



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2015
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nataraj (Nat) Kav | Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |
| Janice Causgrove Dunn | Vice-Chair, Dean or Delegate (Associate Dean, Undergraduate) |
| Jim Bohun | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences |
| Fraser Brenneis | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry |
| Dion Brocks | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences |
| Faith Davis | Member (Delegate), Dean, School of Public Health |
| Fay Fletcher | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension |
| Brenda Leskiw | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science |
| Deborah Burshtyn | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Students and Research |
| Rebecca Nagel | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts |
| Carla Peck | Member, Academic Staff |
| Fahim Rahman | Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union, |
| Natalie Sharpe | Member, Director of the Office of the Student Ombuds |
| Liz Taylor | Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine |
| Harsh Thaker | Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic) |
| Kasia Tymczak | Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC) |

Non-Voting Members:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sam Stowe | Member, Associate Registrar or Delegate |
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Presenter(s):

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|-------------------|--|
| Nataraj (Nat) Kav | Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) |
| Carlos Flores Mir | Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry |
| Deborah Burshtyn | Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research |
| Faith Davis | Vice-Dean, School of Public Health |
| Jorge Sousa | Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education |
| Kerry Mummery | Dean, Physical Education and Recreation |
| Jill Cameron | Project Manager, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation |
| Bernadette Martin | Associate Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine |
| Colleen Britton | Program Co-Director, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine |
| Sean Robertson | Assistant Professor, Faculty of Native Studies |
| Brendan Hokowhitu | Dean, Faculty of Native Studies |
| Chris Anderson | Faculty of Native Studies |
| Kate Peters | Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President |

(Academic)

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Ann Hodgson, scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Brenneis/Leskiw

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 15, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Taylor/Rahman

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of October 15, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair advised ASC that there has been some change in tone from the Ministry regarding second level specializations, especially at the graduate level; further details will be shared as they become available. In addition, government is expressing interest in embedded certificates and may want to look into this further in the future.

The Chair also noted that the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) is placing a lot of emphasis on learning outcomes. This will not be a major issue for accredited programs, but the Chair noted that having these metrics in place will assist proposals in moving through the system more quickly.

The Chair indicated that a group has been established to look at English language proficiency, and would likely have its first meeting prior to the holiday break. The committee discussed current band scores and the differences in requirements between graduate and undergraduate programs and the post MD specialization in Medicine. The Chair indicated that this group would come back to the committee with a recommendation for the undergraduate level.

A question arose as to why the dental hygiene diploma program suspension had been sent back from the government. It was indicated that this was due to technical reasons, that the system could not handle proposal outside of the one year implementation window; in addition, government did not want to approve any changes at the moment where a professional body might want to weigh in.

Additionally, the Chair advised that the striking of a task force would commence immediately to engage in a comprehensive review of the university's English language minimum requirements for admissions, and how baseline scoring is determined. Ideally, an outcome of this baseline study would be to specify the skills required of a student coming into the institution to enable a successful experience. ASC members

volunteered to participate on this task force: Dr Nagel, Dr Taylor, Dr Leskiw, Mr Bohun, Mr Rahman and Ms Stowe.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

The following proposal(s) were 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.

Motion: Rahman/Brenneis

4A. Faculty of Science: Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements, Specialization Cell Biology

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements, Specialization in Cell Biology as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachment A, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed changes to Admission Requirements, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sexual Health, Rehabilitation Medicine

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Admission Requirements, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sexual Health, Rehabilitation Medicine, as submitted by Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, and as set forth in Attachment B to take effect in 2016-2017

CARRIED

4C. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed changes to existing Academic Standing requirements (re-examinations and re-writes), Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Academic Standing Requirements (re-examinations and re-writes), Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment C, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

4D. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed Changes to existing Academic Standing requirements (attendance), Dentistry

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Academic Standing Requirements (attendance), Dentistry, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment D, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

- 4E. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed Changes to existing Admission requirements (Police Information Checks), Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Admission Requirements (Police Information Checks), Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment E, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

- 4F. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Changes to existing Academic Standing requirements, PhD, Physical Education and Recreation

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Academic Standing Requirements, PhD Physical Education and Recreation, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, and as set forth in Attachment F, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

- 4G. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements (GRE), Rehabilitation Medicine

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Admission requirements (GRE), Rehabilitation Medicine, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment G, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

- 4H. Faculty of Native Studies: Proposed changes to existing Graduation Requirement (residency), Certificate in Aboriginal Governance and Partnership

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Graduation Requirements (residency), Certificate in Aboriginal Governance, as submitted by the Faculty of Native Studies, and as set forth in Attachment H, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

- 4I. Faculty of Science: Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to existing Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachment I, to take effect 2016-2017

CARRIED

4J. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval of Transfer Credit for November 2015

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for approval of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in Attachment J, to be effective upon approval

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Changes to existing Admission Requirements, MSc in Medical Sciences, Orthodontics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carlos Flores Mir, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Deborah Burshtyn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: Prior to commencing the program, but no later than August 1 the year admitted, candidates must obtain registration under the Education and Research Register from the Alberta Dental Association + College (ADA+C). This is required of all dentists providing patient care in Alberta. This must be obtained prior to beginning the program. Candidates who already possess a full license from the ADA&C do not need to obtain additional licensure.

