



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016
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)
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
Clive Hickson	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Education
Scott Jeffrey	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Karsten Mundel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Augustana Faculty
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Arts
Fahim Rahman	Member, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union
Carolyn Ross	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director of the Office of Student Ombuds
Sam Stowe	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Liz Taylor	Member (Delegate), Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Harsh Thaker	Member, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic)
Kasia Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC)

Presenter(s):

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC ASC
Douglas Akhimienmhonan	Assistant Registrar, Enrolment Management and Reporting
Sam Stowe	Associate Registrar
Christina Caputo	International Admissions Supervisor, Office of the Registrar
John Soltice	Assistant Director, International Recruitment
Thinh Nguyen	Office of the Registrar
Deanna Williamson	Chair, Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
Lori Moran	Department of Human Ecology
Kathryn Chandler	Department of Human Ecology

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/Brocks

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

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

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Brenneis/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of December 17, 2015.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair reported on the upcoming International Week and the status of the various Dean Selection processes. He noted that the institutional strategic plan consultation is nearing the end of stage one and thanked members for the valuable input given at the last meeting. Further to the learning outcomes survey mentioned at the last meeting, the Chair indicated that the May Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) forum would focus on transfer at the program rather than at the course level and confirmed that the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) is very interested in learner outcomes.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Motion: d'Entremont /Mundel

4A. Faculty of Science: Proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing and Graduation Requirements, Honors and Specialization Biochemistry

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing and Graduation Requirements, Honors and Specialization Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, to take effect in 2016-17.

CARRIED

4B. Faculty of Science: Proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing and Graduation Requirements, Honors Pharmacology

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed changes to Existing Academic Standing and Graduation Requirements, Honors Pharmacology, Faculty of Science, to take effect in 2016-17.

CARRIED

4C. Faculty of Engineering: Proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed changes to Existing Admission and Academic Standing Requirements, Faculty of Engineering, to take effect in 2016-17.

CARRIED

4D. Office of the Registrar: Proposed Approval and Denial of Transfer Credit for January 2016

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, under delegated authority from GFC, proposed Approval and Denial of Transfer Credit for January 2016, as per the Office of the Registrar, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Admission Requirements for High School Applicants from the American Education System

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sam Stowe, Associate Registrar; John Soltice, Assistant Director, International Recruitment (University of Alberta International); Christina Caputo, Office of the Registrar; Thinh Nguyen, Office of the Registrar

Purpose of the Proposal: Proposed changes to University Calendar section 14.1.4 regarding the use of SAT Reasoning Test Results and ACT Scores to fulfill undergraduate admission requirements for High School applicants from the American education system.

Discussion:

Ms Stowe reported that the proposal arose from the Ten Point Enrolment Plan and how curricula from outside of Canada is evaluated for admission purposes in order to identify strong students and make the admission process more straightforward. She noted that the proposal is a curricula calibration which maintains existing academic standards and reflects current process. Mr Soltice noted that the US curriculum is offered worldwide and that the English language skills of students coming from these programs are less of an issue as the language of instruction is English. During the development of the proposal, extensive review of student performance and comparator institutions was conducted.

During the discussion, in addition to various expressions of support for the proposal, a member sought clarification surrounding practices at other institutions. In relation to increasing score thresholds of the SAT and ACT examinations, a member suggested that the same rationale could be applied to English language proficiency tests. A member enquired about the status of students who may take the SAT and ACT examinations multiple times prior to applying for admission; it was confirmed that multiple scores can be presented by students.

Motion: Brocks/Jeffrey

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority by the General Faculties Council, recommend the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve the proposed changes to the undergraduate admission requirements for high school applicants from American education systems.

