



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2016
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
Deborah Burshtyn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Navneet Khinda	Member (Delegate), Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Brenda Leskiw	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Carla Peck	Member, Academic Staff
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Office of the Student Ombuds
Sam Stowe	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Liz Taylor	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Katherine Trepanier	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Kasia Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC)

Presenter(s):

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC ACS
Fraser Brenneis	Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Liz Taylor	Professor and Associate Dean (Programs and Teaching), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Kate Peters	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Erin Plume, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Taylor/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 21, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Brocks/Thaker

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of January 21, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair noted that Dr Peter Mahaffy and Dr Art Quinney, co-chairs of the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) have been invited to speak to the committee in April or May on the expectations of CAQC regarding learning outcomes.

The Chair reported that the Provost, Kate Peters, and he had met with Advanced Education to discuss cost recovery programs and tuition fee regulation (TFR) exempt programs. He indicated that government would not support proposals that seek to be TFR exempt. Cost-recovery programs (including professional masters) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but a strong case needs to be made for each program. Members discussed the rationale for setting higher levels of tuition including marketplace comparisons and whether there were any programs in the province or if students had to go to an institution outside of the province for the program.

The Chair further commented on on-going conversations regarding digital learning resources and noted the importance that students not be disadvantaged by such a requirement.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: Leskiw/Burstyn

4A. Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine: Proposed changes to Existing Admission Deadlines, Communication Sciences and Disorders

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Admission Deadlines for Communication Sciences and

Disorders, as proposed by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

CARRIED

- 4B. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed changes to Existing Admission Requirements, Library and Information Studies, the degree of Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS)

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Admission Requirements, Library and Information Studies, the degree of Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS), as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

CARRIED

- 4C. Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry: Proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements (attendance), DDS Advanced Placement Program

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements (attendance), DDS Advanced Placement Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

CARRIED

- 4D. Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research: Proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements, PhD Educational Psychology

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements, PhD Educational Psychology, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research.

CARRIED

- 4E. Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research: Proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements, Free-Standing Post-baccalaureate Certificates and Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (TLHE), Department of Educational Policy Studies

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements, Free-Standing Post-baccalaureate Certificates and Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (TLHE), Department of Educational Policy Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research.

CARRIED

- 4F. Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry: Proposed changes to Existing Physical Testing (Immunization) Requirements, Dental Hygiene Program

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Physical Testing (Immunization) Requirements, Dental Hygiene Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

CARRIED

4G. Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry: Proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements (re-examination), BSc Radiation Therapy

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements (re-examination), BSc Radiation Therapy, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

CARRIED

4H. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval and Denial of Transfer Credit for February 2016

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed Approval and Denial of Transfer Credit for February 2016, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed changes to existing academic standing regulations, MD program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Fraser Brenneis, Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: To clarify the academic and professional standards to which students are bound, as well as to clarify previously ambiguous sections of wording regarding promotion, reexaminations and academic standing.

Discussion:

Dr Brenneis explained that the MD program is different from most other programs because the first two years consist of a series of courses taken sequentially, with a mandated number of hours of lecture, lab, small group work, and independent study. In addition to this, there are a few courses that will span the entire year. In such an environment, when a student is unsuccessful in an exam, it is difficult to carry on with their courses and there are not many opportunities to re-take an exam. The proposed changes will allow a re-examination to happen earlier if it will benefit the student.

On the next item, Dr Brenneis noted that students must eventually be accredited according to the CanMEDS (Canadian Medical Education Directives for Specialists) framework of 7 roles, one of which is Professionalism. This indicates that the Faculty should be providing some instruction on how to become a professional; the proposed changes are in line with other MD programs across the country. The proposed changes will ensure that students are aware that they are expected to abide by a Professional Code of Ethics.

A member asked why students would request a re-examination if they passed in a pass/fail system. Dr Brenneis responded that this wording will provide clarity that students are not allowed to re-write a passed examination because some students do request it. It was noted that the Faculty has been asked to put some numbers behind the pass/fail because some scholarships require a minimum average. In response to a question, Dr Brenneis noted that the appeal process was listed elsewhere in the calendar.

A member asked if attendance was part of student evaluation. Dr Brenneis noted that absences are handled with the attendance policy; but that due to the nature of some courses, a student could fail a course if the absence prevents the student from attaining the outcomes necessary in the course. A friendly edit was made to the calendar wording to provide consistency and clarity.

Motion: Brenneis/Leskiw

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to the academic standing regulations, MD program, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1 (as amended), to take effect for Fall 2016.

CARRIED

6. Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine: Proposed changes to existing admission / academic standing regulations (Professional Ethics)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Liz Taylor, Professor and Associate Dean (Programs and Teaching), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Purpose of the Proposal: Changes are being made to the Professional Ethics / Code of Student Behaviour section of the FRM Faculty Regulations to extend expectations of professional conduct into the admissions process.

Discussion:

Dr Taylor explained that Rehabilitation Medicine is a very competitive program and that not all applicants with a high GPA are considered to candidates for good health care providers. In the application process, the Faculty has experienced unprofessional or inappropriate behaviour or communication on the part of applicants towards staff. It was noted by another member that this was also an issue in other faculties. Dr Taylor noted that the proposed changes will make it clear to students that they will be subject to the professional ethics from the time of application.

Committee members noted that this is an important message that should be shared widely, not only for high school students, parents and guidance counselors, but also at the University through student groups.

A member noted that these issues are common in any type of professional program and that support staff have to deal with the majority of them. It was suggested that this wording be added to the general University Calendar.

In response to a question on how this would be different from the Code of Applicant Behaviour, it was noted that the Code of Applicant Behaviour deals mostly with items such as falsifying documents, rather than a professional conduct.

Motion: Brenneis/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to the admission regulations, as proposed by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect Fall 2016.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

There were no documents.

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

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 BLDC approval:

- (New) PBC Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- (New) PBC Indigenous Sport and Recreation
- (New) Major in Fashion Business Management in the Bachelor of Science
- Suspension proposal for Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

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

Request for External Review:

- University of Calgary, Bachelor of Science, Mathematics

Referred to CAQC for review

- (New) PharmD Program

Sent back from the Ministry

- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Audiology;

Recently approved:

- None.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings (no items to date)

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.