



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Approved Open Session Minutes

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

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
J Nelson Amaral
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
(delegate)
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Daniela Carbajal
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Nathalie Kermaal
Stacy Lorenz

Brooke Milne
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Abner Monteiro
Donia Mounsef
Hanne Pearce
Christopher Sturdy
Aman Ullah
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Jason Acker
Kathy Haddadkar
Brad Hamdon
Karsten Mündel

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION**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)

Discussion:

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

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.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Seyl Miyashita

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion:

The Chair acknowledged the concerns of many community members related to the Province's announcement of reduced public health measures. She noted that the COVID-19 Public Health Response Team (PHRT) was working on a response and that a communication was expected the following day.

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 January 13, 2022

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of January 13, 2022.

CARRIED

4. Course and Minor Program Changes

- Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

- Education

- Engineering

- 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 Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Education, Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry, and Saint-Jean.

CARRIED

5. Items Deemed Minor/Editorial

A. MEd Faculté Saint-Jean conditions d'admission

B. MSc Internetworking Admissions Requirements

C. Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), DDS Advanced Placement, and Radiation Therapy Admissions Requirements

D. Radiation Therapy Academic Standing Regulations

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

- the proposed changes to admission requirements for the Maîtrise en sciences de l'éducation - Études en langue et culture degree in the Faculté Saint-Jean, as set forth in attachment A;
- the proposed changes to admission requirements for the Master of Science Internetworking in the Faculty of Science, as set forth in attachment B;
- the proposed changes to admission requirements for the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) , DDS Advanced Placement, and Radiation Therapy programs in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as set forth in attachment C; and
- the proposed changes to academic standing regulations for the Radiation Therapy Program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, as set forth in attachment D.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Course and Program Changes for Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee to seek approval of a number of proposed calendar changes required to reflect curricular enhancements.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to the undergraduate Nursing program and courses as set forth in the attachments, for implementation in Fall 2022.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

7. Proposed Exploration Credits Policy

Presenter(s): Norma Rodenburg, Deputy Registrar; Abner Monteiro, Vice President Academic, UA Students' Union

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is to adopt an Exploration Credits policy at the University of Alberta.

Discussion:

N Rodenburg pointed to the updates that had been made to the proposal to allow those programs without open electives to opt in to exploration credits in the future. She also indicated that a revised academic schedule would be approved to include the related deadlines.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Pearce/Seyl Miyashita

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the proposed Exploration Credits policy, as set forth in the attached documents, for implementation starting Fall Term 2022.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Changes to the Embedded Certificate in Sustainability, Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences

Presenter(s): Nat Kav, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of ALES; Robert Summers, Academic Director of the Sustainability Council

Purpose of the Proposal: To make changes to the requirements of the embedded Certificate in Sustainability.

Discussion:

R Summers presented the proposed changes to the core and elective requirements and explained how attendance would be tracked for lectures.

Members discussed listing of the French equivalent courses (DEVDU); that Indigenous traditions and sustainability, and human greed needed to be acknowledged; and the importance of including different worldviews and perspectives.

Motion: Mounsef/Branch-Mueller

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, proposed changes to the embedded Certificate in Sustainability, as submitted by the Faculty of ALES to take effect in fall 2022.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Changes to Admission and Program Requirements, and Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Programs in Dentistry

Presenter(s): Carlos Flores-Mir, Graduate Coordinator - Dentistry; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek approval of a suite of changes to graduate programs in the School of Dentistry.

Discussion:

C Flores-Mir provided a summary of the proposed changes to seven programs.

A member asked for clarification on the point that a Master's degree was normally required but that in exceptional cases an undergraduate degree would be accepted. C Flores-Mir explained that a significant body of work equivalent to a Master's degree would be required in those exceptional cases and emphasized the importance of ensuring that a student was prepared and would be successful in a PhD program.

A member made an observation that several undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry had added "Completion of the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)" as a condition of admission and asked why the graduate programs had not done likewise. C Flores-Mir replied that he would work on adding that and bringing it forward. Members discussed whether these changes should wait until a condition of admission piece was added or whether they should go ahead, recognizing the work and approvals that had gone into the proposed changes. B Milne noted that the FGSR was also working on an Indigenous content requirement for all graduate programs.

Motion: Ullah/Branch-Mueller

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached suite of admission and program requirements and academic standing regulations for graduate programs in the School of Dentistry, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the 2022-2023 *Calendar*.

CARRIED
1 opposed (Glanfield)

10. Termination of the ALES Specialization in the Master of Engineering

Presenter(s): Leluo Guan, Associate Dean - Grad, ALES; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the committee because the ALES specialization in the MEng has been suspended for the past five years; this is the formal request to terminate the program.

Discussion:

The Chair explained that this item would proceed to GFC and the Board of Governors for approval before it was sent to the Ministry. She noted that the approval pathway for program terminations had changed in 2019 and that now, only suspensions would require GFC and board approval. The rationale for the change to process was supported by the fact that the decision to suspend a program was more consequential than the program termination after a five year teach-out when there were no longer impacts to students. Programs Committee now holds the authority to approve terminations. This suspension was approved by the Academic Standards Committee in 2016, before the change to pathway, so a full Board approval was required for the termination.