CARRIED

6. Proposal for a new Bachelor of Science in Fashion Business Management, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences and Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kathryn Chandler, Lori Moran, and Deanna Williamson, Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

Purpose of the Proposal: The Bachelor of Science in Fashion Business Management (FBM) constitutes a new degree program that builds on current business management programming in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES) in collaboration with the School of Business. The University of Alberta has expertise and course offerings in the individual areas of business management and fashion studies that have been in existence for many years, and the University's expertise and capacity to support the FBM degree program is predicated on the already demonstrated success of our current business management programs: B.Sc. Agricultural/Food Business Management and B.Sc. Forest Business Management.

Discussion:

Ms Chandler noted that this proposal would combine two areas of expertise already in existence at the institution and that students have requested this program. No new resources would be required to implement or sustain the program as it would use existing courses. She explained that this degree is unique and the first of its kind in western Canada. Ms Moran added that this proposal will afford many opportunities for students in the expanding retail landscape in Alberta and Canada.

During the discussion surrounding this proposal, members expressed support for the proposal, and a member requested additional information in relation to the capstone project; it was confirmed that the program would work with instructors to ensure fashion content was included in the course. A member sought clarification about Appendix 4 of the proposal and consultation with the Faculty student association; it was confirmed that the survey had been sent to all clothing and textile students and a response rate of approximately 10 percent was attained. Further details on the survey numbers will be included in the proposal before it is considered by GFC Academic Planning Committee. In response to a question on the admission average, the proponents indicated that it was set to be in line with the other two business management programs in the Faculty.

Motion: Taylor/Jeffrey

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend the proposed Bachelor of Science in Fashion Business Management for approval to the GFC Academic Planning Committee under delegated authority by the General Faculties Council as set forth in Attachment 1, to be effective upon final approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2015/2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sam Stow, Associate Registrar; Douglas Akhimienmhonan, Assistant Registrar, Enrolment Management and Reporting

Purpose of the Proposal: To discuss the 2015/16 annual report on undergraduate enrolment.

Discussion:

Ms Stowe noted that this third annual Report is being presented across the academy, and that the data within it is current to December 1, 2015. She reported that the intent of the Report is to review undergraduate enrolment overall across the entire institution, rather than Faculty or program-specific data. She stated that the Report will track progress over time and identify trends.

Members had an extensive discussion in relation to the data within the Report and questioned some of the Faculty specific data for applicants to quota programs and those Faculties per year appeared incorrect. Faculties were encouraged to follow-up on the data directly with the Office of the Registrar on Faculty specific questions.

A member pointed out that although there are many factors contributing to the data within the Report, funding remains one of the largest.

Members discussed strategies Faculties are utilizing to address over and under-enrolment. It was noted that the intention is to have enrolment as close as possible to target numbers presented in the Comprehensive Institutional Plan.

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

There were no documents.

Presenter: Nataraj (Nat) Kav, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC ASC

Discussion:

The Chair provided members with an update in regards to proposals being considered by the Ministry of Advanced Education (AE):

To be Proposed to Government pending BLDC approval:

- (New) PBC Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- (New) PBC Indigenous Sport and Recreation

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Urban and Regional Planning
- Suspension to Admission in the Adult Education Route of the Bachelor of Education
- (New) PhD in Indigenous Studies
- (New) University Certificate in Early Learning and Childhood Education
- (New) University Certificate in Digital Learning
- (New) University Certificate in Adolescent Literacy

Request for External Review:

- Athabasca University: Hockey Management specialization proposal in the MBA

Referred to CAQC for Review:

- (New) PharmD Program

Sent back from the Ministry:

- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Audiology
- Suspension proposal for Diploma in Dental Hygiene

Recently Approved:

- Master of Accounting
- (New) Program Proposal for a Diploma in Tourism Management

- Load Change proposal for BSc in Radiation Therapy

9. Question Period

Members discussed the revision of standards for the Faculty of Arts Deans' List in relation to the inclusion of students who may require accommodations to reduce course loads.

Following the discussion, a member suggested that this topic could be added to a future GFC ASC Agenda, and the Chair concurred.

INFORMATION REPORTS

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

There were no items.

11. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.