

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #108
September 30, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Nicole Culos-Reed
Dawn Johnston
Mohammed Mansouri
Barry Wylant

Regrets

Elena Braverman
Andy Knight
Jessica Revington
Jackie Sieppert
Florentine Strzelczyk

Guests

Sandra Davidson, Dean, Faculty of Nursing – present for Item 7
Karen Jackson, General Counsel – present for Item 10
Sheila LeBlanc, Director, Continuing Education – present for Item 8
Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) – present of Item 9
Robin Yates, Interim Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) – present for Item 6

Observers

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)

Non-Voting Members

Paul Rogers
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 30, 2019 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair welcomed Nicole Culos-Reed, Barry Wylant and Melanie Zimmer to their first meeting as new members of the Committee, and all members were thanked for their service.

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The MacKinnon Report on Alberta's Finances was released on September 3, 2019. The recommendations published in the report relating to the post-secondary sector are in line with topics that have been regularly discussed between the University and the Ministry of Advanced Education.
- The upcoming provincial budget is scheduled to be released on October 24, 2019
- The guiding principles and process for the University's annual consolidated and capital budgets were approved today by the Board of Governors' Finance and Property Committee. An overview of the budget and timelines was provided.
- Today is Orange Shirt Day, a day to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. The University held a lunch hour session with a presentation from Reg Crowshoe, the University's Elder in Residence, on his personal experience in a residential school.
- A review of the International Strategy has occurred, and the reviewers' report will be submitted within the next four weeks. Once the report and responses have been gathered they will be brought to the Committee for discussion followed by a proposal for the renewal of the strategy.
- A review of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Protected Disclosure was conducted in June 2019. As a result, a restructuring of the office is proposed, separating, education and advocacy from investigations, which Management believe will improve the functioning and service of the office.
- In response to a question, the Co-Chair reviewed the purpose of the Chair's remark section of the Agenda and clarified what items are under the purview of the Committee

3. Approval of the June 17, 2019 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 June 17, 2019 be approved with the requested amendment.

Carried

4. Approval of the 2019-2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Subcommittee Work Plans: Academic Program Subcommittee, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chairs presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chairs reviewed the roles and anticipated business for the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) and the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee
- In response to a question, it was explained that the proposed revisions to the program approval process concerning continuing education and non-credit programming may impact the 2020-2021 and future APS Work Plans
- It was reported that the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee and the Campus Facilities and Development Subcommittee work plans will be brought forward for approval at a future meeting

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the Academic Program Subcommittee Work Plan for the 2019-2020 academic year, in the form provided to the APPC.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee Work Plan for the 2019-2020 academic year, in the form provided to the APPC.

Carried**5. Recommendation of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee 2019-2020 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chairs presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chairs remarked that 2019-2020 anticipated business for the upcoming meeting year. It was noted that additional items may come forward to the Committee as they arise.
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the APPC Work Plan for the 2018-2019 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried**6. Quality Assurance Mid-Term Review Report: Faculty of Graduate Studies**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Dru Marshall presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair provided an overview of the quality assurance (QA) review process and explained that reviews occur every five to seven years, and include a self-study, a review conducted by three to four external reviewers and one internal reviewer, a formal report with recommendations, unit

responses and then a public report

- The proponents reported on the progress made on the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) recommendations from its 2016-2017 unit review. It was noted that the review team had a good understanding of the Faculty and its trajectory and that the recommendations set a good course for needed improvements.
- The proponents highlighted some of the major improvements, which have been implemented to date, including the creation and approval of the FGS Funding Operating Standard and the launch of an online system for submitting and processing scholarship applications
- In response to a question, it was explained that the issues with multidisciplinary programs were concerning the lack of clarity around funding for graduate assistant teaching positions and reporting structures, which will be mitigated going forward by having a process/governance plan in place for these programs
- The Committee discussed the recommendations and actions, in particular:
 - The rationale for requiring students to apply for major external scholarships (for which they are eligible) as a condition of the continuation of their funding
 - The alternative models to the existing admissions processes that will help to ensure matches between applicants and supervisors to better use the applicant pool. It was noted that a central or program-specific database that could act as a referral system would be ideal.

7. Quality Assurance Unit Review Report: Faculty of Nursing

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Sandra Davidson and Dru Marshall presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents commented on the QA unit review process for the Faculty of Nursing, the quality of the review team and the in-depth nature of the recommendations. It was reported that in addition to the QA review that took place, the Faculty of Nursing also underwent a Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing review in preparation for the re-accreditation of the Nurse Practitioner program and that the two reviews identified similar recommendations.
- It was explained that, in response to the recommendations, the Faculty organized its responses into three thematic areas 1.) Structure, Governance and Facilities 2.) Programs and Student Experience and 3.) Research and Scholarship
- In response to a question, it was reported that the Faculty's top priorities include improving the student experience, renewing the undergraduate nursing curriculum and updating graduate program offerings
- The Committee discussed the recommendations for the Faculty, in particular relating to governance and structure and the changes that have been implemented to reorganize the Faculty's leadership team, and the planning and consultation that has taken place to begin the curriculum renewal

8. Quality Assurance Mid-Term Review Report: Continuing Education

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Sheila LeBlanc and Dru Marshall presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported on the progress made on the recommendations from Continuing Education's (CE) 2016-2017 unit review, and reviewed some of the challenges with the unit review process and the rationale for having a specific University of Calgary focused model/structure for CE
- The proponents highlighted some of the changes resulting from the unit review, including:
 - Ongoing organizational changes to reflect the nature of the unit and the need to be responsive to demand
 - A new mandate to include serving CE's non-credit learners and supporting other Faculties and Units in the operational administration of their non-credit professional and CE programming
 - An increased emphasis on providing academic English preparation for students, as a result of the closure of the Werklund School of Education's International Foundations Program
- In response to a question, an explanation of the recommended criteria for the organizational restructuring was provided
- In response to a question, it was reported that the non-credit online course about concussions offered through Kinesiology is not associated with Continuing Education, as there is a possibility in the future of providing credit for this course
- The Committee discussed the recommendations regarding the role that CE plays at the University and the importance of capturing the work of the CE to fully understand the breadth of what the University is doing in the non-credit sphere

9. Quality Assurance Unit Review Mid-Term Report: Libraries and Cultural Resources

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Mary-Jo Romaniuk and Dru Marshall presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported on the progress made on the recommendations from the Library and Cultural Resources (LCR) 2015-2016 unit review it was explained that, as a result of the transition in leadership of the LCR unit, it has taken some time to action some of the recommendations
- The proponents noted that given the pervasive nature of some of the recommendations around governance, structure, and infrastructure the recommendations will take longer to action, but that progress is being made to move them forward. It was explained that underpinning the changes is the adoption of a user-centric focus.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - There have been no job cuts in the unit as a result of the staff reorganization that has

been underway, and the reorganization ensures that, each individual is a valuable contributor and if not is being retrained for a new position where they can add value

- The number of books being circulated has not been impacted by the creation of the High-Density library and it is thought to be easier from a user perspective to browse and then request a book for delivery
- The members of the Committee commented on the improved service offered by LCR over the past year

10. Statement on Free Expression

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Jackson and Dru Marshall presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that a Statement on Free Expression (the Statement) has been drafted for the University, as a result of a request from the provincial government for all post-secondary institutions in the province to adopt the Chicago Principles or a policy that aligns with these. The Statement will be submitted to the government for review by November 15 and is required to be publicly posted by December 15, 2019.
- The proponents outlined the consultation conducted to date and the drafting process
- The Committee discussed:
 - The delicate balance of providing an environment where all members are free to express themselves, while at the same time respecting the rights and dignity of individuals and trying to mitigate individuals who are marginalized feeling further marginalized
 - Concerns with how this Statement may impact an instructor's ability or approach for maintaining a dignified environment in the classroom and whether there are any changes to the wording in the Statement, which could mitigate this
 - How the Statement interacts with other University regulations and policies, such as the Code of Conduct or the Harassment Policy
 - How the University can create a positive environment through encouraging curated conversations in the classroom and encouraging others to step in as allies if they sense individuals are feeling marginalized
 - The potential for training for instructors who teach controversial topics
 - The importance of individuals within the University community feeling protected
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Statement does not limit an instructor's ability to request that students provide a warning prior to sharing video clips or films with graphic content, as this does not prevent a discussion from occurring
- The Committee suggested that the proponents consider moving the paragraph starting "The University depends upon an environment of respect and civility..." higher up in the Statement
- The proponents reported that the draft Statement will continue to be circulated to various

governance committees for feedback, and members were encouraged to send any further feedback or suggestions to the proponents. Once the consultation is complete the Statement will be taken to the Board of Governors for approval.

11. Revised APPC Meeting Schedule

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chair presented this item.

The Co-Chair reported that the April 13, 2020 meeting of the Committee was accidentally scheduled for Easter Monday, and, as a result, the meeting has been rescheduled to April 20, 2020. Members were asked to update their Calendars to reflect this change.

12. Status of Program Approval Reports

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

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the September 30, 2019 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary