



General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 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)
Fraser Brenneis	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Fay Fletcher	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension
Clive Hickson	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Education
Brenda Leskiw	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Deborah Burshtyn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Karsten Mundel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana Faculty
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Fahim Rahman	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director, Office of Student Ombuds
Liz Taylor	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Frank Tough	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Native Studies
Kasia Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC)
Sam Stowe	Member, Associate Registrar or Delegate
Jim Bohun	Member, (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Presenter(s):

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)
Carolyn Ross	Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Nursing
Jude Spiers	BScN Honors Program Coordinator, Faculty of Nursing
Sam Stowe	Associate Registrar
Thomas Hidson	Assistant Registrar
Amy Dambrowitz	Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Kate Peters	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Meg Brolley, 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: Mundel/Burshtyn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 19, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Brocks/Rahman

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of November 19, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair reported that Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) and the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) are organizing a forum in May 2016 on learning outcomes. It was reported that ACAT would like learning outcomes to be well defined across the Campus Alberta landscape so that transfer decisions could be made on this basis. In advance of the forum, all post-secondary Vice-Provosts have been asked to complete a survey on what their institution is doing. The Chair noted that academy-wide consultation would be necessary to complete this survey due to the differences between Faculties. A number of members indicated that their Faculty had been working on learning outcomes; it was reported that the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation was in the process of standardizing course outlines into a digital template, with the idea that they would be able to compile a bank of learning outcomes. The Chair will share the survey with Associate Deans for input and will consult with the Students' Union (SU) as well.

The Chair updated the committee on the English language proficiency group which has met once. He noted that the Office of the Registrar will gather more information on band scores for the group to consider in order to ensure that there are no unintended consequences for international student recruitment and success.

The Chair also noted that the working group on online assessment had been disbanded pending further direction from Government.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Motion: Leskiw/Mundel

4A. Faculty of Nursing: Proposed changes to existing Admission Requirements Transition Year Program for Aboriginal Applicants

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve changes to existing Admission Requirements for the Transition Year Program for Aboriginal Applicants, as submitted by the Faculty of Nursing, and as set forth in Attachment A, to take effect fall 2016.

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Science / Faculty of Education: Proposed Changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements, BSc (Specialization in Science and Education)/BEd (Secondary) Combined Degree Program

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve changes to existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements for the BSc (Specialization in Science and Education)/BEd (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program.

CARRIED

4C. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Changes to existing Admission deadlines, Open Studies

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to existing admission deadlines for Open Studies, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in Attachment C, to take effect fall 2016.

CARRIED

4D. Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research: Proposed Changes to existing Admission Requirements (GRE), Medical Microbiology and Immunology

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve changes to existing Admission Requirements for Medical Microbiology and Immunology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, and as set forth in Attachment D, to take effect fall 2016.

CARRIED

4E. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval and Denials of Transfer Credit for December 2015

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

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to Admission and Academic Standing Requirements, BSc Nursing Honors Program, Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carolyn Ross, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Nursing; Jude Spiers, BScN Honors Program Coordinator, Faculty of Nursing

Purpose of the Proposal: To open access to the BScN Honors Program to students who are admitted into the BScN After-Degree Program.

Discussion:

Dr Ross reported that the proposed changes relate to admissions and academic requirements for students who already possess a degree, and would expand access to the current Honors program for these students. She noted that the focus on research in the Honors program makes students more competitive and better prepared for graduate level programs.

Dr Spiers added that the admission process would ensure that students were well matched to and prepared for the intensive program. Each student would be matched to a research supervisor; the number of students admitted would be limited by the number of tenure track faculty able to supervise a student.

In response to a member's question, it was noted that the program is limited to Edmonton students due to logistical factors as research supervisors are not present in other campuses. On whether the Nursing

Undergraduate Association was consulted during the development of this program, it was noted that students had been consulted but that the honors program did not have formal representation on that body.

Motion: Taylor/Brenneis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve changes to Admission and Academic Standing Requirements for the BSc Nursing Honors Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Nursing, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect fall 2016.

CARRIED

6. Proposed changes to existing Admission Requirements for High School Applicants, Office of the Registrar

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Sam Stowe, Associate Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve proposed changes which will allow students to use Aboriginal Studies 30 with Social Studies 30-1 on an admission, and clarify that only 5 credit courses will be used for admission purposes.

Discussion:

Ms Stowe noted that this proposal was developed with extensive consultation and guidance from all direct-entry Faculties. Members expressed support for the proposal with editorial changes clarifying 5-credit courses, not 5 credit courses, and removing of the notation "In some cases, approved courses that are less than 5 credits can be combined to equal one 5 credit course for admission purposes" from faculty specific sections.

Motion: Rahman/Bohun

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend that the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to existing admission requirements for high school applicants, as proposed by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in Attachment 1 as amended, to take effect fall 2015.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. University of Alberta Withdrawal Deadline Change: Post-Implementation Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Thomas Hidson, Assistant Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: Withdrawal data from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 is compared with data from 2012-2013 to support discussion on the impact of a change made to extend the withdrawal deadline date approved by GFC Executive in 2013.

