



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2014
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)
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Business
Tim Joseph	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Engineering
Stuart Landon	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Brenda Leskiw	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Helen Madill	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension
John Law	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Law
Ada Ness	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Kathryn Orydzuk	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Faculty of Nursing
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Student Ombuds Service
Mazi Shirvani	Member, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Non-Voting Members:

Pat Schultz	Member, Associate Registrar (Enrolment Management), Office of the Registrar (Resource)
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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)
David Deephouse	Associate Dean (PhD Program), Faculty of Business
Ada Ness	Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar
Mazi Shirvani	Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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.

Presenter: Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Motion: Joseph/Ross

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 17, 2014

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

Motion: Madill/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of April 17, 2014.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of relevant items to members.

Dr Connor also took this opportunity to announce to members that Dr Brenda Leskiw would be succeeding him in the role of Chair, GFC ASC, as he moves, come July 1, 2014, into the role of Acting Dean of the Faculty of Extension. He also acknowledged Ms Pat Schultz's work with GFC ASC, noting that she would be leaving the University at the end of the month.

A member enquired about immigration specialist certification for employees at the University of Alberta.

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: Geddes/Orydzuk

4A. Faculty of Business: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer Requirements

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 Business and as set forth in Attachment A, to be effective in 2015-2016.

CARRIED

4B. Office of the Registrar: Course Approvals and Denials for June, 2014

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 B, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Business Proposal for a (New) Freestanding For-Credit Post-Master's Certificate in Business Fundamentals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; David Deephouse, Associate Dean (PhD Program), Faculty of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To introduce a new Post-Master's freestanding for-credit certificate program in Business Fundamentals.

Discussion:

Dr Shirvani introduced Dr Deephouse to members.

Dr Deephouse thanked members for their consideration of this proposal. He noted that 70% of doctoral students do not pursue positions within academia, and many of them go on to work in other sectors. He suggested that providing additional business and/or financial skills to these individuals increases their chances of obtaining meaningful employment within their fields of expertise and in conjunction with their educational credentials.

He explained that this certificate is built upon courses within the existing Master of Business Administration (MBA) curriculum.

During the discussion surrounding this proposal, members provided a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: that this certificate would be attractive to Faculty of Science doctoral students; that some doctoral students do not possess a Master's degree; clarification regarding dual registration in the doctoral degree program and this certificate program; clarification regarding the seeming exclusion of post-doctoral students (PDFs) to apply for admission to and to pursue this certificate; that this would be an attractive certificate for PDFs in the Faculty of Science, as well; and an expression of concern that students within the first year of their doctoral studies would apply for this certificate program, thereby taking focus away from their graduate program.

Dr Deephouse noted he would check with the certificate's proposer, Associate Dean Joan White (Faculty of Business), as to whether or not PDFs would be considered for admission to this certificate. Mr Bodnar commented that, if Dr White confirmed PDFs were permitted entry to the program, the proposed admission criteria noted in the materials before members could be amended, thus, at the time the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) considered this proposal. The presenters and GFC ASC members agreed to this course of action.

Motion: Shirvani/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the approval of the new freestanding for-credit Post-Master's Certificate in Business Fundamentals, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Business and as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation in September, 2015.

CARRIED

6. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Business Proposal for a (New) Freestanding For-Credit Post-Master's Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; David Deephouse, Associate Dean (PhD Program), Faculty of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To introduce a new Post-Master's freestanding for-credit certificate program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Discussion:

Dr Deephouse explained that this certificate applies to students who have developed innovative ideas during their post-Master's studies who may require the extra skills to develop business plans and proposals to commercialize their innovations/inventions. He noted that, in other respects, this proposed certificate was similar in intent to the proposed certificate considered by members in the previous item (ie, Item 5).

During the discussion regarding this proposal, members expressed several comments and questions, including, but not limited to: expressions of support for this proposal and commentary that this certificate provides necessary skills for students entering the workforce; that this certificate would be extremely beneficial for students; a query as to whether students could take more than one certificate at a time; and commentary that students may want to begin working first and then enroll in these certificates, with a query as to whether this would be an option.

Motion: Shirvani/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the approval of the new freestanding for-credit Post-Master's Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Business and as set forth in Attachment 1, for implementation in September, 2015.

CARRIED

7. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Business Proposal for a Master of Accounting (MAcc) – Proposed Admission and Academic Standing Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Mazi Shirvani, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; David Deephouse, Associate Dean (PhD Program), Faculty of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To offer a Master of Accounting (MAcc) program to provide the required competencies of the new Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation.

Discussion:

Mr Bodnar reminded members that the intent of the Motion before GFC ASC is to recommend the admission and academic standing requirements for this proposed program to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) for consideration.

Dr Deephouse explained that there are imminent changes within the financial sector, with the unification of existing accounting professionals under the new CPA designation. This proposed Master's degree program will run during Spring and Summer Terms to allow existing professionals to enroll in this program during a less busy time within the industry. Dr Deephouse noted that this proposal has earned the support of several accounting groups and firms within Alberta.

Dr Deephouse explained that new staff will be hired and that new courses are being developed for this cost-recovery program. He added that there are currently no similar programs which exist in the Campus Alberta system.

Members provided a number of comments and questions in relation to this proposal, including, but not limited to: that, increasingly, accounting professionals are required to possess accounting designations; clarification regarding how this would interface with the undergraduate program in accounting; clarification surrounding the differences between this program and the ones offered at the University of Waterloo and the University of Saskatchewan; and whether there is a course regarding ethics included within this program's curriculum.

Motion: Shirvani/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the admission and academic standing requirements for a (new) Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the School of Business and as set forth in Attachment 1 [highlighted in yellow on page 21 of the Attachment], for implementation in May, 2015.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. University of Alberta Withdrawal Deadline: One Year Post-Implementation Update

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; Ada Ness, Associate Registrar (Enrolment Services), Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide information on withdrawals one year after the approval by the GFC Executive Committee (under delegated authority from General Faculties Council (GFC)) to extend the withdrawal deadline dates was granted.

Discussion:

Ms Ness provided members with a brief summary of data collected as a result of the extension of the withdrawal deadline at the University of Alberta, one year post-implementation. She reported that, while there had been an increase in withdrawals since the new deadline was imposed, the assignment of grades of 'F' and 'D' had not increased significantly. She summarized that, generally, the extended deadline has resulted in the desired outcome of enabling students to make informed decisions about their continuance within courses.

During the discussion regarding this item, members expressed a number of comments and questions, including, but not limited to: whether this has impacted student requests for retroactive withdrawals; that the influx of students' withdrawal requests impacts the ability of certain Faculty offices to prioritize other projects; that the increased awareness of this option might have been the reason for the recent increase in early withdrawals; support for this initiative, given its positive impact on the mental well-being of undergraduate students; commentary surrounding the withdrawal rates of domestic *versus* international students; that students had previously expressed difficulty in making withdrawal decisions for courses with two midterm examinations; whether the data includes information regarding 'marginal (academic) standing'; and a query as to whether this report could be generated again, in one year's time.

With respect to the final query posed, Ms Ness noted that the Office of the Registrar would generate a similar report for the Fall/Winter 2014-2015 in the Spring of 2015.

9. 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 with regard to programs currently being considered by the Provincial Government:

Currently with the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE) Undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Faculty of Extension proposal for the Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE)

Completed Reviews by the University of Alberta:

- Master of Arts (MA): Major in Culture, Theory, Social Change and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Arts: Major in Culture, Theory and Social Change at the University of Lethbridge (Arts)
- Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation at the University of Lethbridge (Physical Education and Recreation)

Mr Bodnar inquired as to why the MACE program was still being reviewed within the Ministry, roughly two years after its approval within the University's formal governance system, as well as into the current status of the Faculty of Arts' Master of Arts (MA) in Women's and Gender Studies. Ms Brough provided members with an update on the status of both programs.

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.

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.