

General Faculties Council  
Programs Committee  
Approved Open Session Minutes

Thursday, December 07, 2023  
Remote Meeting by Zoom  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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**ATTENDEES:**

Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair  
Pedro Almeida  
Brandon Alakas  
Wajid Ali  
Odile Cisneros  
Jennifer Branch-Mueller  
Anna Hughes  
Florence Glanfield  
Tracy Kung (delegate GSA)

Sean Robertson  
Sujata Persad  
Hanne Pearce  
Maïté Snauwaert  
Nathan Thiessen  
Tracy Whatmore  
*non-voting:*  
John Lemieux  
Tim Tang

**REGRETS:**

Janice Causgrove Dunn, Chair  
Rija Kamran (delegate)  
Tracy Raivio  
Brian Pardell  
John Ussher

Staff:

Faiza Billo

**OPENING SESSION**

Before opening the meeting, the Vice-Chair acknowledged that 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.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair, GFC Programs Committee (PC)

Motion: The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

2. Comments from the Acting Chair (no documents)- People Strategy- Celebrate 2023!-

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair, GFC PC

*Discussion:* The Vice-Chair encouraged members to join consultations for the People Strategy and noted the recent *Celebrate! Teaching. Learning. Research.* event. He welcomed Tim Tang, a new member of the GFC Programs Committee as delegate of the Vice-Provost and Dean of Students.

**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 November 9, 24\*

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Arts
- Education
- Engineering
- Medicine & Dentistry
- Science- Pharmacy
- Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES)

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve, with delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the attached submissions from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry, Science, Pharmacy and Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

5. Course-Based Masters Maintenance of Registration

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file

*Presenter(s)*: Micah True, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Professional Studies (FGPS)

*Discussion*: M True explained the regulation was not new but that the information currently set out in the *University Calendar* was not sufficiently clear. He noted the impacts of this lack of clarity on students. He spoke to the approach to mirror regulations for thesis-based programs which will give the same grace period to course-based students as the one currently enjoyed by thesis-based students. He added that the FGPS Council had discussed deadlines and chosen the fall convocation deadline as most fair for students.

The Vice-Chair reminded members they were approving the changes with delegated authority from GFC.

Members asked:

- About capstone courses offered in Winter term and whether students would have the whole summer until the Fall convocation deadline;
- Whether the *University Calendar* language should be updated to Faculty of Graduate and Post-doctoral studies; and
- If the fall convocation date could be further emphasized to ensure clarity.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the calendar additions for CB Maintenance of Registration and end of program registration patterns for course-based students, for implementation upon final approval, and inclusion in the next Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. Integrated Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (no documents)

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

*Discussion:* C Smith recognized members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion steering committee who were also members of the GFC Programs Committee and thanked them for their work. She spoke to *Stories from the Field: Reporting on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Action*, and learnings from the University's first strategic plan from 2019. She pointed to possibilities for alignment with recently approved action plans, namely: *SHAPE* and *Braiding Past, Present and Future*, the Culture of Care, the Student Experience Action Plan, *Forward with Purpose, a Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation*, and the forthcoming People Strategy. She explained the planned phases of engagement and emphasized the co-creation process with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leads Network. She noted the intention to articulate benchmarks and accountability with integrity that respect knowledge holders.

She asked members for feedback through an online feedback form noting the principle of shared accountability. She articulated the presence of tension in these discussions and invited members to make explicit that tension in respectful ways. She specifically asked members to consider what gets them excited about the future of equity, diversity, and inclusion at the University and what keeps them up at night.

Members discussed:

- The value of avoiding check-boxes in equity-work and that needs in the community continue to evolve requiring ongoing attention to foster understanding;
- How collaboration and mutual support can support work that is ever-changing and a hope that change is possible for the University through equity in action;
- The exciting work being done in the area of student financial supports by the Registrar's Office so that the student body more closely reflects the diversity of our community ;
- That the university is made up of humans who are diverse beings with different backgrounds and what it might mean for the University to respect this diversity;
- How everyday practices can embody respect for diversity, equity and inclusion;
- The need to provide a single landing place for students who face racism or exclusion;
- The value of academic agency in the undergraduate experience, where tools like lecture capture can support students to steer their learning in ways that make sense for them;
- How the principles underlying the work related to equity and inclusion set an important and intentional foundation for building a strategic plan; and
- That when supporting planning at local levels across the institution there will be requests for resources to ensure we can continue to support equity work.

7. 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 since the update at the November 9th, 2023 meeting of the Programs Committee there had been no new proposals for system coordination review and no approvals from the Ministry. As such, there are still four proposals that remain with the Ministry for review and approval:

1. Bachelor of Biomedicine
2. Études Interdisciplinaires en Sciences specialization under the existing MSc
3. Études Transdisciplinaires specialization under the existing PhD
4. Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering

8. Question Period

*Presenter(s):* Aman Ullah, Vice-Chair, GFC PC

*Discussion:* There were no questions.

**CLOSING SESSION**

9. Adjournment
  - Next Meeting of PC: January 11, 2024
  - Next Meeting of GFC: January 29, 2024