



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

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

Brooke Milne
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Donia Mounsef
Hanne Pearce
Aman Ullah
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Karsten Mündel
Sylvie Vigneux

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Daniela Carbajal
Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon
Heather Seyl Miyashita
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: Branch-Mueller/Amaral

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 began by noting the University had submitted an enrollment growth proposal to the Ministry including proposals from Engineering (undergraduate and graduate), Business, Science, Digital Humanities, Nursing, and Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation. The University hopes to receive confirmation on the proposals soon to accommodate recruitment for Fall 2022.

The Chair also thanked departing student members as their terms end on April 30: Kathy Haddakar, Abner Monteiro, Daniela Cabaral, and Adekunle Mofolayaso. The Chair also welcomed Sylvie Vigneux, the new Undergraduate Ombudsperson representing the Office of the Student Ombuds.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Seconder: Pearce/Branch-Mueller

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 17, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of March 17, 2022.

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

-Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

-Arts

-Augustana

-Business

-Nursing

-Science

-Library and Information Studies

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, Arts, Augustana, Business, Nursing, Science, and the School of Library and Information Studies.

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. Proposed Changes to Entrance Requirements for Programs in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve:
- the proposed changes to entrance requirements for programs in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders as set forth in attachment A.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Proposed Termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Donia Mounsef, Principal Vice-Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek approval of the proposed termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences.

Discussion:

D Mounsef noted that the program was slated for termination after the required teach out period and that the Faculty is developing a minor in Sustainable Studies. The proponent emphasized that the termination does not

signify that sustainability is not an important program area for Campus Saint-Jean, rather that students will have other avenues to pursue their interest in environmental and conservation sciences.

The Chair noted that the proposal required Board of Governors approval because the suspension was approved before changes to delegations in 2019.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Amaral/Ullah

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the proposed termination of the Baccalauréat en sciences de l'environnement et de la conservation/BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences, as submitted by the Faculté Saint-Jean and Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Dental Assisting Certificate

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Patterson, Associate Chair Academic, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek a recommendation of the creation of the Dental Assisting Certificate program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Discussion:

S Patterson provided context on the rationale for creating the program, including the precedent in other dental programs across the County, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for collaboration in the clinical practice environment, the collaboration with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), and the benefit to patient care provided. In addition, the proponent pointed to the Labour Market Analysis which shows strong demand and explained the accreditation focus.

Members asked about the possibility of including the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) or Aboriginal Studies 30 from their High School Studies program as a requirement. Proponents noted they would be willing to integrate the change into the proposal in the *Calendar* copy.

Members inquired about the tuition for the proposal and the comparators from Saskatchewan. The proponent provided some context including the need to recover costs and that there was variation across the country related to the costs of facilities, running the clinic, staffing and equipment and that even within Alberta, there is significant variation between the program costs. The proponent expressed a hope that the unique experiences offered in the program will be attractive to applicants who have wide array of options.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Mofolayaso

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the Proposed Dental Assisting Certificate as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as amended, for implementation in fall 2023.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Changes to the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Leo Wong Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Alberta School of Business
Richard Field, Interim Director of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC)

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because we want to recognize and certify the knowledge about leadership that undergraduates receive in the course of their academic career.

Discussion:

L Wong thanked the committee members for their understanding given the proposal had been distributed only the day before. The changes to the proposal were explained including the integration of Indigenous history and knowledge as a corequisite and that the MOOC will be one of several ways to satisfy this requirement. In addition, the proponents also explained that to enforce the corequisite at a certain time was another point of discussion and that the solution found was to encourage students to complete the requirement in the first two years of study. This is complicated in part by the financial cost associated with the certification of the MOOC completion, however, the proponents explained that Coursera does forgive the cost in some cases when students make a request based on financial need. R Field added that the PLLC is in favour of the change.

Members congratulated the proponents for their work to revise the proposal and expressed an opinion that the changes have strengthened the certificate. The possibility that this precedent will be an inspiration for other programs coming forward was discussed.

Members were informed there was an updated version with revised language on the *Calendar* entry to ensure clarity. The language was shared in the meeting.

Motion: Glandfield/Ullah

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, take the proposal for the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies from the table.

CARRIED

Motion: Pearce/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to the Embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies as set forth in attachments 1 and 2 to take effect for fall 2022.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs, Faculty of Graduate Programs and Research (FGSR)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to discuss changes to areas of the *Calendar* related to graduate student Academic Standing and Academic Probation

Discussion:

B Milne presented the proposal, including the consultations conducted, the feedback integrated, and the approvals at FGSR Council. The rationale for the changes was articulated as the need to ensure clear standards for students that were consistently applied across the University. In particular, concerns with the regulation of academic probation were explained related to coursework requirements, the learning environment, and the retention of failed grades within GPA requirements.

Members thanked the proponent for the proposal and inquired about implementation of the changes in different program contexts, and the impact of changing programs on the application of the rules.

Motion: Ullah/Mofolayaso

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Academic Standing, Academic Probation and related portions of the Calendar for Graduate Regulations, as set forth in attachment 1, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

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

The Chair noted that there are no new proposals currently with the Ministry and that there were no new Ministry approvals since the March meeting of GFC Programs Committee. The University is currently reviewing a proposal from the University of Calgary for a new Doctor of Nursing program.

11. Question Period (no documents)

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

Members asked about the reporting and assignment of grades and the University policy on grading on the curve, especially at the graduate level. Members suggested that students should reach out to the Associate Dean Undergraduate in their Faculty with any concerns about grades. In addition, members noted that the issue of grading on the curve had been discussed at the University in the past and a report was compiled in 2010.

The question of pressure being placed on faculty members to explain their grades was discussed and members articulated the importance of instructors being able to explain their grades as well as the system set out in policy to ensure that instructors use a transparent grading system. The chair committed to distributing materials for members' consideration.

INFORMATION REPORTS

12. Block Transfer Credit Agreements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: May 19, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: May 2, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.