



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Programs Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, February 11, 2021  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Tammy Hopper, Chair  
J Nelson Amaral  
David Draper  
Joel Gehman  
Nathalie Kermaol  
Brooke Milne  
Heather Seyl Miyashita  
Adekunle Mofolasayo  
Karsten Mündel

Melissa Padfield  
Hanne Pearce  
Sachiketha Reddy  
Victoria Ruetalo  
Christopher Sturdy  
Minn-Nyoung Yoon  
non-voting:  
Kate Peters  
Natalie Sharpe  
Helen Vallianatos

**REGRETS:**

Florence Glanfield  
Brad Hamdon  
Donia Mounsef

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

**OPENING SESSION****1. Approval of the Agenda**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of GFC Programs Committee (PC)

*Motion:* Mündel/Seyl Miyashita

THAT the GFC Academic Standards Committee approve the Agenda.
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**CARRIED**

**2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)**

*Presenter(s):* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

***Discussion:***

In her comments, the Chair made note of the following:

- February was Black History Month and members were encouraged to visit the Equity Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) university web page for details of the events taking place.
- The Quality Assurance season had been delayed because of COVID-19 but was now underway with an online process. The undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies had just been completed.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education had asked the university to identify all programs with work integrated learning components and had made it clear that those components were expected in all new program proposals. This committee would hear more about this in the coming months.
- It was important that the Programs Committee was familiar with the Non Credit Credentials Framework that was approved by GFC in May 2020 because non credit credentials fell within this committee's delegated authority to approve. A learning moment on non credit credentials would be planned to help members with evaluation of these proposals.

- The Provost had struck a remote teaching and learning taskforce to address the issues raised by students regarding online proctoring, participation grades, and synchronous learning access for those in distant time zones.

Members discussed the membership of the Provost's taskforce and the consultation path of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's (FGSR) supervisory initiatives.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Consent Agenda Mover and Second: Padfield/Sturdy

#### 3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 14, 2021

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of January 14, 2021.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Arts
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Saint-Jean

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 Arts, Medicine and Dentistry, and Saint-Jean.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

- A. Admissions Chart Updates, Office of the Registrar
- B. Bridging Program, Entrance Requirements, Office of the Registrar
- C. EAP 135, 140, Entrance Requirements, Faculty of Extension
- D. Master of Science in Medical Science - Orthodontics, Entrance and Program Requirements
- E. Master of Science in Medical Science - Periodontology, Entrance and Program Requirements
- F. Communication Sciences and Disorders, Graduate Entrance Requirements

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

- A. the proposed updates to admissions charts 1, 4, and 5, as set forth in attachment A;
- B. the proposed changes to entrance requirements for the Bridging Program, as set forth in attachment B;
- C. the proposed changes to entrance requirements for EAP 135 and 140, as set forth in attachment C;
- D. the proposed changes to entrance and program requirements for the Master of Science in Medical Science - Orthodontics, as set forth in attachment D;
- E. the proposed changes to entrance and program requirements for the Master of Science in Medical Science - Periodontology, as set forth in attachment E; and
- F. the proposed changes to entrance requirements for graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, as set forth in attachment F.

**CARRIED**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 6. Proposed New Course Designators CATS (Creative Arts Therapies) and SPRIT (Spirituality and Multi-Faith Theologies), St. Stephen's College, Faculty of Arts

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Frederick Tappenden, Principal and Dean, St. Stephen's College; Eddy Kent, Associate Dean (Student Program), Faculty of Arts

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To replace the CHRTP designator with two new more specific designators that better reflect course objectives and curriculum.

*Discussion*:

Dr Tappenden explained that St Stephen's College began as a Christian Theological College but, since the 1970s, had become a multi-faith college with more diverse course offerings. He noted that the proposed course designators were more reflective of this change.

Members discussed the importance of accurate and descriptive course designators as well as recognition of historical and ideological roots.

Motion: Draper/Mundel

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, new course designators for Creative Arts Therapies (CATS) and Spirituality and Multi-Faith Theologies (SPRIT) to replace the current Christian Theology Protestant (CHRTP) designator.

**CARRIED**

1 opposed (A Mofolasayo)

7. Proposed New Course Designator BTM (Business Technology Management), Faculty of Business

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Purpose of the Proposal*: To change the course designator of MIS to BTM in the Department of Accounting and Business Analytics.

*Discussion*:

Dr Wong explained that this proposal would align the course designator with the name of the industry and the discipline, and with the new name for the major that was approved the previous month.

Motion: Sturdy/Pearce

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the new course designator BTM (Business Technology Management) to replace MIS (Management Information Systems), as submitted by the Faculty of Business.

