



General Faculties Council  
Academic Standards Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, December 13, 2018  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Tammy Hopper, Chair  
Karsten Mundel  
Radim Barta  
Angela Bayduza  
Akanksha Bhatnagar  
Dion Brocks  
Janice Causgrove Dunn  
Amy Dambrowitz  
Gerda de Vries  
Bill Dunn  
Rebecca Gokiert

Jeff Johnson  
Andras Marosi  
Bernadette Martin  
Paulin Mulatris  
Rebecca Nagel  
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison  
(delegate)  
Tanya Park  
Shuaa Rizvi  
Norma Rodenburg  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Shirley Schipper

Regrets:

Jason Carey  
Scott Jeffrey  
Nathalie Kermoal  
Shannon O'Byrne  
Natalie Sharpe

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator  
Meg Brolley, GFC Secretary

**OPENING SESSION**

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Nagel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 8, 2018

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Mundel/Gokiert

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Open Session Minutes of November 8, 2018.

**CARRIED**

3. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

The Chair noted that the proposal to remove the limit on Aboriginal applicants applying to the Doctor of Medicine program through the Indigenous admissions process was approved by GFC at the November 26, 2018 meeting.

She also noted that the work of the GFC *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority would continue toward the April 2019 deadline for implementation of the *ad hoc's* recommendations.

The Chair updated members on *Bill 19: An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education* which had received royal assent and would have implications for the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, and on changes to the Six Sector Model which would come forward in the new year.

Members discussed Bill 19's implications for International student tuition.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Mundel/Johnson

#### 4A. Transfer Credit Approvals and Denials for December 2018, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the transfer credit approvals and denials for December 2018.

**CARRIED**

#### 4B. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to entrance requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation.

**CARRIED**

#### 4C. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honors in Psychology, Faculty of Science

**Item deferred**

#### 4D. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements for the Bachelor of Science, After Degree Program, Faculty of Science

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the entrance requirements for the BSc After Degree.

**CARRIED**

#### 4E. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations, Faculty of Arts

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the academic standards requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

**CARRIED**

#### 4F. Proposed Changes to Transition Year Program (TYP) Requirements, Faculty of Arts

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the TYP requirements in the Faculty of Arts.

**CARRIED**

#### 4G. Proposed Changes to Transition Year Program (TYP) Requirements, Faculty of Engineering

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the TYP requirements in the Faculty of Engineering.

**CARRIED**

5. Proposal from the Faculty of Extension for Non-credit Certificates within Environmental Studies

- Soil Science Certificate
- Water Resource Management Certificate
- Environmental Remediation Certificate
- Land Reclamation Certificate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Rebecca Gokiart, Associate Dean, Extension Academics, Faculty of Extension; Christie Schultz, Assistant Dean, Extension Academics, Faculty of Extension

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposed Certificates (non-credit) within Environmental Studies are designed to provide opportunity for both emerging and established environmental professionals to advance their skills and knowledge at the (non-credit) certificate level.

Dr Gokiart noted that these certificates were formed on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to bundle existing courses to provide better access for non-credit learners.

*Discussion:*

Members asked about the courses that were available in these subject areas and about the relationship between the new certificates and existing certificates.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Marosi

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed non-credit Certificates as submitted by the Faculty of Extension and as set forth in Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4, to take effect Fall Term 2019.

**CARRIED**

6. Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements for Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Tanya Park, Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Nursing; Linda Youell, Director, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Nursing

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To update the existing admission requirements for undergraduate Nursing programs to include a situational judgement test (CASPer).

Dr Park gave a brief overview of the proposal to add a situational judgement test to the entrance requirements for the Undergraduate Nursing programs.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed how this type of test could be used to determine aptitude for skills beyond academics and to set students up for success; and the other programs in Canada that are using situational judgement tests.

Members also discussed the specifics of the CASPer test including cost to student, frequency of test offerings, limits to number of times an individual could take the test, and accommodations available for test takers.

Motion: Schipper/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing admission requirements for undergraduate Nursing programs, as proposed by the Faculty of Nursing, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar and take effect fall 2020.

**CARRIED**

7. Proposed Changes to Existing Readmission and Academic Standing Regulations for Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Tanya Park, Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Nursing; Jillian Fell, Undergraduate Projects Administrator, Faculty of Nursing

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To amend the current Academic Standing and Graduation calendar section for the Faculty of Nursing.

Dr Park spoke about the proposed changes and noted that they would provide clarity for students regarding readmission, leave of absence, voluntary withdrawal, course sequencing, and clinical work.

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Mundel/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing readmission and academic standing regulations for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Nursing, as proposed by the Faculty of Nursing and as set forth in Attachment 1, to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar and to take effect fall 2019.

**CARRIED**

8. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for the MA and PhD Degree Programs in English, Department of English and Film Studies, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Albert Braz, Associate Chair Graduate, Department of English and Film Studies, Faculty of Arts; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements, academic standing regulations, and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

Dr Causgrove Dunn noted that items 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are part of FGSR's efforts to ensure that all appropriate information is updated in the *University Calendar*.

*Discussion:*

Members asked about the number of credits required as pre-requisite for the programs.

Motion: Ruetalo/Bhatnagar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MA and PhD degree programs in English, Department of English and Film Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the MA and PhD Degree Programs in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Micah True, Associate Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Arts; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements, academic standing regulations, and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

Dr True noted that this program was in its third year and that all of the updates reflected current practice.

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Gokiert/Schipper

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations for the MA and PhD degree programs in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

10. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements, Application Deadlines and Residence Requirements for the MA and PhD degree programs in Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Quinter, Graduate Coordinator, Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts; Ryan Dunch, Director, Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Arts; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements, academic standing regulations, and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

The presenters noted that the update provided an opportunity for greater clarity regarding the interdisciplinary nature of the program.

*Discussion:*

Members asked about the FGSR definition for an "Academic Year" as it related to the residence requirement.

Motion: Mundel/Nagel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements, Application Deadline and Residence Requirements for the MA and PhD degree programs in Religious Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

11. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements for the MA Degree Program in East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements, academic standing regulations, and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*

There was no discussion.

Motion: Ruetalo/Mulatris

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements for the MA degree program in East Asian Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Arts, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

12. Proposed Changes to Existing Entrance Requirements, Application Deadlines and Academic Standing Regulations for the MSc, MEng, and PhD Degree Programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Marek Reformat Associate Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to ensure that all Academic Regulations (entrance/admission requirements, academic standing regulations, and program requirements) for this program are listed in the Calendar.

*Discussion:*

Members asked about references for University of Alberta students, FGSR standards regarding "required to withdraw" and "academic probation", and exceptions to application deadlines.

Motion: Marosi/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance Requirements, Application Deadlines and Academic Standing Regulations for the MSc, MEng and PhD degree programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Engineering, and as set forth in

Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval and to be published in the 2019-2020 Calendar.

**CARRIED**

13. Proposal to Waive English Language Proficiency Requirement for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program Delivered in Mandarin in Shanghai, China, the Alberta School of Business, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Michael Maier, Associate Dean, MBA Program, Alberta School of Business; Janice Causgrove Dunn, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To allow the Alberta School of Business to waive the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirement which will enable them to offer a degree where the language of instruction is in Mandarin without determining the English Language Proficiency of the applicants. This is for the new location in Shanghai of the MBA program taught in Mandarin.

Dr Maier explained that the Faculty was pleased with the results of the MFM program in Shanghai, China and the MBA program in Shenzhen, China, both of which received GFC approval for an exemption to the ELP requirement on November 27, 2017. He noted that the request for ELP exemption for the new MBA program in Shanghai, China was being pursued for the same reasons.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the notation on the transcript that these programs were not delivered in English, and the Faculty's plans for further program offerings in China.

Motion: Marosi/Barta

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed waiver of the English Language Proficiency requirement for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program delivered in Mandarin at the new location in Shanghai, China, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Alberta School of Business, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

14. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item (no documents)

*Presenter(s):* Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Ms Patrick provided the following update:

Recently approved:

New course-based Master of Arts in Policy Studies in the Department of Political Science, approved by APC on March 14, 2018

Termination of the Middle Eastern and African Studies major in the Bachelor of Arts

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

New major in Media Studies - approved by APC on June 20, 2018

Currently with CAQC undergoing Quality Review:

Substantive changes to the Modern Languages and Cultural Studies (MLCS) program, approved by APC on January 17, 2018

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

15. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by email ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

16. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

17. Question Period

In response to a request for feedback, members discussed how to consider students with accommodations or other life pressures with regard to full-time status for academic standing or awards consideration. Members noted that some students could be assessed and registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) but that other students who have other, equally significant, life pressures could not receive the same kind of documented accommodations. Members discussed ideas around how to consider this issue such as calculating academic standing according to program progress. Members also asked if the new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy could address this issue.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

18. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.