



General Faculties Council
Academic Standards Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2016
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)
10:00 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
Marina Banister	Member, Vice-President (Academic), SU
Fraser Brenneis	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Dion Brocks	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Deborah Burshtyn	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Jason Carey	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Sandra Davidson	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Faith Davis	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Gerda de Vries	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Fay Fletcher	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Elaine Geddes	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Scott Jeffrey	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Radim Barta (Delegate)	Member, Vice-President (Academic), GSA
Bernadette Martin	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Paulin Mulatris	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Karsten Mundel	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Rebecca Nagel	Member (Delegate), Dean or Delegate
Melissa Padfield	Member (Delegate), Vice-Provost and University Registrar
Carla Peck	Member, Academic Staff
Natalie Sharpe	Member, Director (Student Ombudservice)
Kasia Tymczak	Member, Undergraduate Student at-Large (Elected by GFC)

Non-Voting Members:

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

Nataraj (Nat) Kav	Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, GFC ASC
Dean Zaragoza	Executive Director, Health Sciences Council
Carrie Smith-Prei	Faculty of Arts
Deborah Burshtyn	Vice Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Gerda de Vries	Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science
Murray Gingras	Faculty of Science
Fraser Brenneis	Vice-Dean (Education), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Sita Gourishankar	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Jason Carey	Associate Dean (Programs & Planning), Faculty of Engineering
Sandra Davidson	Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Faculty of Nursing
Dion Brocks	Associate Dean (Undergraduate Student Affairs), Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Elaine Geddes	Associate Dean (Undergraduate Program), Alberta School of Business

Rauno Parrila
Lynn McGarvey

Faculty of Education
Vice Dean, Faculty of Education

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: Nagel/Jeffrey

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 20, 2016

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Motion: Causgrove Dunn/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Minutes of October 20, 2016.

CARRIED

3. Comments from the Chair

The Chair announced that the nomination process is underway for the Search Committees for the Vice-President (Research) and Vice-President (University Relations).

Ms Banister was invited by the Chair to report to members on an upcoming conference on interdisciplinary learning organized jointly between the Provost's Office and the Students' Union for February 2017. Ms Banister noted that she would provide members with the final details once they are available.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

The Following Proposal(s) are Deemed Minor/Editorial (GFC ASC's Terms of Reference (Mandate)(3.A.i and iii) by the Vice-Provost (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(s): Nataraj (Nat) Kav

Omnibus Mover and Seconder: Brocks/Carey

4A. Proposed Approval of Transfer Credit for November 2016, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed transfer credit for November 2016, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar, to take effect upon final approval.

CARRIED

4B. Proposed Changes to Existing Admission/Readmission Deadlines, Faculty of Nursing

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to existing admission/readmission deadlines, as submitted by the Faculty of Nursing, to take effect in 2017/2018.

CARRIED

4C. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements, Special Students, Faculty of Engineering

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to admission requirements, special students, as submitted by the Faculty of Engineering, to take effect in 2017/2018.

CARRIED

4D. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements, Planning, Faculty of Science

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to admission requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, to take effect in 2017/2018.

CARRIED

4E. Proposed Changes to Admission Academic Requirements Dental Hygiene Post-Diploma Degree Completion Program for diploma students graduating 2017 and 2018, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to admission academic requirements dental hygiene post-diploma degree completion program for diploma students graduating 2017 and 2018, as submitted by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

5. Proposed Changes to the Existing Physical Testing (Immunization) Requirements, Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Graduate Studies & Research; Medicine & Dentistry; Nursing; Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences; Physical Education and Recreation; and Rehabilitation Medicine

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Dean Zaragoza

Purpose of the Proposal: To replace current entries in the University Calendar outlining Bloodborne pathogens policy and medical testing / immunization requirements from each of the specific faculty sections with a reference to the new University Infectious Diseases Regulation.

Discussion:

The Chair reminded members that approval of this proposal is dependent upon final approval of the Infectious Diseases Regulation by the Board of Governors in December 2016.

Motion: Brenneis/Burshtyn

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors, and pending approval of the University Infectious Diseases Regulation by the Board of Governors, the proposed revisions to existing Physical Testing (Immunization) Requirements for the Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Graduate Studies & Research; Medicine & Dentistry; Nursing; Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences; Physical Education and Recreation; and Rehabilitation Medicine, as set forth in Appendices 1-10, to take effect in 2017/2018.

CARRIED

6. Proposal to Suspend Admission to Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Comparative Literature, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carrie Smith-Prei; Deborah Burshtyn

Purpose of the Proposal: To suspend admission to the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degree programs in Comparative Literature.

Discussion:

Dr Smith-Prei provided a summary of this proposal to members noting the streamlining of programs in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies. She further noted that incoming students now enter the specialization of Transnational and Comparative Literatures and that current students were given the option to move into that specialization or to complete the Comparative Literature program.

Dr Smith-Prei confirmed that there was considerable in-person and electronic consultation with students during the proposal development, and that students were supportive.

Motion: Nagel/Jeffrey

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admission to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Comparative Literature as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to be effective upon approval.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements, Paleontology, Faculty of Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries; Murray Gingras

Purpose of the Proposal: Due to increased enrollment pressures in upper level EAS field schools, admission to Paleontology must be managed as these students are required to take the field school course. As a result, similar enrolment management procedures to that of Geology and ENES will be put in place.

Discussion:

Dr Gingras provided a brief summary of this proposal to members noting that it is intended to address pressures resulting from increased enrolment in the Paleontology program and to ensure that students who require the course for their program would be able to enroll in it.

Motion: Brenneis/Carey

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the admission requirements, as submitted by the Faculty of Science, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2017.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements, Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis; Sita Gourishankar

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend the current MD Program Academic Admission Requirements from students being encouraged to obtain a baccalaureate degree prior to admission, to applicants being required to do so.

Discussion:

Dr Brenneis reported that there have been a number of changes to the admission criteria for the MD program including the removal of prerequisites aimed to broaden the educational diversity of the applicant pool.

The committee discussed whether the requirement for a degree distinguished between a three or a four year degree and it was noted that three year degrees such as in accelerated Nursing programs are quite rigorous. The proponents noted the value of applicants demonstrating commitment to completing a degree. A member reported that the Medical Students' Association (MSA) opposed this proposal, citing decreased access, an increased financial burden for students, that the University would miss out on exceptional students, and lack of a clear rationale for the proposal. Dr Gourishankar responded that she had not seen the letter from the MSA, but that students had participated as part of the MD admissions working group and that she had also met with the Medical Students' Association and other students as part of ongoing discussions. Dr Brenneis noted that there had been discussion about whether exceptional students would go elsewhere if they were required to have a degree; he noted that this group represents a small number of applicants and the faculty felt that the other benefits of the proposal outweighed this. Dr Gourishankar noted that 77 percent of the last class admitted hold a Bachelor degree, while 89 percent have 4+ years of university education.

A member noted that some students enrolled in graduate programs apply to the MD program and asked whether their admission could be deferred to allow them to complete their graduate program; Dr Gourishankar confirmed that deferrals were allowed in such circumstances.

Members expressed support for the proposal and the access for a diverse group of applicants. Two minor changes were suggested to the wording of the Calendar copy.

Motion: Jeffrey/Davidson

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the changes to the admission requirements for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as set forth in Attachment 1 as amended, to take effect Fall 2018.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to the Calculation of Graduation Average and Graduation "With Distinction", Faculty of Engineering

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Jason Carey

Discussion:

Dr Carey noted that the proposal will update these regulations to allow for fairness in the calculation of graduating averages and ensure that meritorious students can be awarded with distinction standing in a fair manner. He further noted that the changes to the calculation were in accordance with accreditation requirements.

Motion: Banister/Brenneis

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority, proposed changes to the calculation of graduation average and graduation "with distinction", Faculty of Engineering, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect Fall 2017.

CARRIED

10. Proposed Changes to Admission Requirements to BSc in Nursing Collaborative and After Degree Programs, Readmission Requirements, and Academic Standing Requirements, Faculty of Nursing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sandra Davidson

Discussion:

Dr Davidson provided an overview of the proposal, its focus on student success, and its alignment with best practices in Canada and the US. A member noted concern from some students about moving to the new fixed grading scale; Dr Davidson confirmed that the scale is in line with other Alberta institutions. There was a further discussion on the wording around some of the calendar copy and some revisions were suggested.

Motion: Jeffrey/Brocks

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to admission requirements to BSc in Nursing Collaborative and After Degree Programs, Readmission Requirements, and Academic Standing Requirements, Faculty of Nursing, as set forth in Attachment 1 as amended and Attachment 2, to take effect Fall 2017.

CARRIED

11. Proposed Changes to Existing Academic Standing with respect to awards distribution, DDS Degree Program and DDS Advanced Placement Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis

Discussion:

Dr Brenneis indicated that this proposal clarifies that remedial grades cannot be used for awards purposes.

Motion: Carey/Mundel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority, changes to the existing Academic Standing and Graduation, DDS Degree and DDS Advanced Placement Programs, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect for Fall 2017

CARRIED

12. Proposed Changes to Existing Admission Requirements, Dental Hygiene Post Diploma Degree Completion Program, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis

Discussion:

Following a discussion, Dr Brenneis withdrew this item for consideration at this time.

13. Proposed Changes to Admission, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Dion Brocks

Discussion:

Dr Brocks noted that the proposal reduces the number of prerequisites for admission as it was recognized that there were too many courses for a student to complete within two years.

Motion: Carey/Nagel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the proposed changes to admission requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect Fall 2017.

CARRIED

14. Proposal for a New Program in Honors in Operations Management, Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Elaine Geddes

Purpose of the Proposal:

Discussion:

Dr Geddes noted that the proposed program offers students the opportunity to pursue an honors degree in this field and that it would likely attract a small number of students.

Motion: Jeffrey/Padfield

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from the General Faculties Council, the proposed Admission, Transfer and Academic Standing requirements Honors in Operations Management program as submitted by the Faculty of Business and as set forth in Attachment 1, for early implementation in January 2017.

CARRIED

15. Proposal for a (new) Freestanding for-credit University Certificate in Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs, Faculty of Education

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Lynn McGarvey; Rauno Parrila

Discussion:

Dr Parrila explained that this certificate is essential to address current needs within schools for teachers with this type of specialized training. On the question of why this is a University rather than a post-baccalaureate certificate, Dr Parrila responded that it has been designed as professional development opportunity for a broad range of teachers. There was further discussion on the cohort model proposed for the program with a member noting the challenges for students who could not take courses according to their availability.

Motion: Mundel/Nagel

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, recommend to the GFC Academic Planning Committee the approval of a (new) Freestanding For-Credit University Certificate in Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs, as submitted by the Faculty of Education, and as set forth in Attachments 1, for implementation in September 2017

CARRIED

16. Proposed Changes to Existing Admission and Academic Regulations (professional standards for students in the FoMD), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Fraser Brenneis

Discussion:

After discussion, the committee suggested including the Code of Applicant Behaviour to the calendar copy.

Motion: Barta/Martin

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve, with delegated authority, changes to existing admission and academic regulations, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and as set forth in Attachment 1 as amended, to take effect Fall 2017.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

There were no documents.

Presenter(s): Nataraj (Nat) Kav; Kate Peters

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide an update to the Committee in regards to current proposals being considered by the Provincial Government. The following update was given to the committee:

To be Proposed to Government:

- (New) Load Change in BSc Dental Hygiene
- Suspension of MA and PhD in MLCS

Currently with AE undergoing System Coordination Review:

- (New) Major in Fashion Business Management in the Bachelor of Science
- (New) University Certificate in Digital Learning;
- (New) University Certificate in Adolescent Literacy.
- Name Changes to Biological Sciences Programs (Integrative Physiology; Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology; Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology)

External reviews requested:

- Mount Royal University, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry specialization

Referred to CAQC for review

- (New) PhD in Indigenous Studies;

Recently approved:

- (New) Program Proposal for MSc in Urban and Regional Planning;
- (New) PBC Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- (New) PBC Indigenous Sport and Recreation
- Suspension of the Master of Engineering in Nutrition and Foods from the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of ALES
- Load Change to the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sexual Health

18. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

19. Items Approved by the GFC Academic Standards Committee by email ballots (non-debatable)

There were no items.

20. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

CLOSING SESSION

21. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.