



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

March 11, 2024, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

A167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)
Mark Bauer
Cydnee Seneviratne*
Marjan Eggermont
Barbara Brown
Sheri Madigan – arrived during Item 4
Shawna Cunningham
Malinda Smith* – arrived during Item 4
Kristin Baetz
Shazia Jinnah Morsette
Kirsten Nepriily* – arrived during Item 4

Regrets

Robin Yates (Co-Chair)
Hannah Ashton

Guests

Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair of Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Item 4
Bill Rosehart* (Dean, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 4
Meera Singh (Senior Associate Dean, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 4
Emily Marasco (Associate Dean, EDIA, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 4
Jenny Cruickshank (Director, Business Operations, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 4

**Attended virtually*

Non-Voting Members

Melanie Zimmer*
Justine Wheeler

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Observers & Resource Personnel

Christine Johns
Jessica Revington*
Elizabeth Pando Burciaga
Jaclyn Carter*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Academic Co-Chair provided the traditional land acknowledgement.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 11, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Academic Co-Chair welcomed Justine Wheeler to the Committee as the new TUCFA Representative, succeeding Leighton Wilks.

3. Approval of the February 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the February 26, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the Addition of a Practical Experience Requirement (PER) to the Graduation Requirements for Engineering Majors

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Rosehart, Dean, Schulich School of Engineering and Meera Singh, Senior Associate Dean, Schulich School of Engineering, presented this item. Wendy Benoit, Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee provided a preamble on the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Highlights:

- The Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) Co-Chair shared that there was a fulsome discussion at APS regarding impacts of this change on students and that the APS asked for more information on protocols regarding student safety in the workplace; impacts on spring/summer term course enrolment and student workloads; and consideration given to individual students' unique circumstances
- Noting that protocols regarding workplace harassment are an ongoing conversation at the institutional level, the APS Co-Chair noted that the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE) team had addressed the concerns raised by the Subcommittee
- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed Practical Experience Requirement (PER), noting that top engineering programs across Canada, namely University of Waterloo and University of Toronto, have a similar requirement
- The presenters noted that feedback collected on the PER during the governance process has been incorporated in the proposal but has also been implemented in the existing Engineering Internship Program, particularly with respect to supporting students who experience workplace incidents and for improving EDIA considerations
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Consultation on the proposal included the student representatives on the Engineering Faculty Council
 - The SSE has been gradually building internal expertise and capacity in preparation for the PER by running pilot student advising initiatives that are complementary to the Engineering Internship Program
 - The SSE has two existing units that will be supporting the PER, the Engineering Student Centre (ESC), which provides academic advising, and the Engineering Career Centre (ECC), which provides career advising; specialists from both Centres will be able to provide holistic support to students for the PER

- Industry work placements generally pay a highly competitive salary. SSE data shows that students participating in the Internship Program earn an average salary of \$54,000 (annual). Students who choose to take on research assistantships for their PER may earn less than this, and the SSE is exploring bursaries as an option to support students in this position.
- The presenters explained that the benefits of making the PER a mandatory component of the degree program include:
 - The ability to develop a formal infrastructure that supports all students, not just those who have self-selected to participate in the current optional Internship Program
 - The opportunity to prepare all students for life as a working professional engineer, which is particularly important for individuals who are from under-represented groups in the field
 - A strong case for ensuring important student supports like the ESS and ESC remain well-resourced
 - Benefits to international students, who are better placed to accept job offers when the work placement is a mandatory part of their academic program. International students are also permitted to complete their PER hours outside of Canada.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the addition of a Practical Experience Requirement to the graduation requirements for regular (four-year) Engineering Majors, effective September 2025, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried

Shazia Jinnah Morsette voted against.

5. APPC Mid-Year Member Survey Results

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Secretary's Note: This item was postponed to the next meeting due to time limitations.

6. Program Approvals Status Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

The Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held February 14, 2024. The Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held February 15, 2024.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:02 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary