

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee (PC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2023
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
10:00 AM - 11:55 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Aman Ullah
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Roger Epp
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Stacy Lorenz

Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Hanne Pearce
Sean Robertson
Maite Snauwaert
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Bishoi Aziz
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Brad Hamdon
Gurleen Kaur
Brian Pardell
Sujata Persad
Helen Vallianatos

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people.

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 PC

The motion was moved and seconded.

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:

In her comments, the Chair spoke about the call for nominations for the GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) and noted that the committee was starting up again after a two-year pause and Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) review. The Chair also mentioned the upcoming presentations by the two candidates for the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of December 8, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of December 8, 2022.

CARRIED

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences
- Arts
- Augustana
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Saint Jean
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached course, minor program, and minor regulation change submissions from the Faculties of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Augustana, Business, Education, Engineering, Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, Medicine and Dentistry, Saint Jean, and Science.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5. Course Exclusions from the Exploration Credits Policy, Faculty of Arts

Presenter(s): Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Arts

Discussion:

R Nagel outlined the proposal and noted that some of these exclusions may prove unnecessary once the policy is in force and better understood.

Members discussed Faculty and Department limitations on resources and delivery, balancing the opportunity for students to explore with administration concerns, how to turn the focus to opportunity rather than to barriers, the different ways that student interest in courses was tracked, and the Office of the Registrar's plans to track and report on the data gathered about course demand and interest in exploration credits.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached list of Faculty of Arts courses for exclusion from the Exploration Credits policy.

CARRIED

6. Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Academic Standing Regulations, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Presenter(s): Rachele Pratt, Acting Director, Dental Hygiene Program, School of Dentistry; Ava Chow, Co-Chair, Admissions Committee, School of Dentistry

Discussion:

R Pratt provided an overview of the proposal and explained the changes that were made in response to advice from the Program Support Team.

Members asked about links to the general Medicine and Dentistry Indigenous Admissions section and opportunity to appeal academic standing decisions. Members discussed the general requirements of all Faculties to notify students of their right to appeal academic standing decisions as set out in the Academic Appeals Policy.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to academic standing regulations and application for readmission information for the Bachelor of Science (Dental Hygiene) Program, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2023.

CARRIED

7. Practicum Restructure and Program Changes, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (KSR)

Presenter(s): Angela Bayduza, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), KSR

Discussion:

A Bayduza spoke about the proposed changes and noted that the Faculty wanted to be sure to include the program information for Fall 2024 in the 2023/2024 Calendar so that prospective students would be aware of the significant changes to the programs.

A member observed the general movement of UofA programs to include more experiential learning and asked if this proposal was contradictory to that trend. A Bayduza replied that practical experience remains a priority for these programs but that the Faculty was moving to a community based learning model with specific objectives for each course.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Practicum Requirements for the BKin, BScKin, and BARST programs, as submitted by the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (KSR), and as set forth in Attachments 1-7, to be published in the 2023-2024 Calendar and take effect in the 2024-2025 academic year.

CARRIED

8. Changes to Science Curriculum and Associated Program Changes, Augustana Faculty

Presenter(s): Stacy Lorenz, Associate Dean (Academic), Augustana Faculty

Discussion:

S Lorenz explained the rationale for the proposed changes and noted the importance of the equivalence and transferability of Augustana science courses. He noted that this change was urgent as it had an impact on Augustana's reputation and credibility.

Members asked clarifying questions about why the change was originally made.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed elimination of the Science Foundations curriculum, with resulting changes to Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education Combined degree programs in Augustana Faculty, to take effect in Fall 2023.

CARRIED

9. New Second-level Specialization - Artificial Intelligence Option, Faculty of Science

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science; Ken Wong, Professor and Associate Chair (Undergraduate), Department of Computing Science

Discussion:

The presenters spoke about the proposal and noted the popularity of this topic and courses.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approves, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the new second-level specialization entitled "Artificial Intelligence Option", effective July 1, 2024.

CARRIED

10. New Embedded Certificate in Applied Data Science, Faculty of Science

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science; Ken Wong, Professor and Associate Chair (Undergraduate), Department of Computing Science; Zachary Friggstad, Associate Professor, Department of Computing Science

Discussion:

K Wong spoke about the interest in the courses and the availability of the certificate to students outside of the Faculty of Science.

Members discussed how the proposed certificate would fit into the Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework, and the potential for work integrated learning and potential employment connections to be made through capstone projects.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approves, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the new embedded Certificate in Applied Data Science, effective July 1, 2023.

CARRIED

11. Program Changes for PhD Program in the Faculty of Nursing

Presenter(s): Dianne Tapp, Associate Dean - Grad, Faculty of Nursing; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Discussion:

D Tapp provided a brief overview of the proposal and rationale.

Members asked how the program changes reflected *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan*, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action specific to Nursing schools.

D Tapp spoke about the work of the Faculty of Nursing and of the national accrediting body to address the Calls to Action and the development of program-level outcomes which would be reflected in the course outlines going forward. She also noted that the Faculty would be embedding links to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) Strategic Plan and that she would be happy to share this information with the committee.

Members asked about the implications of delaying this proposal until they could view this information and were informed that the changes could still be included in the 2023/2024 *University Calendar* if approval was delayed until the February meeting.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the program and calendar revisions and related course additions and changes for the PhD Nursing program, as presented in the attached document, for inclusion in the next Calendar and implementation for the Fall of 2023.

TABLED

The motion was moved and seconded.

Motion from the floor:

THAT GFC Programs Committee table the motion pending review of the Faculty of Nursing's learning outcomes document and a summary of actions that have been taken to address specific Calls to Action for nursing schools by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

CARRIED

12. Duolingo English Test: Extension of Short-term Use, Office of the Registrar

Presenter(s): Jane Lee, Acting Associate Registrar; Judith Odhuno-Were, Acting Assistant Registrar & Director Admissions

Discussion:

J Lee went over the proposal and noted that while there was not a lot of graduate-level data to date, the undergraduate data was compelling enough to warrant this extension. She further noted that caution was why they were not seeking outright approval yet but that they would continue to monitor the data.

Members discussed the lower cost of the DET, the recent changes to the English Language program, and an observation that this test had only been used for admission since the Pandemic began and so the data was also capturing those who are struggling for other reasons.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed extension to accept of the Duolingo English Test (DET) for all applicants to undergraduate and graduate programs as an additional option to demonstrate ELP through to the 2028-29 admission cycle.

CARRIED

13. SAT/ACT Test Optional Policy, Office of the Registrar

Presenter(s): Jane Lee, Acting Associate Registrar; Judith Odhuno-Were, Acting Assistant Registrar & Director Admissions

Discussion:

J Odhuno-Were provided an overview of the proposal.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve an SAT/ACT optional policy for undergraduate applicants from US-patterned students from accredited institutions, effective for the 2024-25 admissions cycle.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. 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 provided the following update:

There are currently three new external program proposals under review:

- From Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT):
 1. Financial Technology and Innovation specialization within the existing Bachelor of Business Administration program; and
 2. Software Development and Cyber Security specialization within the existing Bachelor of Technology program
- From Mount Royal University:
 1. New Data Science specialization within the existing BSc program

We recently received Ministerial approval for the termination of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

The following remain with the Ministry for review:

- As part of the Bachelor of Science degree program framework project, three, new first-level specializations under the BSc (administrative updates in PaPRS):
 - Astrophysics
 - Environmental Earth Sciences
 - Paleontology
- The proposal for a new Bachelor of Biomedicine.

15. Question Period

There were no questions.

CLOSING SESSION

16. Adjournment
 - Next Meeting of PC: February 9, 2023
 - Next Meeting of GFC: January 30, 2023