



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Minutes

Thursday, December 15, 2011
2-1, UHALL, Council Chamber
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Bill Connor (Delegate) - Chair, Ada Schmude (Delegate), Emerson Csorba, Vikki Northrup (Delegate), Natalie Sharpe, William Street (Delegate), Nat Kav (Delegate), Harry Prest (Delegate), Elaine Geddes (Delegate), William Street (Delegate), Nat Kav (Delegate), Harry Prest (Delegate), Elaine Geddes (Delegate), Clive Hickson (Delegate), Ken Porteous (Delegate), Walter Archer (Delegate), René Poliquin (Delegate), John Law (Delegate), Marc Moreau (Delegate), Kaysi Kushner (Delegate), , Janice Causgrove-Dunn (Delegate), Sentil Senthilselvan (Delegate), Liz Taylor (Delegate), Brenda Leskiw (Delegate) – Vice-Chair, Matthew Li, Pat Schultz, Garry Bodnar (Coordinator), Emily Paulsen (Scribe)

PRESENTERS AND GUESTS:

Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Bill Connor, Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
James Kehrer, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
Stewart Petersen, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
René Poliquin, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Jonathan Schaeffer, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology)
Tom Scott, Interim Dean, Alberta School of Business
Joan White, Associate Dean, Alberta School of Business

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Kav/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of October 20, 2011

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Members agreed to defer approval of the Minutes from the October 20, 2011 GFC ASC meeting to the Committee's January, 2012 meeting.

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair commented on a number of items of interest to members.

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 Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) 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: Bill Connor, Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: Members were asked to review the individual items for detail on proposed changes submitted by Faculties and the Office of the Registrar.

Discussion:

It was clarified that those items intended to take effect in 2012-2013 will be published in the next edition of the *University Calendar*. It was further discussed that if a change was to the benefit of students, it can be implemented immediately or with the next available intake of students; alternately, if there is a perceived negative impact, the proposed revision (upon approval) is required to be published in the *Calendar* for at least one year prior to its formal implementation.

- 4A. Augustana Faculty - Proposed Changes to Sections 15.3.1 and 15.3.3 (High School Requirements) of the *University Calendar*

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to Sections 15.3.1 and 15.3.3 (High School Requirements) of the *University Calendar*, as submitted by Augustana Faculty and as set out in Attachment 4A of the documentation, for implementation in September, 2012.

CARRIED

- 4B. Office of the Registrar Course Approvals for December, 2011

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, the proposal for approval of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and as set forth in Attachment 4B, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

- 4C. Faculty of Education Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing Requirements for the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Secondary Education Route (Music Major)

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed changes to existing academic standing requirements for the BEd Secondary Education Route (Music Major), as submitted by the Faculty of Education and as set forth in Attachment 4C, to take effect in 2012-

2013.

CARRIED

4D. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Proposed Academic Standing Requirements for the Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Motion:

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed academic standing requirements for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and as set out in Attachment 4D of the documentation, to be effective in 2012-2013.

CARRIED

Omnibus Motion: Poliquin/Causgrove-Dunn

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 – 4D.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for a Master of Business Administration (MBA)/Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Pharmacy Combined Degrees Program – Admission/Transfer and Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: René Poliquin, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; James Kehrer, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Tom Scott, Interim Dean, Alberta School of Business; Joan White, Associate Dean, Alberta School of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To offer an MBA/BSc in Pharmacy Combined Degrees Program (based on the existing MBA and BSc in Pharmacy programs) to excellent pharmacy students who recognize the value of combining pharmacy studies with advanced management skills and expertise and to develop pharmacists capable of pursuing careers that balance clinical care with managing change in a healthcare environment.

Discussion:

Dean Kehrer introduced the proposal to members, noting there was considerable demand from both students and industry for this combined degrees program. He noted that Shoppers Drug Mart had committed \$200,000 to help fund this initiative. Dr White commented that the MBA/BSc in Pharmacy Combined Degrees program would be identical to the now-approved Doctor of Medicine (MD)/MBA Combined Degrees program that had been considered and formally approved the previous year. The BSc in Pharmacy program would remain unchanged but, after the third year, the students would take a leave to complete 42 credits for the MBA and then return to the Pharmacy program without losing their place. She noted the combined degrees program would have a low enrolment but, nonetheless, it would make the University of Alberta more attractive to prospective students and faculty.