Discussion:

Members were referred to an updated attachment posted on the University Governance website.

Mr Hidson provided an overview to the committee noting that withdrawals were up about 1000 per term, which translates to about a 1% increase. He reported that with the extension of the drop deadline, 55% of the withdrawals happen in November. He invited members to review the Faculty specific information in the report.

During the lengthy discussion, members expressed concern related to international students including the cost to students of withdrawing and repeating courses and the pressures upon them to finish a program quickly. The committee discussed how best to advise students on appropriate course load.

On the question of whether there has been any change in the number of petitions for retroactive withdrawals, Mr Hidson noted that the number of late withdrawals had declined.

Mr Hidson noted that there have been early discussions on a project for online withdrawals interacting with Bear Tracks, emphasizing that the project had not yet been scoped. The committee discussed implications to such a process including: the need for some students to go through other processes prior to withdrawing and how an online system could accommodate this; students deleting the wrong courses, or wanting to re-enroll; and the impact on academic charges or ongoing investigations.

The Chair invited Mr Hidson to report back next year.

8. Institutional Strategic Plan

Presenter: Amy Dambrowitz, Strategic Development Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

Discussion:

Dr Dambrowitz referred members to the Institutional Strategic Planning website and provided members with an overview of the process and the consultation to date. The Chair invited members to discuss the themes of Students and Campus Cohesion. Members provided a number of comments.

It was noted that the students have been asking for more interdisciplinarity in their programs including double majors from two different faculties and that budget discussions could discourage Faculties from this as they seek to keep students, and revenue, within their own unit.

It was noted that the University should continue, and build upon, opportunities for students to gain experience and credit through internships. The committee agreed that experiential learning opportunities are very important. It was also noted that engagement with student groups provides valuable experience. It was suggested that there is a limit to what can be done at the co-curricular level and that the answer must be within the academic program for many areas of experiential learning. The addition of more co-op programs was suggested. The option of adding smaller learning opportunities such as short courses or workshops onto the transcript was proposed.

Learning outcomes were discussed including the need to be explicit in articulating these for graduate programs.

It was noted that more cohesion was needed in the area of community engagement as currently there are many units looking at the same target groups which can lead to territorial concerns and to fatigue on the part of community partners. It was suggested that it would be useful to have an office receiving and coordinating requests from the community and the university. It was also suggested that the Alumni Association is a great resource in terms of establishing community partnerships.

Other comments included: the FEC process does not measure teaching or mentorship, and that this activity should be incentivized; that important endeavors such as the Undergraduate Research Initiative is not properly supported; that technology fixes are problematic for pedagogy; and that students could be mobilized as University's ambassadors. The question on what is being done with the recommendations of the Renaissance Report was raised.

It was noted that professional programs are not encouraging Indigenous students enough and that different programs and adaptation are needed for these students. It was noted that for Indigenous students and also for older students, a lack of day care spaces on campus is a huge disadvantage in terms of access. For students

with demands outside of school, the suggestion of 1* courses which could be combined into a 3* package was suggested.

On national recruitment, it was indicated that students don't know about the University and that there should be a focus on building recruitment and reputation around providing amazing student experiences at the University and in Edmonton.

Surrounding the topic of Campus Cohesion, members expressed a number of comments, including, but not limited to: that FEC guidelines systematically emphasize the importance of research, and everything else is secondary; that there are not enough opportunities for members at other campuses to participate in governance meetings electronically; that allowing members to attend official meetings via Skype might pose issues in terms of quorum and voting procedures; that recruitment efforts often pit Faculties against each other; a suggestion to emphasize and highlight successful instances of cohesion, such as the student wellness initiative.

It was noted that institutional reputation is an important piece to this project, and that the messaging around institutional values has to occur. The perspective that the University can be socially accountable and research-intensive at the same time was noted.

The Chair thanked members for their thoughtful discussion. Dr Dambrowitz pointed out that the insitutional strategic plan is a five year plan with a 30 year vision, and that there are additional ways of engaging members of the community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate before the final draft is prepared.

9. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing item

Presenter(s): Nataraj (Nat) Kav, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC); Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Purpose of the Proposal: For information/discussion.

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 Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) approval:

- (New) PBC Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- (New) PBC Indigenous Sport and Recreation

To be Proposed to Government:

- (New) PhD in Indigenous Studies
- (New) University Certificate in Early Learning and Childhood Education
- (New) University Certificate in Digital Learning
- (New) University Certificate in Adolescent Literacy

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- (New) PharmD Program
- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Urban and Regional Planning
- Suspension to Admission in the Adult Education Route of the Bachelor of Education

Sent back from AE:

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

Recently approved:

- Master of Accounting
- (New) Program Proposal for a Diploma in Tourism Management
- Load Change proposal for BSc in Radiation Therapy

The Chair noted that he has not received a final letter regarding bioinformatics. On the topic of Masters of Engineering programs, the Chair reported that they submitted a document in June 2014 and have not heard back, but that the Provost will continue to engage them on the subject.

10. Question Period

A member enquired about whether a course could have two numbers to distinguish between on-line and in-class delivery. It was agreed that this could be handled through different sections as different course numbers would be confusing for students.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.