Discussion: Dr Flores noted that this licensure will allow students the opportunity to do procedures and also to engage in paid undergraduate teaching in their third clinical year if they so wish. In response to a question, he further noted that, in the last six months, the program requirements are complete and students have a lighter load which allows them to do some teaching, study for the licensing exam, or provide care. It was noted that it would be beneficial for PhD students who wish to pursue an academic career to do some undergraduate teaching, while Masters students would have opportunities to develop additional patient care expertise and interactions with referring dentists. Dr Flores emphasized that the teaching component would be optional for graduate students.

Motion: Brenneis/Taylor

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the requirements for entry into the MSc in Medical Sciences – Orthodontics program, section 205.19.3 Department of Dentistry, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect Fall 2016.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Changes to existing academic standing requirements for graduate programs, School of Public Health

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Faith Davis, Vice-Dean, School of Public Health

Purpose of the Proposal: Proposal to separate out the Comprehensive Examination component from the existing Candidacy Exam information.

Discussion: Dr Davis noted that this proposal would separate the comprehensive and candidacy examinations and result in doctoral students being better prepared to do their dissertation work.

Motion: Thaker/Leskiw

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the existing academic standing requirements, School of Public Health as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be in effect for the 2016-2017 Calendar.

CARRIED

7. Proposed changes to entrance requirements Medical Sciences MSc and PhD Periodontology, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Liran Levin, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: The MSc and PhD in Medical Sciences – Periodontology has some entrance and program requirements that are in addition to the general requirements for Medical Sciences.

Discussion: Dr Levin noted that the programs provide specialized periodontal training. Admission requirements include a DDS or equivalent designation and additional requirements. It was noted that students would be admitted to these new programs commencing September 2017. Dr Levin advised members that the goal is to admit four students per year to the three year Masters or six year PhD program. He noted that these programs would provide a feasible and proactive solution for the community in response to their needs for periodontal resources. Dr Levin accepted a friendly-amendment to the wording of the calendar copy. In response to a question about whether this program would require the same licensing requirement as that for the Orthodontics proposal considered earlier, Dr Levin noted that the entrance requirements proposed for the periodontology program would address this issue.

Motion: Leskiw/Brenneis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the entrance and academic standing requirements in the Medical Sciences – Periodontology programs, Department of Dentistry as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be in effect for September 2017 admission.

CARRIED

8. Proposal for the Suspension of Admission/Transfer to the Bachelor of Education (BEd), Adult Education route, Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Jorge Sousa, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: Approval of the (proposed) suspension of admission/transfer to the Faculty of Education's Bachelor of Education (BEd), Adult Education route.

Discussion: Dr Sousa noted that there had been no students admitted into the program for over 10 years, and that there had been no students in the program since 2007. He further noted that this proposal is for a suspension, rather than a termination, in order to offer the opportunity to revisit the program in light of innovations in the field of Adult Education.

Motion: Causgrove-Dunn/Peck

THAT the GFC Academic Standards committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission/transfer to the Bachelor of Education Adult Education route as set forth in Attachment 1 and 2, and as proposed by the Faculty of Education, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

9. Proposal for a (New) Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation, Faculties of Graduate Studies and Research and Physical Education and Recreation in partnership with the Faculty of Native Studies

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; Jill Cameron, Project Manager, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

Purpose of the Proposal: The focus of the Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation is the health and well-being of Indigenous people through sport and recreation. The intended purpose is to serve a demonstrated need in the realm of community-based Indigenous sport and recreation, establish a deep understanding of the cultural context of Indigenous communities and populations and enhance leadership in the growing field of Indigenous sport and recreation.

Discussion: Dean Mummery introduced the proposal noting that it was a joint effort between the Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation and the Faculty of Native Studies, and expands on the existing embedded certificate. It was confirmed that the proposed certificate will not replace the embedded certificate which targets a different audience.

Dean Mummery noted the proposed program's domestic/international interest and further noted that the certificate's focus on "Indigenous" rather than "Aboriginal" would promote further global identity for this new certificate model. Dean Mummery noted that the program would be offered using blended learning and a cohort model. The program would begin with a one week face to face component offered before the annual Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) western conference. The proposed certificate would allow professional education opportunities and the cohort model would provide the added value of developing a community of practice for students.

Dean Mummery responded to members' questions pertaining to source of funding and budget sustainability that such a new certificate model would require, particularly with interest on how the cost of the cohort orientation week would be structured. Dr Mummery indicated that the costs associated with the intensive week would be displayed separately from tuition costs. He further noted that, as the certificate would be of interest to a professional population, the cost of the program was not anticipated to be a barrier to access. The Faculty has been engaged in discussions to pursue various paths for additional funding support from the key stake-holders.

