



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Special Meeting
April 27, 2020, 12:00 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
Jessica Revington
Jackie Sieppert
Barry Wylant

Non-Voting Members

Violet Baron
Paul Rogers
Florentine Strzelczyk
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Regrets

Mohammed Mansouri

Guests

Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Item 3

Observers

Frank Finley, incoming Students' Union President
Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)
Tanille Shandro, incoming Graduate Students' Association President
Elizabeth Sjogren, Office of the Secretariat

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the April 27, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee special meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Jessica Revington and Mohammed Mansouri were acknowledged for their service on this occasion of their last Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) meeting. The incoming student representatives were welcomed as observers.
- The Academic Crisis Management Team (ACMT) continues to meet weekly in response to COVID-19, with a current focus on the delivery of courses in the Spring/Summer 2020 term, Fall 2020 block week, and Fall 2020 term
- The public health emergency has been extended until August 31, 2020, prohibiting gatherings of more than 15 people, and this has greatly affected ACMT decision-making
- At this time, no decisions have been made on the status of the University's Summer Camps

The Academic Co-Chair reminded everyone to take care of themselves as we enter week seven of working from home

3. Approval of Changes to the Admissions Process for the MD and DVM Programs due to COVID-19

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposed changes to the admissions processes for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs, in order to exclude Winter 2020 term grades from GPA calculations for admissions purposes
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - These regulations apply to the Fall 2020 admissions cycle for a 2021 start, as most admissions decisions for the class starting in 2020 have already been made. It is possible that, if approved, these changes could affect some outstanding admissions decisions for students beginning their MD or DVM program in 2020. The proponent will verify this and report back to the Committee.
 - Students are not typically consulted on admission requirements, but relevant stakeholders, such as accrediting bodies and boards, are typically consulted
 - While the University allowed students to choose to take the CR/F or a letter grade in each of their courses in the Winter 2020 term, not all institutions provided this option. Given that students from different institutions will see COVID-19 affect their Winter 2020 grades differently, the Admissions Committees in both the Cumming School of Medicine and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine felt that it is best to move forward with excluding Winter 2020 term grades from GPA calculations for all applicants.
- The Committee discussed:
 - What is considered a fair and equitable process for all applicants, and the extent to which this ultimately disadvantages the University of Calgary's students
 - How the elements of a student's application are used to determine admission, how students' GPAs are calculated for admission to these programs, and how heavily weighted the GPA is in these evaluations

- What other medical and veterinary schools across the country are doing to factor COVID-19 into admissions decisions
- How far in advance students begin to prepare their applications to these programs and what long-term effects these changes may have on students' applications
- The resources available in the Admissions Offices of these programs and whether it is feasible to calculate GPAs in more than one way to ensure that students are not disadvantaged
- The Committee suggested that:
 - The proponents clarify whether "Fall 2020 admissions" means the class that will start in 2021 or the students beginning the MD or DVM program in 2020
 - The proponents consider whether this is a permanent change that will affect all admissions decisions going forward, and whether there are other ways to calculate students' GPAs so as to not disadvantage students who worked hard to see their Winter 2020 grades reflected on their transcript
 - That the proponents discuss these suggestions with their Admissions Committees and bring the proposal back to the next APPC meeting

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed changes to the admission process for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs, as presented to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee.

Postponed

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

The April 27, 2020 special meeting of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee was adjourned by consensus.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary