

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #84
January 15, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Robert Thompson, Academic Co-Chair
Branden Cave
Jacqueline Jenkins
Ebba Kurz
Anders Nygren
Brit Paris
Sharon Robertson
Richard Sigurdson

Non-Voting Members

Sandra Hoenle
Kevin McQuillan

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

Regrets

Marc Wrubleski

Guests

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) and Co-Chair of the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee – present for Items 8-10
Debbie Bruckner, Senior Director, Student Wellness Access and Support – present for Item 10
Nancy Chibry, Associate Dean Undergraduate, Faculty of Science – present for Item 5
David Cramb, Head, Department of Chemistry – present for Item 5
Dianne Gereluk, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs in Education, Werklund School of Education – present for Item 6
Leslie Reid, Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee – present for Items 4-7
Virginia Tumas, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs, Faculty of Arts – present for Items 6, 7 and 9

Observers

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)
Jyoti Myers, Governance Coordinator, University Secretariat
Heather Smith-Watkins, Analyst, Planning and Reviews – present for Items 5-7

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the January 15, 2018 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried**2. Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair**

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The Co-Chair welcomed members to the first Committee meeting of 2018 and observed that this will be an exciting year for the University, with the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy and the renewal of the Academic and Research Plans. It was noted that the Academic and Research Plans will be brought to the General Faculties Council this week for approval.
- The Committee currently has two member vacancies, it is hoped that the new members will be appointed soon
- The Co-Chair provided an overview of two recent events concerning the University, that generated significant media attention in January

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of the December 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting held on December 18, 2017 be approved, with the requested amendment.

Carried**4. Academic Program Subcommittee Report for the December 11, 2017 Meeting**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid presented this item. There were no questions.

5. Approval of the Suspension and Termination of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Nancy Chibry and David Cramb presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry was designed to provide students with experiential learning opportunities, through a series of co-operative education work placements. However, due to a number of factors which have made it challenging for students to find work placements, and in particular, the short duration of the placements, the Faculty of Science no longer believes that this is a viable program, and so is seeking suspension and termination of the program.
- The proponents explained that the Faculty of Science is aware of the importance of offering experiential learning opportunities to students and is currently working on developing a Faculty-wide internship program. It is believed that the internship model will be more sustainable than the cooperative education model.
- The Committee discussed the timeline for the creation of a Faculty internship program, and how the development of an internship program aligns with the renewed Academic Plan
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Students who are interested in the field of Chemistry will still have the option to complete the BSc in Chemistry
 - There are several data sources which indicate a positive correlation between job placement and salary for students who have completed internships

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the immediate suspension and eventual termination of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

6. Approval of the Creation of two new BA/BEd Concurrent Degree Programs: Concurrent Bachelor of Arts Dance / Bachelor of Education and Concurrent Bachelor of Arts International Indigenous Studies/Bachelor of Education

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dianne Gereluk, Leslie Reid and Virginia Tumas presented this item.

Highlights:

Concurrent Bachelor of Arts (BA) Dance/Bachelor of Education (BEd)

- The proponents reported that the Department of Dance created a Concentration in Dance Pedagogy in 2016 and, in response to demand from students and Alberta Education, is proposing to create a Concurrent BA Dance (with a Concentration in Dance Pedagogy)/BEd. It was noted that there are 26 secondary schools in the local area that offer Dance.
- In response to questions, the proponents explained that:
 - The BA/BEd practicum components are complementary and then outlined the content covered in each of the practicums

- Students who graduate with a Concurrent BA Dance (with a Concentration in Dance Pedagogy)/BEd will be able to teach various subject areas e.g. English or Drama, but will be a Dance specialist
- The nomenclature “Concurrent” is specific to the BEd, and a Concurrent degree is a type of Combined degree

Concurrent BA International Indigenous Studies/BEd

- The proponents reported that the creation of a Concurrent BA International Indigenous Studies/BEd is timely and aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, the University’s Indigenous Strategy, and Alberta Education priorities
- In response to a question, the proponents explained that a reference to the International Strategy would fit into section 3 of the proposal ‘Institution and System Context’, but as internationalization is not a major focus of the program it was not included
- The Committee discussed student demand for the Concurrent BA International Indigenous Studies/BEd

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a concurrent Bachelor of Arts Dance (with a Concentration in Dance Pedagogy) / Bachelor of Education, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a concurrent Bachelor of Arts International Indigenous Studies / Bachelor of Education, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

7. Approval of the Creation of an Embedded Certificate in Creative Writing and Approval of the Suspension and Closure of the Concentration in Creative Writing

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Virginia Tumas and Leslie Reid presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents explained that the Concentration in Creative Writing is an anomaly, as it is not associated with a particular major, and therefore it does not align with the University’s definition of a concentration. In order to address this, and to provide students from a number of disciplines with the added value of graduating with two credentials, it is being proposed that the Concentration in Creative Writing be suspended and terminated and that an Embedded Certificate in Creative Writing be created.

- The proponents reported that the Faculty of Arts is also working on developing a University Certificate in Creative Writing, which could be taken as a stand-alone credential, and is reviewing a number of concentrations to assess whether they would be better suited as embedded certificates so that they would be available to a greater number of students
- In response to questions, the proponents confirmed that:
 - There are no resource implications for changing the concentration to an embedded certificate
 - The creative writing courses have been revised to better prepare students as they move through the embedded certificate, and the portfolio requirement is being moved from a junior-level course to a senior-level course
- The Committee noted that changing the Concentration in Creative Writing to an Embedded Certificate in Creative Writing should increase student demand for the program, as it will make it clearer to students that this program is available to them
- The Committee discussed the importance of providing interdisciplinary opportunities for students

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of an Embedded Certificate in Creative Writing, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension, effective September 2018 and eventual termination of the Concentration in Creative Writing, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried**8. Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee Report for the December 14, 2017 Meeting**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker presented this item.

In response to a question, the presenter explained that, as a result of the feedback received at the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee meeting, the Extenuating Circumstance Withdrawals Regulations will be revised and the changes will be brought forward to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee for approval at a future meeting.

9. Revision of High School Subjects Required for Admission to Economics and Revision of High School Subjects Required for Admission to Psychology

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Virginia Tumas and Susan Barker presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that, in order to increase transparency, it is being proposed that the admission requirements for the BA in Economics, the BA in Psychology and the BSc in Psychology be revised to include that Math 30-1 as a required high school subject for admission to the BA in Economics and the BSc in Psychology and Math 30-1 or 30-2 be indicated as a required high school subject for admission to the BA in Psychology
- It was explained that, currently, students can be admitted without Math 30-1 or 30-2, but are required to have Math 30-1 or Math 30-2 as a prerequisite for required courses in their degree.
- The proponents reported that a similar proposal for the BA in Geography, the BSc in Geography, and the BSc in Earth Science will be brought forward for approval at a future meeting
- The Committee expressed their support for this change, and noted the importance of being transparent with students, in order to enable appropriate planning
- The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding whether Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 should also be added as required high school subjects for admission to the BSc in Psychology. The Committee discussed the program's rationale for not including them as required courses, but as recommended subjects; the potential impact on grade point average calculations if Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 were added as required subjects for admission; and the importance of setting students up for success, while allowing students some degree of flexibility to gain admission to the University.
- The Committee expressed their preference for adding Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 as required high school subjects for the BSc in Psychology and directed the proponents to consider this, and initiate discussions about this with the Department of Psychology
- The Committee requested that, as the prerequisite for Math 211, 213, 249 and 265 is a grade of 70% or higher in Mathematics 30-1, a note be added to the High School Admissions table for the BA in Economics and the BSc in Psychology to reflect this

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Admission Requirements, for students entering in Fall 2019, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendment.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and the Bachelor of Science in Psychology Admission Requirements, for students entering in Fall 2019, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendment.

Carried

10. Medical Notes and Statutory Declaration

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker and Debbie Bruckner, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that it is being proposed that the University remove the requirement for a student to submit a medical note when requesting an exemption from the academic regulations, such as a deferral of examinations, or the late submission of course work and introduce a statutory declaration as an alternative form of support for the request
- The proponents reported that this change is in alignment with practices at other Canadian post-secondary institutions. The proponents then outlined some of the benefits associated with this change, including removing the pressure on unwell students to see a medical practitioner in a timely manner and at their expense, and reducing pressure on internal medical and counselling services.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Each Faculty will have individuals trained as Commissioner of Oaths
 - Student reaction to the proposed change has been positive
- The Committee discussed:
 - The routing for this item. It was confirmed that the proposal will be brought forward to the General Faculties Council for discussion in February and, if there is agreement in principle with the proposal, the required changes to the Calendar will be brought forward for approval
 - The potential issues associated with this change, including the potential for students to falsify a Statutory Declaration and the potential for an increase in exemption requests. The Committee ultimately agreed that the benefits associated with this change outweigh any potential identified issues.
 - The legal nature of a statutory declaration
 - How this change aligns with the Mental Health Strategy and recent changes to employment laws in Alberta
 - Whether there are situations when a statutory declaration should not be permissible or when additional documentation may be needed
 - Whether the Student Ombuds would be an appropriate person to provide students with advice on this
- The Committee suggested that:
 - The proponents connect with the other institutions that have implemented this change to see whether there are specific circumstances where they require/suggest that students submit medical documentation, such as student appeals
 - It would be useful to include data in the proposal from other institutions that have implemented this change regarding if the number of requests for examination deferrals increase when the statutory declaration was introduced

- The Committee expressed their overall support for the change in principle

11. Status of Program Approval Reports

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the January 15, 2018 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary