



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2015
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Chair (Delegate), Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Janice Causgrove Dunn	Vice-Chair, Dean or Delegate (Associate Dean, Undergraduate)
Fraser Brenneis	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Yvette d'Entremont	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculté Saint-Jean
Fay Fletcher	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Extension
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean, Alberta School of Business
Brenda Leskiw	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Science
Deborah Burshtyn	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Karsten Mundel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana Faculty
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Melissa Padfield	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Fahim Rahman	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Office of the Student Ombuds
Liz Taylor	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Jim Bohun	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Non-Voting Members:

Sam Stowe	Member, Associate Registrar or Delegate
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Presenter(s):

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Patricia Boechler	Professor, Educational Psychology
Deborah Burshtyn	Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
Rauno Parrila	Professor, Educational Psychology
Elaine Geddes	Associate Dean (Undergraduate Program), Alberta School of Business
Kate Peters	Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Anna Kirova	Professor, Elementary Education
David Dale-Johnson	Executive Professor, Alberta School of Business
Lynn McGarvey	Vice and Associate Dean, Faculty of Education
Larry Prochner	Professor, Faculty of Education

Vanessa Grabia
Victoria Ruetalo

Assistant Chair, Administration, Department of Secondary Education
Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts

Staff:

Meg Brolley, Coordinator, GFC Academic Standards Committee
Andrea Patrick, Scribe

OPENING SESSION

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Mundel/Causgrove Dunn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of September 17, 2015

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Rahman/Brenneis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee Approve the Minutes of September 17, 2015

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair acknowledged the recent issues raised regarding online homework, and noted that discussions were ongoing to ensure compliance with tuition fee regulations and to ensure no hardship was created for students. No cost options will be explored with publishers. The Chair explained that he will be working with Mr Fahim Rahman, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union (SU) to explore this issue further. He added that he will be organizing a working group to develop a procedure surrounding what percentage of a grade can come from third party assessment, under the University of Alberta's Assessment and Grading Policy. It was noted that instructors should feel free to use questions from text books as part of the student assessment as it is the instructor, rather than a third party, who grades these assignments.

The following members of GFC ASC volunteered to join the working group: Brenda Leskiw, Elaine Geddes, Janice Causgrove Dunn, Rebecca Nagel, and Fahim Rahman.

The Chair noted that this is an ongoing conversation and that there will more information forthcoming; he thanked members for their advice.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

The following proposal(s) were deemed minor/editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate) (3.A.i and iii)) by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) 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.

Motion: Leskiw/Geddes

4A. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval of Transfer Credit for October 2015

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal for approval of transfer credit, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, and as set forth in Attachment A, to be effective upon approval.

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed changes to existing Admission, Immunization, and Academic Standing Requirements, BSc Medical Laboratory Sciences

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, Proposed Changes to existing Admission, Immunization, and Academic Standing Requirements, BSc Medical Laboratory Sciences, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment B, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4C. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed Changes to Existing Dental Hygiene and Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Admission Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Proposed Changes to Existing Dental Hygiene and Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Admission Requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment C, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4D. Faculty of Science: Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Academic Standing/Graduation Requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachment D, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4E. Faculty of Science: Proposed Changes to Spring/Summer Admission

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to Spring/Summer Admission, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachment E, to take effect Winter 2016.

CARRIED

4F. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research: Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements, English and Film Studies

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to admission requirements, English and Film Studies, as

submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment F, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4G. Faculte Saint-Jean, Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Transfer Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Admission/Transfer Requirements, as submitted by Faculte Saint-Jean, and as set forth in Attachment G, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4H. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: Proposed changed to Existing Admission Deadlines, BSc Dental Hygiene post-diploma program

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing admission deadlines, BSc Dental Hygiene post-diploma program, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment H, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4I. Faculty of Education, Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements Aboriginal Transition Year Program

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Admission Requirements for the Aboriginal Transition Year Program, as submitted by the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachment I, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

4J. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Proposed Changes to Existing Transfer Requirements, MBA

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing transfer requirements, MBA program, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment J, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

5. Proposal for Changes to Existing Entrance, Academic Standing and Language Requirements for graduate programs in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Victoria Ruetalo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts; Lynne McGarvey, Vice and Associate Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss proposed changes to Entrance, Academic Standing and Language Requirements for graduate programs, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies.

Discussion:

Dr Ruetalo noted that the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies has recently undergone a rigorous review aimed at improving sustainability; the proposal would collapse the graduate program into four second level specializations, which would bring together the different areas and languages in the Department.

Dr Ruetalo reported that the entrance requirements, academic standing requirements and language requirements have been updated. She emphasized that the proposed changes represent a restructuring of the current model, and noted that the proposal was vetted extensively throughout the consultation process.

There was a discussion around the entrance requirements based on GPA attained over the last *60 or two years of study. The proposers agreed to amend the requirement to specify the last *60, and remove the reference to two years.

Dr Ruetalo provided the reasoning behind the language requirement within the proposal, noting previously students had entered the program with competency in two languages. The addition of Comparative Literature students in the program who would not automatically have this competency, has led to the proposed change.

Motion: Bohun/d'Entremont

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Entrance, Academic Standing and Language Requirements for graduate programs in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and as set forth in Attachment 1, as amended, to take effect in 2016-2017.

CARRIED

6. Proposal for a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Early Childhood Education, Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Anna Kirova, Professor, Elementary Education; Lynne McGarvey, Vice and Associate Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the proposed University Certificate in Early Childhood Education.

Discussion:

Dr McGarvey gave a brief overview of the three University Certificates proposed by the Faculty of Education by noting that all of the proposed certificates are established the same way, and provide an opportunity for professional development of in-service teachers. She added that these are revenue generating programs, and that there was extensive consultation conducted during the development of these proposals. She reported, specifically, that the certificates have earned support from the Provincial Government as well as the Alberta Teachers' Association.

The proposed University Certificate in Early Childhood Education provides professional development for in-service teachers and child care providers in the licensed and regulated child care setting through courses aimed to develop the specialized knowledge and skills required to effectively teach young children.

Dr Kirova noted that this certificate is unique, and is responsive to the Provincial Government's commitment to early childhood education and development. The program is based on a recent study entitled The Early Childhood Mapping Initiative Alberta and would improve the qualifications of professionals who work with young children in licensed child care centres, and as well, to address the increased need for these professionals. She reported that this certificate will provide professionals an opportunity to earn required educational upgrades.

In response to a question about admission criteria, Dr Kirova confirmed that applicants could be admitted with a Bachelor of Arts.

Dr Kirova provided further information to members in regards to the cost assessment of the certificate, noting that the \$850 fee was discussed with the Provincial Government. It was noted that this tuition level was lower than that proposed for the other certificates; this was a reflection of the average salaries of potential students in early childhood education as compared to teachers in grade schools.

In response to a question of whether these courses could be applied towards a Bachelor of Education, Dr McGarvey replied that there would be future discussions at the Faculty about this.

Motion: Brenneis/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the approval of a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Early Childhood Education, as submitted by the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2, for implementation in July 2016.

CARRIED

7. Proposal for a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Advancing Adolescent Literacy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Rauno Parrila, Professor, Educational Psychology; Lynne McGarvey, Vice and Associate Dean, Faculty of Education

Purpose of the Proposal: The certificate in Advancing Adolescent Literacy (AAL) provides secondary school teachers with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support students' ongoing growth of literacy skills in grades 7 to 12.

Discussion:

Dr Parrila reported that this certificate addresses the current need for professional development for teachers in the area of adolescent literacy, in light of recent statistics indicating that 48% of young adults possess inadequate literacy skills. He reported that the Provincial Government has provided funding for this specific certificate, and that it is unique in North America.

In terms of the program, he noted that it is intended for existing secondary school teachers to earn on a part-time basis and includes five online courses. He explained that the certificate includes a mentorship component which is anticipated will have students sharing this knowledge with their teacher colleagues.

Motion: Leskiw/Sharpe

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee, the approval of a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Advancing Adolescent Learning,

as submitted by the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2, for implementation in January 2016.

CARRIED

8. Proposal for a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Digital Learning, Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter: Patricia Boechler, Professor, Educational Psychology

Purpose of the Proposal: The Certificate in Digital Learning will provide current in-service teachers and educational professionals with University credit-based professional development coursework in the area of digital learning. This supports and aligns with five core policy directions of Alberta Government's Learning and Technology Policy Framework.

Discussion:

Dr Boechler provided members with an overview of the proposal, noting that the certificate is targeted towards current teaching professionals who may require professional development in the area of digital literacy in the K-12 educational setting.

She reported that this certificate has been well supported by all provincial and federal groups involved in its development, and that it aligns with the standards of the Provincial Government in particular. She noted that in a recent survey, only 30% of Alberta teachers reported sufficient knowledge to promote digital literacy.

A member noted that the new course designator would require approval through the GFC Executive Committee. In regards to questions surrounding the cost of this certificate, the Chair clarified that the Committee's mandate does not include the budget.

In response to a question about admission criteria, Dr Boechler noted that applicants do not need, specifically, to hold a Bachelor of Education.

Dr Boechler thanked members for their support of this certificate, and stated that the program would be following-up with graduates to see if a mentorship component would be useful in the future.

Motion: Leskiw/Ross

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee, the approval of a (new) Freestanding, For-Credit University Certificate in Digital Learning, as submitted by the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2, for implementation in August 2016.

CARRIED

9. Proposal for an Embedded Credit Certificate in Real Estate, Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Elaine Geddes, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Alberta School of Business; David Dale-Johnson, Executive Professor, Alberta School of Business

Purpose of the Proposal: To establish an embedded Certificate in Real Estate to provide Bachelor of Commerce students the opportunity for a broad based education in real estate economics, finance, law and development preparing them for a range of careers in the real estate industry.

Discussion:

Professor Geddes introduced Mr Dale-Johnson, the Stan Melton Chair in Real Estate at the Alberta School of Business, and acknowledged that this certificate was developed with his expertise.

She reported that the certificate was developed in response to student demand and demand from industry professionals for more programs in the field of real estate. She noted that although the certificate being proposed is open to Alberta School of Business students only, her hope is to eventually open up the program to students from other programs.

Mr Dale-Johnson explained that this proposal has received wide support from the real estate industry and that students with this educational background are in high demand in the fields of construction and finance, as well as a broad range of other areas.

Following a comment of support, a member noted that in addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Planning, that there is also a Bachelor of Science in Planning.

In response to a question regarding courses, Professor Geddes clarified that students who wish to complete this embedded certificate must do so within the confines of their program, without adding additional courses. She noted that, due to limited resources, this policy is in place across all programs in the Faculty.

The Chair pointed out that there are two Motions in relation to this proposal, including the update to the University Calendar in relation to the termination of the non-credit Certificate in Real Estate. Professor Geddes noted that certificate was created for industry professionals but that there was subsequently no enrolment in the program and the program was never offered. The Chair clarified that this Motion relates to the change to the University Calendar.

Motion I: Geddes/Brenneis

THAT GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the Embedded Certificate in Real Estate, as submitted by the Faculty of Business, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect in Winter 2016.

CARRIED

Motion II: Geddes/Burshtyn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the termination of the non-credit Certificate Program in Real Estate, as submitted by the Faculty of Business, and as set forth in Attachment 4, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Nataraj (Nat) Kav, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Academic Standards Committee; Kate Peters, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

Ms Peters provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE):

To be Proposed to Government pending GFC APC approval:

- PharmD Program, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Currently with IAE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- Program Proposal for a Diploma in Tourism Management
- Program Proposal for MSc in Urban and Regional Planning
- Program Proposal for MSc in Audiology
- Suspension proposal for Honors & Specialization Programs – Biological Sciences & Computing Sciences (Bioinformatics)
- Suspension proposal for Diploma in Dental Hygiene

Completed System Coordination Review, under review by Campus Alberta Quality Council Review:

- Master of Accounting

Recently Approved by System Coordination Review:

- Two post-Master's certificates in Business Fundamentals, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Ms Peters noted that currently, the University of Alberta is the most active institution within Campus Alberta in terms of program development, and the Chair added that his office is in constant contact with the Provincial Government in relation to these proposals.

11. Question Period

A member sought advice regarding wording for a laddering procedure within the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

13. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.