After a question from a member, it was clarified that the 'statement of intent' and the interview determines an applicant's maturity.

Motion: Poliquin/Geddes

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (proposed) admission/transfer and academic standing/graduation requirements for a (new) Master of Business Administration (MBA)/Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Pharmacy Combined Degrees Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Alberta School of Business, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and as set forth in Attachment 1 [highlighted in yellow], to take effect September, 2012.

CARRIED

6. Proposal for a Master of Coaching (MCoach) Offered by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation – Proposed Admission/Transfer Requirements

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenters: René Poliquin, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Kerry Mummery, Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; Stewart Petersen, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation

Purpose of the Proposal: To offer a Master of Coaching (MCoach) degree to students seeking high-quality graduate education in sport coaching and related topic areas and to develop coaches well prepared for careers in the field of advanced and professional sport coaching, primarily at post-secondary institutions and within the amateur sport system.

Discussion:

Dean Mummery introduced the proposal by noting that it is an extension of an existing graduate program (ie, the coaching option within the course-based Master of Arts (MA)) offered by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, with the addition of a compulsory class. The program was described to have around six students per year with extremely-high completion and employment rates. Dr Mummery noted that there is no similar program in Alberta and only a few in Canada; the University of Alberta is already recognized nationally and internationally for leadership in this field, and the implementation of the MCoach degree will contribute to continued recognition in the field.

Motion: Causgrove-Dunn/Poliquin

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the proposed admission/transfer requirements for a (new) Master of Coaching (MCoach), as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and as set forth in Attachment 1 [highlighted in yellow], to take effect in September, 2012.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

There were no documents.

Presenters: Bill Connor, Interim Vice-Provost (Academic) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President GFC Academic Standards Committee

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Ms Brough reported to members on the following:

External Reviews -

- Review by the Faculty of Arts of a proposal from Concordia University College of Alberta for a four-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) is ongoing.

Program Proposals from the University of Alberta –

- PhD in Performance Studies is still with the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) for quality review.
- Collège Saint-Jean Diploma Program in *techniques d'administration des affaires* (Business Administration) is still with AET for system coordination review.

8. Electronic Grades Entry and Approval Process

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Jonathan Schaeffer, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Information Technology)

Purpose of the Proposal: For discussion/information.

Discussion:

Dr Schaeffer spoke to the introduction of the new electronic grades entry system, noting this system will be deployed the following term (ie, Winter Term 2012). The grades will be submitted into Bear Tracks, approved, and, after being sent to the Office of the Registrar, will be available to students. Faculty members will have three options with the formatting of the grades: they can see a table, a table and a graphical representation of the grade assignment, or a table, the graphical representation, and plotting of the grades against the generic distributions that have been approved by the University. There is a concern that showing the curved graph may sway instructors to mark 'on the curve', but this will be a decision left to each Faculty.

During the ensuing discussion, Dr Schaeffer addressed questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: the option of sorting students by name or by student number; adding a median and a mean grade reporting option; the impossibility of meeting the diversity of need in every program; concern over when students can finally view their grades but it being entirely in the Faculty's control; in the future, clearly communicating midterm marks so students know if they need to withdraw from a course or courses in which they are experiencing academic difficulty; the estimated time of four hours to complete the grade entry process; and a recommendation to ask students what they would like to see with respect to the reporting of their grades.

9. Question Period

Mr Csorba reported to members on the upcoming University of Alberta world record-breaking dodgeball tournament to be held on February 3, 2012. He encouraged all present to consider participating and to encourage their colleagues to participate, as well.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by E-Mail Ballots

E-Mail Vote on Omnibus Agenda Item #4 (Faculty-Specific Editorial/Routine and Transfer Credit Course Proposals for November, 2011) (E-Mailed to Member on November 9, 2011)

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.