A member asked about other course-based Master's programs in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

Motion: Glanfield/Ullah

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend the Board of Governors approve the termination of the ALES specialization in the Master of Engineering, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

11. Proposed Changes to the Master of Education in Educational Studies Including Certificate Laddering Pathway

Presenter(s): Douglas Gleddie, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education; Brooke Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR

Purpose of the Proposal: To seek approval of changes to the MES Program including a load change and certificate pathway.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that there was no need for a Ministry approval of the load change as the number of total credits were not changing. The Ministry template included in the materials summed up the proposal nicely but the final approval could be made with Programs Committee's delegated authority from GFC.

D Gleddie explained the rationale for making the change and the demand from the sector for continuing education. He noted that this kind of potential for laddering could encourage those who complete a certificate to pursue graduate studies.

During the discussion, members asked clarification questions about the Calendar changes and the curriculum.

THAT GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed program changes including a certificate pathway for the MEd in Educational Studies (MES) program, as outlined in the attachments, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

12. Proposed Core Graduate Student Academic Requirements, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal outlines the core graduate academic requirements for each respective graduate credential awarded at the UofA, as approved by GFC and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Discussion:

B Milne provided an overview of the proposal and spoke about the changes made throughout the consultation process.

There was no discussion.

Motion: Sturdy/Ullah

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that General Faculties Council approve the proposed core graduate academic requirements for all graduate credentials offered at the University of Alberta as set forth in attachments 1 and 2, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

13. Proposed Changes to Graduate Student Residence Requirements, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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

Purpose of the Proposal: FGSR is proposing to remove the institutional residence requirement for Master's and Doctoral graduate degree programs. The proposal will not affect programs with existing residence requirements. Future program proposals are free to include such a requirement as desired.

Discussion:

B Milne explained that a university wide residence requirement was unenforceable and unnecessary and that this had become more apparent through the COVID-19 pandemic. She also noted that departments would be free to establish their own requirements if necessary.

A member asked which programs had their own residence requirement. B Milne noted that residence requirements were variable across graduate programs and that it was important that the unit or program make the decision.

A member asked if there would be a delay in completion times for those students who were not full-time students on campus. B Milne replied that extension requests and progress reports would be better indicators of any issues with completion times.

Motion: Branch-Mueller/Seyl Miyashita

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the proposed changes to the residence requirement for all graduate students, as noted in the included calendar change, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

14. Proposed Alternate Criteria for English Language Proficiency, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

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

Purpose of the Proposal: An exceptional alternate pathway to meet the institutional ELP Requirement is proposed for prospective graduate student applicants who have attained a credential(s) from an international institution where the primary language of instruction is not English but who subsequently are able to demonstrate English Language Proficiency (ELP) through one or more of the proposed criteria.

Discussion:

B Milne spoke about the proposal to provide an alternate pathway for meeting ELP for those applicants who had certain professional credentials and work experience. She provided an example of a Registered Nurse who had ten years of work experience in Alberta.

A member asked about credentials from international institutions that met the ELP requirement.

Motion: Mofolasayo/Ullah

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the proposed alternate admissions criteria for the English Language Proficiency Requirement for those applicants with a previous credential or accreditation as set forth in attachment 1, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. Proposed Changes to Academic Standing Regulations for Graduate Students, 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 discuss changes to areas of the Calendar related to Academic Standing and Academic Probation, including:

- Academic Standing
 - Failure in or Failure to Complete a Course or Research Work
 - Repeating Courses
 - Minimum Academic Requirements
- Convocation

Discussion:

B Milne provided an overview of the proposed changes and noted the following points:

- the changes would provide a clear plan for remediation of a failed course;
- failed grades would be removed from the grade point average (GPA) calculation once a student had successfully addressed the course;
- that the current practice was overly punitive because of the FGSR minimum GPA requirement;
- that a failed grade would remain on the transcript because it was a part of the student's official record;
- wording to reflect whether a course needed to be retaken if it was a core course, or replaced if it was an elective, and a limit on the number of attempts to take a course; and
- clarity around probation and an alternate way to support students and monitor success.

During the discussion, members asked questions and expressed comments including but not limited to:

- FGSR minimum GPA and passing grades, and whether programs with higher standards should face periodic reviews to ensure that they were reasonable;
- variable minimum standards across programs and disciplines;
- the delegated authority of the Programs Committee to approved academic standing requirements;
- the importance of equity and an observation that standards may change over time but they must be properly approved and consistently applied;
- the importance of clarity and transparency of academic regulations;
- the implementation of the student progress reports and evidence recorded for students who are required to withdraw;
- clarification on the required to withdraw GPA and course minimum grades;
- the importance of establishing clear thresholds and remediating failed courses to end the practice of students having to take unnecessary courses to balance out their GPA;
- a question about a department's ability to ask a student to withdraw if they cannot find a supervisor; and
- the University's duty to accommodate up to the point of undue hardship.

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend General Faculties Council approve the proposed alternate admissions criteria for the English Language Proficiency Requirement for those applicants with a previous credential or accreditation as set forth in attachment 1, for implementation upon approval.

CARRIED

16. 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

Discussion:

C Roth noted that there had been no new external programs for review by the U of A and no new Ministry approvals since the January meeting of Programs Committee. She also noted that a number of administrative terminations had been submitted to the Ministry as part of the Investment Management Agreement reporting on Work-Integrated Learning, which came forward for information to the Academic Planning Committee, Programs Committee, and GFC in January.

17. Question Period (no documents)

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

18. Information Items Forwarded to Committee Members Between Meetings

- University of Alberta Mail - GFC Programs Committee - ACAT Approvals and Denials

CLOSING SESSION

19. Adjournment
- Next Meeting of PC: March 17, 2022
- Next Meeting of GFC: February 28, 2022

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.