



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Hybrid Meeting 2-31 South Academic Building and Zoom
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Jason Acker
J Nelson Amaral
Bishoi Aziz
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Florence Glanfield
Gurleen Kaur
Nathalie Kermaal
Stacy Lorenz

Adekunle Mofolasayo
Hanne Pearce
Norma Rodenburg (delegate)
Aman Ullah
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Karsten Mündel
Sylvie Vigneux

REGRETS:

Tahmid Al Hafiz
Brad Hamdon
Anna Hughes
Brooke Milne
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Donia Mounsef
Christopher Sturdy

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of GFC Programs Committee (PC)

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Motion: Amaral/Kaur

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

The Chair welcomed new student members including Gurleen Kaur, Tahmid Al Hafiz and Bishoi Aziz. She welcomed back a returning graduate student member Adekunle Mofolasayo.

The Chair encouraged members of Programs Committee to submit nominations to the Remote Teaching Awards program.

The Chair also shared new about new funding for enrolment in the faculties of Science, Business, and Nursing

The Chair then asked Norma Rodenburg, Deputy Registrar, to provide an update on the implementation of the Exploration Credits policy. N Rodenburg noted that there had been work on the administrative side to prepare for fall 2022 launch and that the Office of the Registrar was coming to Programs Committee to flag an issue they were encountering with Faculties seeking to exclude large numbers of courses. She noted that the *Calendar* language approved by GFC in March 2022 stated that Faculties could approve exclusions; however, excluding large numbers of courses was beyond what was considered in the development of that language. After seeking advice from University Governance, she confirmed that when there was disagreement, the higher body would decide and the GFC Programs Committee has delegated authority from GFC to approve changes to academic standing regulations and modifications of courses or programs, after review by the Program Support Team. Because of the timelines to seek approval by Programs Committee, the launch of Exploration Credits will not be possible for fall 2022. Next steps in the implementation include consultation with Faculty Associate Deans at the Program Support Team in June.

Members asked about the authority to approve exclusions and the existing language in the *Calendar*, which does state that Faculties can approve exclusions and whether the language should be clarified to set out the process for approvals. Members asked for clarity on the rationale for exclusions and noted with concern that large numbers of exclusions would not be in alignment with the policy that was approved by GFC. Members discussed the concerns of faculty members, the administrative complexity because of the way that open electives were structured in different programs, and the general fatigue of faculty and staff to implement such a large change. The need to be cautious about downstream impacts that would need to be effectively communicated to students was also noted. Timelines were discussed along with the possibility that launch of Exploration Credits may need to be delayed beyond Winter, 2023. The Chair committed to bring the conversation back to PC.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Amaral/Kaur

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 14, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of April 14, 2022.

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Arts

- Medicine and Dentistry

- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached course and minor program change submissions from the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Dentistry, and Science.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research); Nella Sajlovic, Indigenous Strategies Manager

Purpose of the Proposal: The purpose of the proposal is to seek endorsement of *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan* to enact existing institutional commitments on Indigenous Initiatives across the institution.

Discussion:

Before asking the proponents to present, the Chair explained that the endorsement sought from Programs Committee was both individual and collective. As a governance body, Programs Committee has a special role to play in the implementation of the ISP. In addition, each member of the University Community has a responsibility to implement the plan in their work.

F Glanfield began by acknowledging the recent discovery of graves in the Saddlelack community and noted the special relationship that the University holds with that community. She went on to thank members of the University for their support and observed that both internal and external members of the community seem ready to take up this work. She explained that the document was distributed in a draft format but that the substance of the document was finalised.

F Glanfield noted that the plan sets out goals and strategies for Indigenous initiatives and should act as a guide for the University to move forward on a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, and to accomplish the objectives that the University has set for itself in its institutional strategic plan. She also noted that the plan does not exhaustively cover work that is already ongoing on Indigenous Initiatives and that there is an intentional space to allow for innovation and creativity in the implementation of the plan.

Members congratulated the proponents on the quality of the plan. The evolution of the plan was discussed and the final product was lauded as being clear and beautifully rendered. Members expressed a hope that the whole university would embrace the goals and accountabilities and do the work that was necessary to make the plan a reality. Members were in agreement that the document was something that all members could see themselves in. F Glanfield reminded members that they were asked to personally affirm their commitment to the plan and that the changes laid out in the plan may require revisiting due to the recursive nature of the work.

The committee endorsed the plan unanimously.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee endorse Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Suspension of the BSc Pharmacy and the Bridging Program for BSc Pharmacy Students, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Dion Brocks, Associate Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because admissions to the BScPharm ceased in 2017 with a planned phased transition to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) as the entry to practice degree in pharmacy.

Discussion:

D Brocks provided context on the creation of the PharmD program implemented in 2017 to replace the Bachelor of Science Pharmacy programs across Canada. He explained that when the PharmD launched, admissions to the Bachelor of Science program ceased and a bridging program was created for the current BSc Pharmacy students to complete their PharmD. He noted that at this point, all the BSc students had graduated and most of the bridging students were almost complete. This proposal is to suspend the BSc and Bridging programs and to delete the associated courses that are not required in the PharmD program.

There was no discussion.

Motion I: Branch-Mueller/Amaral

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program, for implementation July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

Motion II: Acker/Glanfield

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the suspension of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) Bridging Program for BSc in Pharmacy Students, for implementation July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Revisions to the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Bridging Program, Faculty of Education
Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Donald Mason, Academic Team Lead, English Language, Faculty of Extension

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee, following a wide-ranging consultation process, to seek approval for the proposed changes.

Discussion:

D Mason noted that the proposal was developed based on data collected and consultation with Faculties and students. He noted that the needs of International students in the program was of primary consideration and welcomed questions from the committee.

Members asked questions, raised concerns and made comments, including, but not limited to:

- Missing information on some of the approved courses including for the purpose of implementing into Campus Solutions and the need to correct the record before implementation in the University Calendar;
- The support from Faculties for implementation and the perceived buy-in across the University;
- Whether the courses were required and how this would be implemented in different programs;
- That the International Students' Association (ISA) had been consulted and the intention was to bring the proposal to the Council on Student Affairs for information and discussion in the Fall;
- That the ISA was an important partner and that COSA was an important place for consultation;
- Whether a needs analysis for students would be conducted and what it might comprise; and

- That there would a similar needs analysis for faculty.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes related to the restructuring of the Bridging Program as set forth in attachment 2, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Presenter(s): Carley Roth, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost

Discussion:

C Roth noted there was nothing to report to Programs Committee.

9. Question Period

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

Discussion:

Members asked about the Information Report included with the meeting materials and whether there were plans to make changes to University Grading Policy. The Chair noted that questions about the Grading Procedure and a study on grading on the curve had been raised in the last meeting and the report had been distributed for information, not for the purpose of making changes.

A member emphasized the value of attending meetings in person and encouraged everyone to consider the impact on decision-making and the academy.

INFORMATION REPORTS

10. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings
- Report on Grading and Link to Current Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of PC: June 23, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: June 6, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.