



General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2011
3-15 University Hall
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Colleen Skidmore – Chair (delegate), Ada Schmude (delegate), James Eastham, Vikki Northrup (delegate), Natalie Sharpe, William Street (delegate), Nataraj Kav (delegate), Harry Prest (delegate), Elaine Geddes (delegate), Clive Hickson (delegate), Ken Porteous (delegate), Lois Gander (delegate), René Poliquin (delegate), John Law (delegate), Marc Moreau (delegate), Nathalie Kermaal (delegate), Dion Brocks (delegate), Pierre Baudin (delegate), Dave Magee (delegate), Tarek el-Bialy, Douglas Cheung, Sharla King, Pat Dalton, Alex Clark, Wayne Renke, Marlene Lewis – Coordinator, Deborah Holloway – Scribe

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Advisor, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Robin Cowan, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Arts
Pat Dalton, Associate Registrar and non-voting member of GFC ASC
Elaine Geddes, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business and member of GFC ASC
René Poliquin, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC ASC
Bill Street, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Member of GFC ASC
Joan White, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business
Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar, International Admissions

OBSERVERS

Emerson Czorba, Vice-President Academic, Students' Union (incoming)
Kaysi Kushner, Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Nursing
Elizabeth Taylor, Associate Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: el-Baily/Moreau

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of March 17, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Magee/Moreau

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of March 17, 2011.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair provided comments of interest to members regarding the following matters: the new Human Research Ethics Policy; a new subcommittee of the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers (ACAT) that will focus on block transfer issues; items scheduled to come before GFC ASC in the coming months; and the election of Dr Elaine Geddes to the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC). The Chair also acknowledged and thanked out-going members for their service and commitment to GFC ASC.

ACTION ITEMS

4. The Following Proposal(s) are Deemed Minor/Editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate) (3.A.i and iii)) by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) and Chair, GFC ASC and are APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM GFC IN A SINGLE OMNIBUS MOTION.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC ASC

4A. Faculty of Arts Name Change for the Certificate in Community Service-Learning

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, change to the name of the Certificate in Community Service-Learning to Certificate in Community Engagement and Service-Learning, as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and as set out in Attachment 4A of the documentation, to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

4B. Office of the Registrar and Student Awards Transfer Course Approvals for April, 2011

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the proposal for approval of courses for transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards.

CARRIED

4C. Augustana Faculty and the Addition of the 'Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program (Augustana)' to Section 12.7 (Admission and Readmission Deadlines) of the University Calendar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the addition of the 'Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees Program (Augustana)' to Section 12.7 (Admission and Readmission Deadlines) of the University Calendar, as submitted by Augustana Faculty and as set out in Attachment 4C of the documentation, to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

4D. Augustana Faculty and Changes to Admission / Readmission Requirements for the Bachelor of Music

and the Bachelor of Science /Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees (Augustana) Degree Programs

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/readmission requirements for the Bachelor of Music and the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees (Augustana) Degree Programs, as submitted by Augustana Faculty and as set out in Attachment 4D of the documentation , to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

4E. Faculty of Education and Changes to Admission/Readmission Deadlines

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/readmission requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Education and as set out in Attachment 4E of the documentation, to be effective in 2012-2013.

CARRIED

4F. Faculty of Science and Changes to Admission/Transfer Requirements for Psychology Programs

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/transfer requirements for Psychology programs, as submitted by the Faculty of Science and as set out in Attachment 4F of the documentation, to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

Omnibus Motion: Prest/Geddes

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the above-noted editorial changes to academic standing/graduation/promotions, admission/transfer requirements, and changes to the University Calendar for Items 4A – 4F.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Business (New) Doctor of Medicine/Master of Business Administration (MD/MBA) Combined Degrees Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: René Poliquin, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; and Joan White, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To offer an MD/MBA Combined Degrees Program (based on the existing MD and MBA programs) to excellent medical students recognizing the value of combining medical studies with advanced management skills and expertise.

Discussion:

Dr White presented the item, noting that the proposal would represent the fifth combined MBA degree offered by the Faculty of Business. The MD/MBA program was developed in recognition of an increasing demand for physicians with management skills and expertise. The combined program would combine the four-year Doctor of Medicine degree with the Master of Business Administration degree and would require five years of study. Upon successful completion of the combined program, graduates would receive both an MBA and MD. There would be no changes to the MD degree requirements other than adding an extra

year to the overall requirements and allowing a break between the pre-clinical and clinical years (between year two and year three) of medical studies to allow the student to complete the requirements for the MBA.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the number of courses required; whether an expectation of completion of 42 credits in one year was reasonable; the tuition fees; and the view of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology regarding combined degrees in general.

Motion: Poliquin/Magee

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee, admission/transfer and academic standing/promotion requirements for a (new) doctor of Medicine/Master of Business Administration (MD/MBA) Combined Degrees Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Business and as set out in Attachment 1 of the documentation, to be effective in 2011.

CARRIED

6. Faculty of Business Changes to Early Admission, Discontinuance of Attendance, Academic Standing/Graduation, Readmission after a Requirement to Withdraw and "With Distinction" Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Elaine Geddes, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business and member of GFC ASC

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend the Bachelor of Commerce Degree Program in the following areas: Early Admission; Discontinuation of Attendance; Academic Standing and Graduation; Satisfactory Standing; Readmission after a Requirement to Withdraw; and "With Distinction".

Discussion:

Dr Geddes introduced the item, noting that most of the proposed changes are for the purpose of providing additional detail or to reflect practice not currently captured in the *Calendar*.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: clarification regarding permission granted to a student who is discontinuing their program to take academic coursework elsewhere; the right of appeal to the Business Appeals Committee; the credits required to earn "with distinction" and the possibility of attaining the notation without ever having attained a first class standing; and acknowledgement that some students, such as varsity athletes, are unable to manage a full course load.

Motion I: Geddes/Porteous

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/transfer requirements for early admission to the Bachelor of Commerce degree program (Section 15.4.1 of the University Calendar), as submitted by the Faculty of Business and as set out in Attachment 1 of the documentation, to be effective in 2012-2013.

CARRIED

Motion II: Geddes/Porteous

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General

Faculties Council, changes to Faculty regulations regarding discontinuance of attendance, academic standing/graduation, readmission after a requirement to withdraw and 'with distinction' requirements (Sections 63.3.1, 63.3.5, 63.3.9 of the University Calendar), as submitted by the Faculty of Business and as set out in Attachment 1 of the documentation, to be effective in 2011-2012.

CARRIED

7. Faculty of Arts Admission/Transfer Requirements for Post-Secondary Applicants and Faculty Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Robin Cowan, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Arts; and Bill Street, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Member of GFC ASC

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend Admission/Transfer Requirements for Post-Secondary Application and Faculty Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements in the Faculty of Arts in the following areas: Applicants who have previously been required to withdraw; Internal Transfer Students; Transfer Students from other Post-Secondary Institutions; Applicants who have been Required to Withdraw Twice; and Academic Standing and Graduation.

Discussion:

The Chair introduced the item, noting that it had been before GFC ASC Subcommittee on Standards (SOS).

Dr Street added that the thoughtful feedback from members of ASC SOS and subsequent consultations led to revisions that strengthened the proposal.

Motion I: Street/Magee

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to admission/transfer requirements for post-secondary applicants (Section 15.2.12 of the University Calendar), as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and as set out in Attachment 1 of the documentation, to be effective in September, 2011.

