

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

Thursday, May 18, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair
Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair
Wajid Ali
Pedro Almeida
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Rija Kamran

Stacy Lorenz
Hanne Pearce
Sujata Persad
Sean Robertson
Nathan Thiessen
non-voting:
Kate Peters
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison

REGRETS:

Roger Epp
Brad Hamdon
Heather Seyl Miyashita
Brian Pardell
Maite Snauwaert
Helen Vallianatos

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator

OPENING SESSION

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair acknowledged:

We are meeting today 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.

The Chair welcomed the new student members and led a round of introductions.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

In her comments, the Chair made note of the University Strategic Plan that would be considered at the May 29 GFC meeting, and the Faculty and Staff Engagement Survey that would close on May 19.

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 March 16, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of March 16, 2023.

CARRIED

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Arts
- Business
- Education
- Law
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculties of Arts, Business, Education, Law, Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Science.

CARRIED

5. Faculty of Science Exploration Credits Course Exclusions

- A. Chemistry
- B. Mathematics and Statistics
- C. Computing Science
- D. Earth and Atmospheric Studies
- E. Biological Sciences
- F. Psychology
- G. Faculty of Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached list of Department of Chemistry, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Department of Computing Science, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Psychology and Faculty of Science courses for exclusion from the Exploration Credits policy.

CARRIED

6. Faculty of Native Studies Exploration Credits Course Exclusions

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the list of Faculty of Native Studies courses to be excluded from the Exploration Credit Program.

CARRIED

7. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Exploration Credits Course Exclusions

- A. Biochemistry
- B. Cell Biology
- C. Neuroscience and Mental Health
- D. Physiology

E. Pharmacology

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the list of Department of Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology courses for exclusion from the Exploration Credits Policy, as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and set forth in the Attachments.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

8. Proposed Non-Credit Executive Certificate in Municipal Leadership, Faculty of Business

Item was deferred.

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

9. Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair noted that PC recommended approval of this framework on February 9, 2023 but at the March 20, 2023 meeting of GFC, members raised concerns about the proposal and it was withdrawn to allow for additional consultation. He explained that the proposal had been revised with some minor edits and to allow additional time for existing certificates to be brought into compliance with the framework.

J Causgrove Dunn spoke about the additional consultations and the diverse feedback received as well as the changes made to the framework. She noted that the most consistent concern was about the implementation timeline of fall 2024. She informed members that the Embedded Certificate Working Group was reconvened to consider additional feedback received and agreed with the revised proposal and extended deadline. She noted her commitment to work closely with existing embedded certificate holders to ensure that their certificates could either be brought into alignment or transformed into another type of credential. She also reiterated that the purpose of this framework was to establish a cohesive purpose and design which would increase accessibility, add value, and enhance the learning experience of students.

Members spoke in favour of the framework and asked that the changes related to credit weight and overlap be highlighted in the materials going forward to GFC.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee reconsider the motion to recommend that General Faculties Council approve the Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework that was approved at the February 9, 2023 meeting.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommends that the General Faculties Council approve the proposed Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework, as set forth in Attachment 1 to take effect immediately with compliance of existing embedded certificates expected by Fall 2025.

CARRIED

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Quality Assurance (QA) Suite of Activities: 2021-2022 Excerpted QA Reports from the Arts; Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; Faculty of Native Studies; Faculties of Science and Medicine and Dentistry

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

Discussion:

J Causgrove Dunn explained that the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) currently held the responsibility to review Quality Assurance (QA) reports in their terms of reference but that the governance team asked that this discussion also come to Programs Committee because of their responsibility over programs. She spoke about the nine program reviews that were conducted over the 2021-22 academic year and acknowledged the hard work of the program administrators, and the external and internal review members. J Causgrove Dunn also pointed out that the UofA has embedded the requirement to document Indigenous, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives into the QA process and that even though this is not currently required by the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC), they are looking into making it a requirement. She spoke about some of the recommendations in the reports related to Indigenous Initiatives and teaching, learning, and student experience. She also noted student engagement in the process and the positive feedback received from students.

Members discussed:

- These public reports are available on the Office of the Provost's website;
- Program-specific academic advisors in the Faculties and Departments;
- Whether there was any regular follow-up on the recommendations;
- The work of the student experience action plan group;
- The responsibility of the Deans and Chairs to follow up on the recommendations and the CAQC Handbook's recommended annual internal review of progress;
- How this process could be best placed within the GFC Committee structure; and
- The importance of thinking beyond legislative compliance and toward using the information gained in the process to make the University better.

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

C Roth provided the following report:

- We are in the process of reviewing one external program proposal from The King's University for a new Bachelor of Kinesiology degree program.
- Since our last meeting, the Ministry has approved one new program:
 - Dental Assisting Certificate; and
- two suspensions:
 - Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation, and
 - Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice.
- Since our last meeting, the proposal for a new Bachelor of Biomedicine remains with the Ministry for review and approval.

12. Question Period

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

Discussion:

A member asked about non-credit course approvals and the report in the meeting materials. Members discussed the changes to Extension and the importance of quality non-credit programming for the University. The Chair spoke about the working group that was looking into micro-credentials and noted that a discussion would come to PC.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

13. Information Items

- A. University of Alberta Online and Continuing Education, General Program Policy & Review Committee (GPPRC), Provostial Approval
- B. Briefing Note - Work-Integrated Learning (WIL): IMA Performance-Based Funding Metric Reporting Remaining Administrative Terminations

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: June 22, 2023
- Next Meeting of GFC: May 29, 2023