response)

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail Ballots

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 10:35 am.