



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Jason Acker
J Nelson Amaral
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
(delegate)
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Daniela Carbajal
Florence Glanfield
Nathalie Kermaal
Stacy Lorenz

Brooke Milne
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Donia Mounsef
Hanne Pearce
Norma Rodenburg
Aman Ullah
non-voting:
Veronica Taylor

REGRETS:

Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon
Kate Peters
Christopher Sturdy
Helen Vallianatos

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)

Discussion:

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair made the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are 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/Acker

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 indicated that the committee's terms of reference noted that a Vice-Chair should be elected from among the academic members of the committee. She explained the requirements of the role and asked anyone who was interested to reach out to the Coordinator for more information or to put their name forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Seyl Miyashita/Branch-Mueller

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 16, 2021

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of September 16, 2021.

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

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

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

- A. Changes to Application Deadlines for Graduate Programs in Anthropology
- B. Changes to Admission and Program Requirements for the Bachelor of Commerce Cooperative Education Program
- C. Changes to AGPA Calculations for Postsecondary Transfer Students to Undergraduate Programs in Faculty of Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to application deadlines for graduate programs in Anthropology as set forth in attachment A.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Commerce Cooperative Education Program as set forth in attachment B.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to AGPA calculations for postsecondary transfer students to undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Science as set forth in attachment C.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Change of Course Designator from PSYCO to PSYCH, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science

Purpose of the Proposal: To change the existing course designator PSYCO for courses in Psychology to PSYCH in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a change of course designator for Psychology from PSYCO to PSYCH, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

7. Proposed Changes to the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation's Activity Core Program Requirements

Presenter(s): Angela Bayduza, Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because the Faculty of KSR is seeking approval for changes to the academic calendar in relation to the Activity Core requirement of both the BKin and BKin/BEEd combined degrees undergraduate programs for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Discussion:

Dr Bayduza provided an overview of the proposed changes and explained the plans to teach out current students and to move those who were amenable into the new program structure as soon as possible.

Members discussed:

- clarification around implementation and next steps;
- recognition that the new activity core was more inclusive and accessible;
- challenges expected in crossing over from the old to the new program offerings;
- the impact of restructuring on the sustainability of Physical Activity (PAC) courses;
- that many students enrolled in PAC courses from other Faculties;
- plans for a 4-year transition and to continue to offer courses to those outside the Faculty of KSR going forward; and
- indications of support from the Faculty of Education and the Office of the Registrar.

Motion: Amaral/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the Activity Core requirements of the BKin and BKin/BEEd undergraduate degree programs, and associated course and program changes, as set forth in Attachments 1-5, for publication in the 2022-23 University Calendar.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Elimination of the Comprehensive Exam for Graduate Programs, School of Public, and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Presenter(s): Norman Neumann, Vice-Dean, School of Public Health; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to eliminate the PhD comprehensive exam as a requirement for all PhD degrees within the School of Public Health (SPH).

Discussion:

Dr Milne noted that the proposal had been well received across the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Dr Neumann explained that the comprehensive exam was traditionally used to test for foundational knowledge and competency in public health, but as these were also ensured by the current curriculum, the exam had become redundant.

Members discussed the potential for an addenda in the current *University Calendar* and how immediate implementation would be communicated to current students.

Dr Neumann indicated that current students were aware of the proposal and he and Dr Milne noted that the School of Public Health and FGSR would collaborate on the communications piece.

Motion: Amaral/Mofolasayo

THAT GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the elimination of the PhD comprehensive exams as a requirement for all PhD degrees within the School of Public Health (SPH), for implementation upon final approval, and inclusion in the 22-23 calendar.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Change to AGPA Calculation for Internal Undergraduate Transfer Students

Presenter(s): Jane Lee, Assistant Registrar and Director, Admissions; Anna Hughes, Associate Registrar, Enrolment Management

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to adjust what courses are allowed in the AGPA calculation for internal post-secondary transfer students.

Discussion:

Ms Lee provided some detail about the Office of the Registrar's larger project around centralization and automation of admissions. She noted that the proposed change would allow for automation of the admission grade point average (AGPA) calculation for internal transfer applicants. Ms Lee also noted that the university had a re-registration policy for courses, which meant that it would be quite rare for a student to have taken, and passed, the same course twice.

Members discussed whether an F grade could also be removed from a student's cumulative grade point average (CGPA) calculation once the student had re-taken and passed the course. Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR Brooke Milne noted that this conversation was currently happening at FGSR.

Members asked for clarity around the proposed changes, and when they would apply to internal and external applicants. Members made suggestions for how to clarify the *Calendar* language and discussed whether they should approve the change to the regulation and ask the Office of the Registrar to clarify the language, or wait to approve the change until the committee was satisfied with the revised language. Members felt that they could not approve the regulation without updated *Calendar* language so voted to table the motion.

Motion: Amaral/Acker

That GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed change to the admissions regulation to allow repeated courses to be used in the calculation of admission grade point average (AGPA) for internal undergraduate students.

TABLED

Motion: Acker/Amaral

THAT GFC Programs Committee table the motion until revised Calendar language can be provided.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan (IISP)

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee for early consultation on the current draft of the IISP and to solicit feedback.

Discussion:

Dr Glanfield began by thanking Nella Sajlovic for all her work on the IISP and the Indigenous Advisory Council for their support as well. She acknowledged that the university had made some progress but that the conversation and expectations were growing and there was more work to be done. Dr Glanfield then provided an overview of the document and noted:

- the gaps in the Eurocentric post-secondary system;
- the harm that had been and continued to be done to Indigenous communities;
- that students needed to be aware of the history of the land they study on and the impact their professions have on Indigenous communities;
- that these issues need to be addressed in every subject and at every level; and
- that Indigenous representation in curriculum and in our spaces would help to break down barriers.

During the discussion, members spoke about:

- issues related to pretenders in post-secondary institutions and mechanisms for ensuring that Indigenous faculty were recognized;
- that this was a national conversation led by Indigenous peoples and the university was involved;
- the concern that more money available for Indigenous initiatives would lead to more pretenders;
- how to prevent Indigenizing curriculum from becoming tokenism;
- the importance of the Quality Assurance process and working with the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Support Teams (PSTs) in assessing program development and proposals;
- questions about implementation of the plan including timelines, responsibility, and accountability;
- how the GFC Programs Committee could be educated to be a pathway for support as well as a checkpoint for items coming through academic governance;
- the role of the Colleges related to this strategic plan; and
- the responsibility for all of us as individuals and as a collective.

11. Bachelor of Science Program Renewal, Faculty of Science

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to provide enough background information for discussion in order to socialize the planned changes ahead of the formal governance approval process.

Discussion:

Dr de Vries noted that changes to streamline undergraduate degrees in the Faculty of Science were long overdue. She acknowledged that the current structure was esoteric, and the scope of necessary changes was massive, but that they would bring the university in line with other Canadian programs. Dr de Vries asked members to share their questions and feedback.

Members discussed:

- clarity of admission requirements, and limitations on program enrollment;

- discussions with other Faculties that would be affected by the changes;
- adding and suspending majors and minors;
- potential impacts at Convocation for Science students; and
- the Faculty's commitment to transparency and a thorough process.

12. Exploration Credits

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Interim Deputy Registrar; Abner Monteiro, Vice President Academic, University of Alberta Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to get advice on the adoption of an Exploration Credits policy at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

Ms Rodenburg and Mr Monteiro presented a plan to allow students to replace letter grades in a maximum of 12 credits of open elective courses with notations of CR/NC (credit/no-credit). They explained this was a common practice among many U15 institutions and would allow students to explore courses outside of their chosen field of study without risking their GPA. They made note of the following points:

- students would apply for this through Bear Tracks;
- the deadline would mirror the withdrawal deadline;
- the instructors would not know who had made this change; and
- students would be responsible to ensure that their program and courses were eligible.

Members discussed:

- programs that did not have open electives and whether students could use this process for courses that were extra to degree;
- whether waiting until the withdrawal deadline would make a grade of CR appear much like a D or borderline pass;
- concern with language emphasizing risk and whether it could be framed to encourage students to check in with an advisor instead;
- how to differentiate between exploration credits and other courses that are already graded CR/NC; and
- a request for more information about how this system worked at other universities.

13. 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:

Ms Roth provided the following report:

UofA Programs Under Review (with Ministry)

There are no UofA program proposals currently with the Ministry

UofA Programs Approved Since last PC Meeting

No new Ministry approvals since the September PC meeting

External Programs Under Review at UofA

- Concordia University of Edmonton - new Philosophy specialization in their existing BA program - review completed and submitted (this review was in progress at the time of the September PC meeting)
- Athabasca University - two new specializations within their existing MBA program: Digital Business Transformation and Strategic Leadership & Change - review completed and submitted
- Prairie College - new Bachelor of Education degree program - review completed and submitted

14. Question Period

There was no question period as the time of adjournment had been reached.

CLOSING SESSION

15. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: December 9, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: November 29, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.