



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #118
April 20, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Platform

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Elena Braverman
Nicole Culos-Reed
Dawn Johnston
Andy Knight
Mohammed Mansouri

Non-Voting Members

Violet Baron
Paul Rogers
Florentine Strzelczyk
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary and Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Regrets

Barry Wylant
Jessica Revington
Jackie Sieppert

Guests

Jalel Azaiez, Associate Dean (Policy), Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 5
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) and Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) – present for Items 4+5

Observers

Rebecca Kenny, Governance Coordinator, Office of the Secretariat
Tanille Shandro, incoming Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the April 20, 2020 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 Crisis Management Team (CMT) now meets once per week, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary
- The Academic Crisis Management Team (ACMT) has been focusing its efforts on the Spring/Summer 2020 term and the Fall 2020 term, meeting twice a week with additional meetings scheduled as necessary
- The University has added additional courses and course capacities for the Spring/Summer term
- Discussions regarding course delivery for the Fall term are ongoing, and no decisions have been made at this time
- The University's Executive Leadership Team is hosting a budget town hall tomorrow that will also provide an update on COVID-19-related activities
- The establishment of the Investment Management Agreement (IMA) with the provincial government has been delayed until at least the end of May
- The experiential learning website through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning has been updated to support professors and students in an experiential learning environment
- Tanille Shandro, incoming GSA President, was welcomed to the Committee

The Academic Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Dr. Ellen Perrault has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Social Work
- The Academic Co-Chair thanked the members for their hard work on this committee and encouraged members to take care of themselves during this difficult time

In response to questions, the Co-Chair explained that:

- The ACMT is not a decision-making body, and any issues discussed at ACMT are brought through the proper governance system for consultation and decision
- No decisions have been made regarding international students' arrival on campus for July 1, but the CMT is actively monitoring the situation and plans to address this more concretely in the coming weeks
- The CMT will make a decision on the continuation or cancellation of Summer Camps and University 101 programs at the end of May
- The federal government is working hard to ensure that international students are able to access Canadian university programs, and it was noted that the University is currently seeing a record number of international student applications

3. Approval of the April 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee special meeting held on April 6, 2020 be approved.

Carried**4. GAPS Report for the March 18, 2020 GAPS Meeting**

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

The presenter provided an overview of the report, noting that one graduate program proposal that came forward to GAPS in March will return to the GAPS in April before proceeding to the APPC.

5. Approval of Changes to Academic Regulations: D.1 Registration, D.6 Time Limits, K.2 Candidacy Examination Outcomes and M. Thesis Examinations

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Jalel Azaiez presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed changes, which include clarification on the registration cycles for course-based and thesis-based graduate students and that reaching the maximum time in program may lead to a requirement to withdraw, regulations regarding the retake of a failed candidacy examination, timelines for failed thesis examinations, and regulations regarding the retake of a failed thesis examination and resubmission of a failed thesis
- In response to a question, it was explained that none of these changes are in response to COVID-19, but are part of a normal process to revisit and update regulations in an iterative fashion
- The Committee discussed:
 - The number of extensions that can be granted to graduate students once they reach their maximum time to completion. The proponents noted that extensions are normally granted when students are making progress or have a chance to make progress.
 - What constitutes a failed thesis submission, how this differs from a failed thesis examination, and how many re-takes are available to a student
- The Committee suggested that the language pertaining to the “re-take” of a failed thesis submission and “re-take” of a failed oral examination be rephrased to clarify that a student would “re-submit” their thesis or “re-take” their oral examination after a failure

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the Academic Regulations D.1 Registration, D.6 Time Limits, K.2 Candidacy Examination Outcomes and M. Thesis Examinations in the Graduate chapter of the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee, with the requested amendment.

Carried

6. Completed Requirements/Fail (CR/F) Grading Option

Documentation for this item was circulated for information only. Dru Marshall provided comments on this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair provided an overview of the document, explaining that the Spring/Summer term will see a return to normal grading practices
- In response to a question, it was explained that the University will not return to a CR/F option going forward, as Spring/Summer students will complete full courses online rather than having to shift to an online platform part-way through the term
- The Committee discussed:
 - The negative impacts of the CR/F notation, including effects on job placements, graduate school applications, award applications, and student success in group work where not all students have chosen the same method of assessment
 - That the University will be a leader in returning to a normal grading system at this time, as not many universities plan to make this shift for the Spring/Summer term
 - The work the TI is doing to ensure that students and instructors are supported as they submit and assess course work in an online environment
 - How this information will be communicated to students, faculty, and staff

7. CCS Report for the March 19, 2020 CCS Meeting

Documentation for this item was circulated for information only.

8. Status of Program Approvals Report

Documentation for this item was circulated for information only.

9. Other Business

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair acknowledged Jessica Revington, outgoing Students' Union President, and Mohammad Mansouri, outgoing GSA President, for their service on the Committee.

10. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the April 20, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Jaclyn Carter
Meeting Secretary