

General Faculties Council
Programs Committee
Draft Open Session Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2024
South Academic Building (SAB) 2-31
10:00 AM - 11:40 AM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Janice Causgrove Dunn (Chair)
Aman Ullah (Vice-Chair)
Layla Alhussainy
Jennifer Branch-Mueller
Jessica Butts Scott
Odile Cisneros
Florence Glanfield
Anna Hughes
Ben Kucher

Hanne Pearce
Tracy Raivio
John Ussher

Regrets

Rija Kamran
John Lemieux
Sujata Persad
Tim Tang
John Ussher

Non-Voting Members:

Kate Peters
Laurel Wilkie

Staff

Carley Roth
Keri Chevalier

OPENING SESSION

The Chair began by acknowledging the territory and invited F Glanfield to speak to the Moose Hide Campaign.

F Glanfield explained that the Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards men and children. She invited Programs Committee (PC) members to learn more at a Zoom information session and asked the information be communicated to members.

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, GFC Programs Committee (PC)

Discussion: A member noted an error in the agenda and motion for Item 4 which was missing the Faculty of Business.

K Peters recommended that this be corrected as a friendly amendment.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Chair (no documents)

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

Discussion: The Chair provided comments regarding:

- updates to the Community on Campus Encampments;
- Awards for Teaching Excellence; and
- the Alberta History Mural engagement.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of April 11, 2024

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

4. Course, Minor Program, and Minor Regulation Changes

- Arts
- Augustana
- Business
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Education
- Engineering
- Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Nursing

THAT the GFC Programs Committee approve the consent agenda

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

5 Proposed Name Change and Load Change for the MSc in Integrated Petroleum Geosciences (Amendments)

Presenter(s): Nicholas Harris, Professor, Faculty of Science

Discussion: N Harris spoke to the rationale for the program changes, especially the disciplinary advantages, the changes to program duration, a name and load change. He also reviewed his work to respond to the concerns of the GFC Programs Committee including meeting with F Glanfield and C Morrissette. He articulated the change to the proposal which includes a new entrance requirement to complete the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) within the five years preceding their application and admission to the program. He noted in addition, other possibilities including seminars on Indigenous perspectives as a part of IPG 610, and introducing Indigenous perspectives as a part of IPG 601 the capstone.

Members discussed:

- How quickly the program changes had been integrated and brought forward;
- A concern that including the admission criteria would not address the need for this to be included in classroom learning to ensure that students are going to be working in relation with Indigenous communities;

- A comment that the introduction provided in the Indigenous Canada MOOC provides a baseline of learning but that there is no evidence that this is being taken up in classroom learning throughout the program;

The Proponent explained that there are limited ways to bring Indigenous content into these courses and that if content were introduced, it would be superficial. He responded that the Seminar Series offers an opportunity to ensure an in-depth inquiry and learning about intersection between the program learning outcomes and the need for understanding of Indigenous perspectives.

Members raised the need to understand the duty to consult which is inherent in the program learning outcomes given that all graduates who will work in the land we now call Canada will be working on lands that belong to Canada's First Peoples. They discussed the need to understand Treaties and Indigenous beliefs about the land.

The Chair noted that the Seminar was intended to be an opportunity for students to appreciate the professional perspectives and that the duty to consult must be a required professional competency in the current context of resource development.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that the GFC Programs Committee approve the name change for the MSc in Integrated Petroleum Geosciences to the MSc in Integrated Energy Geosciences, and the corresponding load and program changes, for implementation upon final approval.

CARRIED

6. Senate Observers Principles Document

Presenter(s): Amissa Jablonski, Senate Portfolio Initiatives Coordinator

The motion was moved and seconded.

Discussion: The Chair noted that at the March meeting, two members of the Senate provided an overview of the work they do as lay observers for the admissions committee in quota programs. This work is related to the review of the GFC Programs Committee Terms of Reference and to a decision made by GFC in the 1970s regarding the authority of the senators to undertake this work. The Committee is being asked to refresh the previous decision and approve new guidelines that will act as a framework for senators going forward.

A Jablonski provided information on the Senate Lay Observer position for Undergraduate programs that require an additional admission process. It is being brought forward to have a formal process approved. This approval will affirm the duties of the lay observers as non-voting members of the committee and a public observer of the admission process.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT GFC Programs Committee adopt the Senate Lay Admissions Observers Principles and Guidelines, as circulated.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Update on Exploration Credits

Presenter(s): Anna Hughes, Associate Registrar, Enrolment Management, Office of the Registrar

Discussion: The new Exploration Credits policy was approved by GFC in 2022 and was implemented over the past year. A commitment was made at GFC to monitor the implementation of Exploration Credits and today's presentation will provide a summary of some early data.

A Hughes provided a review of the inaugural year of the Exploration Credits noting the overall success. She reminded members that the policy allows students to take courses of interest without jeopardizing their overall Grade Point Average (GPA) through a credit/non-credit notation (CR/NC). The data was summarized including number of applications for exploration credits, the year of studies for those who applied, breakdown of applications by faculty, the time of application submission by month and semester, the student GPA in the previous academic year, and the count of grades prior to conversion to CR/NC.

Members discussed:

- Support for an undergraduate research project to examine the Exploration Credits initiative and how students are experiencing the option to take classes without threatening their GPA;
- Grade distribution;
- Testimonials from students; and
- The University of Alberta's Students' Union advocacy for the program.

8. Programs Committee Terms of Reference

Presenter(s): Kate Peters, Secretary to General Faculties Council

Discussion: K Peters noted the recent approval of the GFC Programs Committee (PC) Terms of Reference and reminded members about the substance of the changes which defer to the faculty council authority over programs of study. She explained how this relates to course and minor program changes currently made by the PC. She pointed to the creation of an equivalent authority on the undergraduate side as there is on the graduate side to approve second-level specialisations. She asked PC to consider how to implement these changes while ensuring transparency and recommended piloting a new process in the fall to observe decisions that have been made with sub-delegated authority.

Members discussed:

- The new sub-delegation of authority;
- Whether it would be necessary to document discussions held during consultations leading up to the approvals with sub-delegated authority is reported and how does it want to see it;
- What information would be required to be transparent to the whole community and where information should be made available; and
- That showing where proposals were at in the approval process would be useful.

9. External Programs for Review and Programs in Progress on Campus: Standing Item (no documents)

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

The Chair provided a summary of the activity since the last meeting including program suspensions, under the Bachelor of Commerce (7) and the Doctor of Education (2); terminations under the Bachelor of Design (2) and the Bachelor of Arts (10).

She noted that two programs have been reviewed at the Ministry with one being approved.

10. Question Period

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

There were no questions.

CLOSING SESSION

11. Adjournment

- Next Meeting of PC: June 20, 2024
- Next Meeting of GFC: May 27, 2024