

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

Thursday, June 22, 2023
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:35 AM

ATTENDEES:

Janice Causgrove Dunn
Aman Ullah
Wajid Ali
Pedro Almeida
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Roger Epp
Rija Kamran
Jane Lee (delegate)
Stacy Lorenz

Heather Seyl Miyashita
Hanne Pearce
Nella Sajlovic (delegate)
Maite Snauwaert
Nathan Thiessen
non-voting:
Brian Pardell
Remonia Stoddart-Morrison
Helen Vallianatos

REGRETS:

Florence Glanfield
Brad Hamdon
Anna Hughes
Sujata Persad
Kate Peters
Sean Robertson

Staff:

Heather Richholt, Coordinator
Faiza Billo

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.

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:

The Chair observed that this was the final committee meeting for the academic year and thanked all the committee members for their work over the past months.

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 May 18, 2023

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the open session minutes of May 18, 2023.

CARRIED

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Augustana
- Public Health
- Saint Jean
- Science

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculties of Augustana, Public Health, Saint Jean, and Science.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)

Discussion:

C Smith provided an overview of the Vice-Provost (EDI) portfolio and the four key areas: Support, Response, Service - Operationalizing EDI; Policy and Assessment; Strategy and Institutional Transformation; and Academic Environment. She noted that EDI is especially important for programs and that she was working on guidelines and support for EDI in programs. She also referred members to the EDI Foundational Model in E-Class and noted that there would be additional modules developed soon.

Members discussed:

- International student perspectives on EDI including intercultural competence and combating racism;
- The intersection between domestic and international diversity;
- Recruitment and growth with an equity centered approach;
- Training opportunities for staff that could include topics on intersectionality of health, belonging, and culture;
- Programs attempting to tailor transfer programs to underrepresented groups;
- Embedding critical race theory into programs;
- How to help our partners (for practicums, co-ops, community service learning, work experience, etc.) get up to speed on EDI;
- All aspects of EDI in student life; and
- Ongoing national and international conversation on identifying and addressing barriers to post-secondary education.

ACTION ITEMS

6. Proposed New Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering Cooperative Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Pierre Mertiny, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Engineering

Discussion:

P Mertiny spoke about how the proposed new program will cover a variety of subject matters including robotics, computers, and mechanics. He noted that mechatronics and robotics would have applications in many areas including artificial intelligence, health sciences, and resource extraction. He explained that the Indigenous Initiatives and EDI strategies that were developed for this program would be expanded into the other Engineering programs as well.

Members discussed student and industry interest, and international student eligibility for work permits.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee recommends that the Board of Governors approve the proposed Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering Cooperative Program for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Non-Credit Certificate in Computer Game Design

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Sean Gouglas, Professor, Faculty of Arts; Matthew Guzdial, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science

Discussion:

S Gouglas indicated that the proposed non-credit certificate was developed in response to a provincial government call for proposals. He noted that the program reflects twelve years of collaboration between the Faculties of Arts and Science, the existing embedded certificate was popular, and they anticipated there would be strong interest in this non-credit option.

Members discussed the government's interest in promoting upskilling and reskilling and whether there would be the potential to collaborate with high schools to offer for-credit courses in computer game design.

The motion was moved and seconded

THAT the GFC Programs Committee, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, approve the Microcredential Certificate (non-credit) in Computer Game Design.

CARRIED

8. Proposed Non-Credit Executive Certificate in Municipal Leadership

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Michael Maier, Associate Dean, MBA Program, Alberta School of Business

Discussion:

M Maier explained that the time was right to reboot this program as an online certificate. He noted that there was significant interest from small, rural municipalities and that students would be required to take an MBA course which could serve as a stepping stone to the MBA program.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed Executive Certificate in Municipal Leadership Program, to take effect upon approval.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Revisions to Admission Regulations for Rural Applicants for the Doctor of Medicine Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Laura Stovel, Assistant Dean, Admissions, MD Program

Discussion:

L Stovel explained that the provincial government was expanding enrolment in the Doctor of Medicine program specifically aimed at bolstering rural and family medicine. She noted that this proposal was for a change in only one Calendar, as the Faculty would develop a pathway for the next cycle and beyond.

There was no discussion.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached proposal to allocate the 20 novel MD Program seats to qualified Rural applicants for the upcoming Admissions cycle opening July 1, 2023 (Class of 2028), as proposed by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Draft Micro-credential Action Framework & Development Guide

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Janice Causgrove Dunn, Vice-Provost (Programs), and Chair of PC; Jessica Butts Scott, Associate Vice-President, Online and Continuing Professional Education

Discussion:

The presenters spoke about the work of the Micro-credential Action Group to create a one-university non-credit micro-credential action plan that includes a vision, definition, core principles, learner lifecycle, micro-credential programming categories, and a "how-to" guide including services and supports available, along with best practices and approval stages – to enable the development of impactful micro-credential programming. They noted that the outcome would replace the current non-credit/micro-credential framework and that they were aiming to bring the new plan forward for approval in the fall.

Members discussed:

- Faculty struggles with exposure and marketing;
- The need for a development framework;
- A new learning management and registration system prioritizing learner experience; and
- Some of the changes to the current framework.

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:

- We are in the process of reviewing two external program proposals:
 - o University of Calgary - a new Nursing specialization within their existing BSc program
 - o Athabasca University - a new Earth Systems Science specialization under their existing MSc program
- Since our May meeting, we have not received any new approvals from the Ministry of Advanced Education
- Since our May meeting, the following are now with the Ministry for review and approval:
 - o Proposal for a New Graduate Certificate in Science de l'éducation
 - o Termination proposal for the specialization in Evolutionary Biology under the Bachelor of Science
 - o The Bachelor of Biomedicine remains with the Ministry for review and approval

12. Question Period

There were no questions.

INFORMATION REPORTS

13. Information Items:

A. PC E-vote, June 1, 2023

B. Name change approved by Dean of FGSR

CLOSING SESSION

14. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: September 14, 2023
- Next Meeting of GFC: September 18, 2023