Motion: Causgrove-Dunn/Davis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee a (New) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation, as set forth in Attachment 1, and as proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation in partnership with the Faculty of Native Studies, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

10. Proposal for a (New) Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine; Colleen Britton, Project Co-Director, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Purpose of the Proposal: To introduce a new Post Baccalaureate Certificate Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice through the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. The students of this program include immigrants who are fully qualified as physiotherapists in their source countries who must pass the national physiotherapy competency exams in order to work as licensed physiotherapists in Canada.

Discussion: Dr Martin provided an overview of the certificate. She indicated that the program was developed with the support of a five year Health Canada and Alberta Health grant intended to establish a bridging program for internationally trained physical therapists and is currently in its third cohort. Dr Martin noted that the funding for this program is drawing to a close.

Dr Martin noted the proposed program consists of four credit courses offered in blended format with the majority of the course work completed online in addition to a one week boot camp in Edmonton and a number of labs offered on Saturdays in satellite campuses across the province. The mentorship portion of this program has also contributed to the success of student transition into the field. For students, this initiative offers valuable possibilities to train with Canadian clinicians, and location flexibility which has allowed students from across BC, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba to participate with Alberta students.

Dr. Martin indicated that the schedule for this program has been designed to start in May to allow for the use of facilities and other resources in slower times. In addition, one of the courses has been designed to be also target Canadian graduates whose licenses have lapsed and who require updating for re-entry into the profession.

Motion: Taylor/Leskiw

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, to the GFC Academic Planning Committee, the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, as proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be in effect September 2016.

CARRIED

11. Proposal for a PhD Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Faculty of Native Studies

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Sean Robertson, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Native Studies

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposed program provides opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to examine, imagine and debate the possibilities for Indigenous peoples within the context of a discipline dedicated exclusively to these concerns.

Discussion: Dr Robertson provided the committee with an overview of the program which was designed to have students complete all three courses in the first year, then move on to comprehensive and candidacy exams and dissertation within three years. In response to a question about student numbers and whether classes would be offered with just 2 students, Dr Robertson responded that that the classes could be available to students in other programs. Committee members congratulated the Faculty on the development of an exciting and timely program. One member noted that the proposal was well received at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council.

Motion: Burshtyn/Brocks

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, that the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the PhD in Indigenous Studies, as proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research and the Faculty of Native Studies, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective in 2016/17.

CARRIED

12. Proposal for changes to Introductory Meetings with Supervisor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Deborah Burshtyn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Purpose of the Proposal: To ensure that documents are in place to guide the discussion topics for the introductory meeting between a student and supervisor.

Discussion: Dr Burshtyn provided an overview of the proposal noting that it is part of an ongoing effort to improve the quality of supervision and the relationship between student and supervisor. It is expected that this introductory meeting would be the beginning of an ongoing conversation. A member noted that the list of topics provided was not exhaustive but provided a good framework.

A member noted that over 60% of the ombuds caseload was related to conflicts with supervisors and a consistent list of topics to be covered would promote fairness. It was also noted that many communication issues can be resolved informally and this list provides a helpful guideline. On whether the proposal goes far enough, Dr Burshtyn responded that the proposal is designed to provide a framework; an evaluation of uptake will occur which will contribute to the development of best practices in the future.

A member noted that this is very helpful for new supervisors. The question arose on whether this could be expanded beyond thesis based programs. Dr Burshtyn agreed to take this back to the Faculty to look at other types of graduate programs; ASC members indicated their interest to receive further iterations of this initiative in the future which would encompass other types of graduate programs.

Motion: Brenneis/Sharpe

THAT GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the policy for Introductory Meetings with Supervisor as proposed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion: Ms Peters provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Advanced Education (AE):

To be Proposed to Government pending APC approval:

- (New) PhD in Indigenous Studies

To be Proposed to Government pending BLDC approval:

- (New) PBC Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- (New) PBC Indigenous Sport and Recreation
- (New) University Certificate in Early Learning and Childhood Education
- (New) University Certificate in Digital Learning
- (New) University Certificate in Adolescent Literacy

To be Proposed to Government:

- Suspension to Admission in the Adult Education Route of the Bachelor of Education

Currently with IAE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- (New) PharmD Program;
- (New) Program Proposal for a Diploma in Tourism Management;
- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Urban and Regional Planning;

Sent back from the Ministry:

- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Audiology;
- Suspension proposal for Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

Completed System Coordination Review, under review by Campus Alberta Quality Council review:

- Master of Accounting

14. Question Period

With respect to the recent certificates in education, the question arose on how government views low or high tuition levels on cost recovery programming. The Chair responded that it was too early to tell what position the new government will take on this matter.

INFORMATION REPORTS

15. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by e-mail (non-debatable)

There were no items.

16. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.