

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee (PC)
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, February 09, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:45 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair
Bishoi Aziz
Roger Epp
Florence Glanfield
Tahmid Al Hafiz
Gurleen Kaur
Jane Lee (delegate)
Stacy Lorenz

Heather Seyl Miyashita
Adekunle Mofolasayo
Hanne Pearce
Sujata Persad
Sean Robertson
Maite Snauwaert
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Brad Hamdon
Anna Hughes
Brian Pardell
Helen Vallianatos

Staff

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair made the following acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people.

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 PC

The motion was moved and seconded.

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:

In her comments, the Chair provided an update from the January meeting of Campus Alberta Quality Council (CACQ) noting that CACQ will convene a meeting in the spring with comprehensive academic and research universities (CARU) representatives to add Indigenous engagement and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion prompts in the government templates. She observed that internal and external expectations are rising with respect to these important initiatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The motion to approve the items in the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 12, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of January 12, 2023.

CARRIED

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Arts
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached course, minor program, and minor regulation change submissions from the Faculties of Arts, Business, Education, Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing, and Science.

CARRIED

5. Courses to be Deleted, Office of the Registrar

THAT the GFC Programs Committee receive the attached list of deleted courses from the Office of the Registrar.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

6. Practicum Restructure and Program Changes, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Nicole Lazorek, Director, Academic Programs, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation;
Rebecca Liaw, *University Calendar* Editor

Discussion.

The presenters explained that the documents approved at the last committee meeting had some issues that were only noticed as the Editor was updating the draft *University Calendar* and that there were several changes needed to ensure that the program requirements for the current year and the next year when the changes would take effect were clearly articulated.

Members discussed the work that was done to ensure that program requirements were accurately set out in the *University Calendar* and the authority of the Editor to make editorial changes to the draft. Members heard that the Office of the Registrar worked closely with Governance to ensure that reasonable edits could be made without requiring GFC approval but that major changes and changes with regulatory force must be approved by GFC.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee reconsider the motion to approve the proposed changes to existing Practicum Requirements for the BKin, BScKin, and BARST programs in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (KSR) that was approved at the January 12, 2023 meeting.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed changes to existing Practicum Requirements for the BKin, BScKin, and BARST programs, as submitted by the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (KSR), and as set forth in Attachments 1-8, to be published in the 2023-2024 Calendar and take effect in the 2024-2025 academic year.

CARRIED

7. Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework

J Causgrove Dunn stepped out of the Chair and A Ullah assumed the role.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

J Causgrove Dunn provided an overview of the working group recommendations and the discussions on the draft framework to date.

Members noted their support for a clear vision for undergraduate embedded certificates and asked about next steps and when similar work would be done on the graduate side.

J Causgrove Dunn explained that pending approval by GFC, all new certificates would have to align with the framework and that existing certificates would either have to be revised for compliance, or suspended, for fall 2024. She also noted that the intention is to look at graduate embedded certificates next, in collaboration with FGSR.

Members discussed: the different way that embedded certificates were set up and employed at the graduate level; oversight of the quality of the certificates; that some Departments and Faculties may not be happy that they either have to revise or suspend existing certificates; the importance of simplifying and tracking registration in certificates; and the potential to include certificates in the advisement tool in future.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the proposed Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework, as set forth in Attachment 1 to take effect Fall 2024.

CARRIED

8. Program Changes for Graduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

A Ullah stepped out of the chair and J Causgrove Dunn resumed the role.

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Dianne Tapp, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR

Discussion.

The Chair thanked D Tapp for returning and sharing the information about Nursing's learning outcomes and responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions's Calls to Action for Nursing schools.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee take the item from the table.

CARRIED

THAT GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the program and calendar revisions and related course additions and changes for the PhD Nursing program, as presented in the attached document, for inclusion in the next Calendar and implementation for the Fall of 2023.

CARRIED

9. Proposed New Course-based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Lindsey Westover, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering; Peter Schiavone, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, Faculty of Engineering; Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR

Discussion.

L Westover explained the relationship between Engineering and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry related to the delivery of Biomedical Engineering programs. She noted that they currently offer a Biomedical Engineering thesis-based Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy, and would like to add a course-based Master of Science as well.

Members asked about teaching staff requirements for delivery of new courses, entrance requirements for the program, projected head count, and the consultation that was done to gauge student interest.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Programs Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the new Course-based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering, for implementation upon final approval

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Unit Review and Plans for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (no documents)

Presenter(s): Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR

Discussion.

R Epp spoke about the external unit review for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) noting that the reviewers were in place and there were plans to hold an open house with supervisors and students. He also spoke about the minimum PhD funding initiative, professional credentials and laddering, the Graduate Studies Management Solution (GSMS) portal, and application fees.

A member noted that the minimum grade point average (GPA) for applications to professional graduate programs was too high for some applicants who finished university several years ago but have spent years working in their profession. She observed that this had impacts on individuals from Indigenous communities and other underrepresented groups who may not see themselves in graduate studies and that we need to challenge these barriers. The Chair spoke about laddering of certificates and diplomas into graduate degrees and how this structure may appeal to students who did not see themselves as graduate students in the traditional sense.

Members discussed the role of FGSR and how it should fit into the College model and the One University vision. R Epp explained that FGSR is written into the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) and spoke about the importance of its academic authority to speak to matters of completion and supervision on behalf of students.

Members discussed minimum funding for PhD students and asked about deadlines and timeframe for grant funding. R Epp noted that it was important to recognize that there was no such thing as a typical PhD student and that students should not be forced into accepting a package and timeframe that they did not want. He further explained that the gaps and shortfalls were the issues that needed to be the focus of the initiative.

11. 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 provided the following update:

- Currently one new external program proposal under review from University of Calgary: Data Science specialization within the existing Bachelor of Science degree program
- No new approvals to report since our January meeting.
- Since our last meeting, the following two remain with the Ministry for review:
 - o As part of the Bachelor of Science degree program framework project, three, new first-level specializations under the BSc:
 - Astrophysics
 - Environmental Earth Sciences
 - Paleontology
 - o Proposal for a new Bachelor of Biomedicine.
- The following has been recently submitted to the Ministry for approval: New Dental Assisting Certificate

12. Question Period

A member asked about the Nursing undergraduate program academic standing changes in item 4 noting "no option for readmission" after being required to withdraw, and heard about the requirement for all Faculties to inform students who are required to withdraw about their right to appeal and the supports available through the office of the Ombuds.

CLOSING SESSION

13. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: March 16, 2023
- Next Meeting of GFC: February 27, 2023