**CARRIED**

1 abstention (J Gehman)

8. Proposed Program Changes to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR; Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine; Andrea MacLeod, Chair, Communication Sciences & Disorders; Shaniff Esmail, Associate Chair, Occupational Therapy

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to approve changes to program load and credits.

*Discussion:*

Dr Martin noted that the proposed changes would make the credit loads consistent across the programs as well as properly reflect the workload of the clinical placements.

A member asked when the changes would be implemented and was informed that they would take effect for students entering the programs in fall 2021.

Motion: Gehman/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed program changes to the MSc in Occupational Therapy as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

Motion: Mundel/Ruetalo

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed program changes to the MSc in Speech Language Pathology as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and as set forth in Attachments 3 and 4, to take effect upon approval.

**CARRIED**

9. Proposed Changes to Graduate Admissions Regulations, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

*Presenter(s):* Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the committee to include additional language in the calendar regarding graduate program admissions and the policy around deferrals, previously stated funding offers, revised admission start dates, and the conditions thereof for graduate students.

*Discussion:*

Dr Milne gave an overview of the proposed changes and noted that they would address gaps that became known because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in requests for deferral of admission. She explained that the goal was clarity for the university and for applicants.

Members discussed:

- the use of the word "normally" in the Calendar language;
- whether students who were not able to defer admission would have to reapply;
- whether students who reapplied would be given higher priority; and
- that supervisors were free to find an alternative candidate in these cases.

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Graduate Admissions language and policy around deferrals, previously stated funding offers, and revised admission start dates, for immediate implementation.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. Proposal for the Establishment of the GFC Committee on the Documentation of Canadian Indigeneity

(CDCI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Chris Andersen, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies; Shana Dion, Assistant Dean, First Nations, Metis and Inuit Students; Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar

*Discussion:*

The Chair noted that this proposal was related to Programs Committee's responsibility for admissions requirements but reminded members that decisions on items with institutional scope were made by full GFC.

Ms Padfield explained that there were many programs at the university with designated seats for indigenous students as well as awards with criteria related to indigeneity. She noted that to date there had been an ad hoc process to ensure that these went to those they were meant for, but that the process was not consistent. Ms Padfield indicated that the proposal would create a more consistent and transparent process and that self-identification would remain for demographic data purposes. She further noted that the voting members on the committee would all be indigenous and that she was there in a non-voting, resource capacity.

Dr Andersen explained that designated seats and awards were meant for individuals who were indigenous and who had connections to indigenous communities. He noted that a set process for talking about these issues and a group of indigenous people who were willing to make the decisions would move the process away from colonial policing of indigenous identity.

Ms Dion noted that this group would not be policing identity but would be protecting it. She observed that designated seats and funding were put in place for a reason, and the ad hoc process had not been sufficient. She noted that First Peoples' House received numerous inquiries from those wishing to identify only because of funding and that was a troubling trend.

Members asked questions and expressed opinions including but not limited to:

- self-identification during application and deadlines for documentation;
- whether there would be student representation on the committee and a suggestion to add a member of the Aboriginal Students' Council (ASC); and
- the committee's mandate to curate the list of acceptable documents and to make the decisions when necessary.

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

*Presenter(s):* Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

*Discussion:*

Ms Patrick provided the following update:

We have several proposals awaiting approval from the Ministry, including:

- Suspension of the BKin Sport Coaching major
- Termination of the BEd Adult Education program
- Augustana BA majors in: Biology, Chemistry, Computing Science, Mathematics & Physics, Sociology
- Augustana BSc majors in: Mathematics & Physics, Psychology
- Faculty of Arts' Ancient Medieval History name change
- Alberta School of Business' BCom name change to Business Technology Management (formerly Management Information Systems)

We have received two requests for system-wide coordination since our last meeting, including:

- Medicine Hat College's proposal for a new Bachelor of Paramedicine program
- Grande Prairie Regional College's proposal for a new Bachelor of Computing Science degree program

The Chair explained that her office regularly received requests for reviews of new programs at other institutions and outlined the process for review and feedback.

12. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair of PC

*Discussion:*

A member asked about the potential to have signifiers to identify courses that had work integrated learning experiences or that could be used toward an embedded certificate, to help students identify these things when they were registering for courses.

Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar, indicated that her office was currently working on adding a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) signifier for appropriate courses and that the work integrated learning signifier could be next on the list. She noted that there were resource constraints that had an impact on how much could be done quickly.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

13. Items Approved by the GFC Programs Committee by email ballots

There were no items.

14. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

There were no items.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

15. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: March 18, 2021
- Next Meeting of GFC: February 22, 2021

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.