CARRIED

Motion II: Street/Magee

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, changes to Faculty academic standing/graduation requirements (Section 42.6 of the University Calendar), as submitted by the Faculty of Arts and as set out in Attachment 2 of the documentation, to be effective in 2012-2013.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item

Presenters: Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Advisor, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); and Colleen Skidmore, Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC ASC

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Ms Brough reported that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology had provided the list of degree proposals currently in the system, noting that the list had been distributed earlier to GFC ASC members. She reported that many of the proposals had been reviewed, noting that if members would like an opportunity to review a proposal they should contact her directly. Members affirmed the value of receiving the report and requested that they receive an update as frequently as possible. The Chair agreed to ask the Ministry for quarterly reports and noted that, while the Ministry is looking for means to simplify the process, the length of time it takes for University of Alberta proposals to be reviewed remains a concern.

Ms Brough reported that the University of Lethbridge's Bachelor of Fine Arts (New Media)/Bachelor of Management Combined Degree is now under review.

Regarding Programs in Progress on Campus, Ms Brough reported the following: the Campus Alberta Quality Council has completed their review of the Planning program and the University is awaiting the Minister's formal decision; the PhD in Performance Study, the PhD in Art, Design and Visual Culture, and the PharmD proposals are at the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology (AET) for system coordination review; and the Aboriginal Governance Partnership Certificate was returned to the University by AET for the purpose of gathering additional information.

9. Use of SAT Reasoning Test Results and ACT Scores to Fulfill Undergraduate Admission Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: Pat Dalton, Associate Registrar and non-voting member of GFC ASC; and Lihong Yang, Assistant Registrar, International Admissions

Purpose of the Proposal: To incorporate the use of SAT Reasoning Test results and ACT scores as acceptable means of meeting science subject requirements for admission of high school applicants under American based curricula to undergraduate programs.

Discussion:

Ms Dalton introduced the item, noting that the Registrar's Office had looked for efficiencies regarding international admission requirements, while maintaining standards. In 2009, participating Faculties together with the Office of the Registrar undertook a pilot project to provide more options for applicants with American-based curricula results to meet University of Alberta admission requirements.

Ms Yang reported that currently admission for these students depends on equating specific science matriculation subjects to the Alberta system by examining years of study. This does not work well for students under American based curricula as that curriculum generally includes only one full year of study in each of the sciences (biology, physics, and chemistry) which may be taken in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. The use of SAT Reasoning Test results and ACT scores would allow an alternative method of considering whether or not these applicants had achieved an acceptable level of academic competency and content in required science subjects for eligibility to undergraduate programs.

During the Registrar's pilot project students not meeting the existing science subject requirements were admitted providing the following:

1. The student had taken the required science matriculation subject in their US curriculum high school (even if it is one year and even if it was in grade 9) AND,
2. The student presented a minimum score of 1100 in the Critical Reading and Mathematics portion (combined) of the SAT Reasoning Test (taken within the same testing date) or ACT with minimum composite score of 26 AND,
3. The student met the required admission average based on the average of the five matriculation subjects used for admission purposes.

Since this was a pilot project, the initiative had not been publicized on the University's website or in any recruitment publications. The number of applicants who were aware of the pilot project was limited. For Fall 2009 admission, the Faculties of ALES, Arts, and Science participated and six registered students were admitted. For Fall 2010 admission, all nine direct entry Faculties participated and nine registered students were admitted. The office of the Registrar, together with Faculties, monitored the academic performance of all 15 students. The average AGPA of the students are between 2.3 and 2.4. This is comparable to other students admitted with comparable averages.

During the ensuing discussion, the presenters addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the make-up of the scores; whether data is available by participating Faculty; concern that the average GPA attained during the pilot project appears low; that SATs have been questioned as fair measure as they tend to favour applicants from particular socio-economic groups, and whether analysis had been done regarding whether the students entering with high SAT scores attained higher GPAs than students with lower SAT scores.

The Chair agreed that the item would come forward to a future meeting of GFC ASC with a report that would include comparative data and analysis of trends.

10. Question Period

Discussion:

There were no questions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-mail Ballots (non-debatable)

Faculté Saint-Jean and the Business Administration Diploma Program for Collège Saint- Jean (forwarded to members on March 24, 2011 and approved on March 28, 2011)

12. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

13. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.