



General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Jason Acker
J Nelson Amaral
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Daniela Carbajal
Florence Glanfield
Kathy Haddadkar
Nathalie Kermaal
Stacy Lorenz

Brooke Milne
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Donia Mounsef
Hanne Pearce
Norma Rodenburg
Christopher Sturdy
Aman Ullah

non-voting:

Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Brad Hamdon
Helen Vallianatos

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair began with a territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of GFC Programs Committee (PC)

The Chair noted that Item 15 was a list of transfer credit approvals and denials and that these items used to come to the GFC Academic Standards Committee for approval; however, with the changes to the Transfer Credit Procedure in July 2020, these approvals are now made by the Administrative Committee for Transfer Credit and reported annually to the GFC Programs Committee.

The Chair also drew members' attention to Item 16, a briefing note on administrative terminations of inactive programs.

Motion: Glanfield/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), Chair of PC

The Chair provided an update on the University response to COVID-19 and the work of the Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Academic Impacts Team (AIT) to clarify plans for the Winter 2022 term. She noted that the announcement on plans will come by the end of the week to give students, faculty and staff a better sense of the plan for the rest of the semester.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Branch-Mueller/Ullah

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of December 9, 2021

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of December 9, 2021

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- Arts
- Augustana
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Law
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Native Studies
- Nursing
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council the attached course and minor program change submissions from the Faculties of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Augustana, Business, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Dentistry, Native Studies, Nursing, and Science.

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

- A. BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Dietetics Specialization Admission Requirements
- B. Préposé aux soins de santé Academic Standing Regulations
- C. Bachelor of Music (Performance), Admission Requirements
- D. Faculty of Nursing Admission Requirements and Academic Standing Regulations

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve

- the proposed changes to admission requirements for the BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, Dietetics Specialization, as set forth in attachment A;
- the proposed changes to academic standing regulations for the Préposé aux soins de santé, as set forth in attachment B;
- the proposed changes to admission requirements for the Bachelor of Music (Performance), as set forth in attachment C; and
- the proposed changes to admission requirements and academic standing regulations for the Faculty of Nursing as set forth in attachment D.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Proposed Suspension of Admission to the Certificate in Engaged Leadership and Citizenship in Arts and Science

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gerda de Vries, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science; Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts

Purpose of the Proposal: We are requesting approval to suspend admission to the undergraduate embedded Certificate in Engaged Leadership and Citizenship in Arts and Science.

Discussion:

Dr Nagel noted that the creation of the certificate dated back to 2015 when the creation of the embedded leadership certificate offered through the Peter Loughheed Leadership College (PLLC) was crafted as an exclusive program. The Faculties of Arts and Science wished to ensure that their students had access to a leadership certificate but have found the certificate program requirements difficult to manage and would like to terminate the certificate. They noted there are currently three students who took an introductory course several years ago, but no students are currently active in attendance of the program.

The PC Coordinator Heather Richholt provided some additional context on the need to terminate embedded certificates explaining that because the certificate is embedded, not free-standing, and not subject to further approvals by the Ministry, there is no required two-step process. The suspension of admission to the certificate in effect will terminate the certificate going forward and the Faculty is expected to ensure that students are taught out appropriately.

Members asked questions about the difference between suspension and termination and how this should be handled in the *University Calendar*. The proponents noted a preference to terminate the certificate and noted that students who wished to complete requirements would need to substitute courses, likely from the PLLC offerings. Members supported the idea of a suspension with students having the ability to complete until the end of their degree cycle. Members noted their support for students being able to access the PLLC certificate program.

Motion: Amaral/Rodenburg

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority, the suspension of admission to the Certificate in Engaged Leadership and Citizenship in Arts and Science, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Suspension of the Gestion Touristique Diploma, Faculté Saint-Jean

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Donia Mounsef, Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences Programs, Campus Saint-Jean

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to approve the suspension of the Gestion Touristique (GTO) Diploma Program at Centre Collégial de l'Alberta, Faculté Saint-Jean.

Discussion:

Dr Mounsef explained the rationale for the suspension including reduced student demand for the program in light of the pandemic and the impact of academic and administrative restructuring. She assured members that existing students would be transferred to the College Management program.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Acker/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of admissions to the Centre Collégial de l'Alberta Gestion Touristique Diploma (GTO) Program, to take effect July 1, 2022, as submitted by the Centre collégial de l'Alberta, Faculté Saint-Jean.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Deletion of Minors for Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science programs, Augustana Faculty

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Stacy Lorenz, Associate Dean, Academic, Augustana

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to make significant changes to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science programs offered through Augustana Faculty, by deleting the optional minors currently available as components in these programs (with the exception of the current minors in Management and Music), effective for students admitted for Fall 2022, and with the deletions occurring in the 2022-2023 University Calendar.

Discussion:

Dr Lorenz explained the substantial work that had gone into the proposal and provided some supplementary comments. He emphasized the consultations, especially with students and the focused efforts to address their concerns. In addition, he spoke to the connection between this proposal and the broader curriculum changes that Augustana has undertaken in the past few years. These suspensions are motivated by the need to ensure a manageable breadth of courses, to manage enrolment, and differentiate the Augustana student experience. Importantly, suspending these minors is a natural consequence of implementing the core curriculum requirements that allow for inter or multidisciplinary academic experiences and the renewed degrees do a better job at offering the kinds of experiences that minors once fulfilled.

Members asked about the timing for implementation, especially for applicants and the proponent explained that new students and recently admitted students have been required to speak with an advisor before signing up for a minor.

Motion: Seyl-Miyashita/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed deletion of minors currently offered as optional components for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science programs in Augustana Faculty, with the exception of the minors in Management and Music, to take effect in Fall 2022.

CARRIED

9. Proposed New Specialization in General Public Health and Suspension of Previous Specializations for the Master of Public Health, School of Public Health and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Ruth Wolfe, Associate Dean (Professional Programs), School of Public Health; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

Purpose of the Proposal: To implement a new second-level specialization in the Master of Public Health degree and to suspend admission into the current seven second-level specializations. The newly proposed second-level specialization MPH in General Public Health will replace the current seven second-level specializations.

Discussion:

Dean Milne expressed the support of the FGSR and Dr Wolfe explained the rationale for the creation of the new second-level specialization and the accompanying suspension of admission to specializations. She noted the robust consultation with students, faculty and alumni, with Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) Florence Glanfield, and with external stakeholders. Shew also explained that there is no anticipated impact to enrolment and students will be able to complete their program requirements.

Members asked the proponents to clarify if the plan was to supplement the programs with graduate embedded certificates. Dr Wolfe agreed that the embedded certificate development is linked but that they are not perfectly aligned to the specializations being suspended. More broadly, she explained the goal of promoting interdisciplinarity in the School of Public Health.

Motion: Ullah/Glanfield

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed new second-level specialization in General Public Health for the Master of Public Health for implementation in Fall 2023, and the associated course changes, for publication in the 2022-2023 Calendar, as set forth in attachments 1, 3, and 4.

CARRIED

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Seyl-Miyashita

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the suspension of the seven current Master of Public Health second-level specializations effective October 1, 2022, and for publication in the 2022-2023 Calendar as set forth in attachments 2 and 3.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Experiential and Work Integrated Learning

Presenter(s): Karsten Mündel, Provost Fellow, Experiential and Work-Integrated Learning

Purpose of the Proposal: The item is before the committee to discuss experiential and work-integrated learning at the UofA.

Discussion:

Dr Mündel explained some of the rationale including performance based funding, program renewal, and the student experience, noting the important overlap with the Committee's responsibility over academic programs. He reminded members of the diversity of definitions for work-integrated learning in Alberta and the models in place at the University of Alberta. He emphasized that land-based learning was a priority and that while his work was in its early stages, there were plans to work with the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research).

The committee discussed:

- the difference between work-integrated learning and experiential learning, how they are defined by the University and the Ministry, and how they are counted;
- the presence of opportunities at the graduate level that might not be formalized;
- the value of putting student needs and motivations at the center of any initiative;
- the diversity of learners and experiences and encouraging students to discover new areas of interest or confirm interest and aspirations;
- where the Digital Learner Literacy Centre may fit within these frameworks and whether microcredentials might be an interface for counting some of the experiences that do not fit into degree programs;

- how research experience might be classified;
- how broadly the typology can be defined and the need to go beyond formal or credit-bearing learning;
- the value of conceptualizing experience in terms of meeting learning outcomes;
- whether typology was the right terminology and whether we were looking to impose order on the currently messy reality of experiential learning, in contrast with looking at the intended attributes that might be used to make sense of what takes place at the University;
- that the plan was to try and quantify these experiences and report on them, and that not everything will fit neatly into the typology;
- if diverse experiences facilitated by University of Alberta International (UAI) were included and that it was crucial to capture how these experiences may be quantified;
- how informal training or even paid work, that are sometimes known as “work study”, might fit into the framework and whether microcredentials are a way to certify them; and
- the budgetary realities and the need to prioritize work.

11. Reimagining the Certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies

Presentation before members is contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Leo Wong, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Business

Discussion: Dr Wong presented a vision for the embedded Certificate in Interdisciplinary studies emphasizing the intention to make it flexible, inclusive, inspiring, and accessible for students. Dr Wong noted the intention to offer courses online with a flexible structure so that even students in restrictive programs could contemplate participating in the program. The courses will continue to be offered across four years of an undergraduate degree program and will cultivate leadership as both a skill and a mindset. He noted that course development will be supported by the Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) Academic Advisory Committee and will benefit from interdisciplinary input. The intention is that courses and the program itself are accessible across all programs at the University.

Committee members discussed the ways that Faculties who are not on the Academic Advisory Committee are able to influence content and Dr Wong explained how the committee had evolved and the efforts to engage with Deans and key contacts in Faculties. Members were supportive of the interdisciplinary approach especially given the diversity of approaches to leadership.

Members inquired about how this structure was going to be implemented with the existing certificate program and whether this was a new certificate that would run in parallel. Dr Wong responded that the students who were admitted this year would have the opportunity to complete the requirements they were admitted into, and that new students would be admitted into the revised program. Because the new program is more flexible, there are no anticipated issues in making the shift. The differences of the program were discussed, including the elimination of the capstone or stretch experience, the delivery format, and the cohort model and Dr Wong assured members that there will still be an experiential component.

Members also wondered whether the Arts and Science embedded certificate suspension is impacting this program change and the possibility of other collaborations to support experiential learning, especially the use of Lougheed Hall. Dr Wong responded that students will continue to access and run programs through Lougheed Hall. In addition, an update was provided on plans to create a bilingual leadership certificate and the need to cost out the development and delivery of the certificate.

12. Exploration Credits

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Deputy Registrar, and delegate, Vice-Provost and University Registrar; Abner Monteiro, Vice-President (Academic), Students' Union

Discussion:

The proponents provided an update on the final proposal for the development of regulation on exploration credits for implementation in the next academic year. In particular, they presented on changes made to address feedback received since the first round of consultation in the fall of 2021. They explained that this proposal would come back to Programs Committee for recommendation in February and for approval by GFC in March.

Members asked questions and made comments including, but not limited to:

- how credits might be transferred to different programs and the eligibility of starting over in a new program;
- the coherence and the use of the term “elective” throughout the proposal, especially the terms “open elective”, “pre-elective” and “elective course”, and the diversity of uses of terms and structures throughout the University;
- whether there are plans to accommodate exceptions to the 6 credit limit and that, at this point, more than this would not be allowed but that students may use this with other tools and strategies if things were not going well in their program;
- the rationale for use of the withdrawal deadline as opposed to allowing students to make this decision after they received their grade; and
- the need to balance the needs of students, instructors, Faculties and staff.

13. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item (no documents)

Presenter(s): Carley Roth, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Discussion:

The Chair invited Ms Roth to provide an update on communications within the system on academic programs. Ms Roth noted that the Office of the Provost was in the process of reviewing two new external program proposals from Athabasca University - a proposal for a new Master of Architecture degree program, and from Lethbridge College - a proposal for a new Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree program.

14. Question Period (no documents)

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), Chair of PC

Members asked to discuss cross-listed or “slash” courses, how they are communicated and offered and whether there are plans for a broader institutional review.

INFORMATION REPORTS

15. Transfer Credit Approvals and Denials, July 2020 - December 2021

16. Briefing Note: Work-Integrated Learning (WIL): IMA Performance-Based Funding Metric Reporting - List of Administrative Terminations

CLOSING SESSION

17. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: February 10, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: January 31, 2022

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.