



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #119
May 4, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Elena Braverman
Nicole Culos-Reed
Dawn Johnston
Andy Knight
Mohammed Mansouri
Jessica Revington
Jackie Sieppert
Barry Wylant

Non-Voting Members

Violet Baron
Paul Rogers
Florentine Strzelczyk
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Elizabeth Sjogren

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Guests

Jalel Azaiez, Associate Dean (Policy), Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 7
Carla Bertsch, Sexual Violence Support Advocate – present for Item 10
Deborah Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 10
Sandra Davidson, Dean, Faculty of Nursing – present for Item 8
Reed Ferber, Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Director, Running Injury Clinic, We-TRAC – present for Item 9
Kathryn King-Shier, Associate Dean (Graduate Programs), Faculty of Nursing – present for Item 8
AJ Macaulay, Program Coordinator, We-TRAC CREATE, Faculty of Kinesiology – present for Item 9
Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4
Remo Panaccione, Director of Admissions for the MD Program, Cumming School of Medicine – present for Item 4
Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), Co-Chair, Academic Program Subcommittee, and Chair, Decision Support Team – present for Items 5-6
Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International) – present for Item 11
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Item 4
Virginia Tumas, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs), Faculty of Arts – present for Item 6
Alix Westgard, Graduate Programs Coordinator, Faculty of Kinesiology – present for Item 9
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) – present for Items 7-9

Observers

Sara Fedoruk, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost – present for Items 6-9
Tasha Hodzic, Office of the Secretariat and Student Appeals
Kelly Hogle, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost – present for Items 6-9
Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

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

That the Agenda for the May 4, 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:

- Frank Finley, President of the Students' Union, and Tanille Shandro, President of the Graduate Students' Association, were welcomed to the Committee on this occasion of their first meeting as voting members
- A significant amount of work is going into the University budget, and the University is communicating with the provincial government to better grasp the potential impacts of economic changes in the province
- The Academic Crisis Management Team (ACMT) and Crisis Management Team (CMT) are working hard to ensure that good decisions are being made at the University, and as of now no decision has been made on the delivery of Fall term courses
- A Town Hall for public consultation on the proposed Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025 will occur this week

The Academic Co-Chair welcomed Frank Finley and Tanille Shandro, and noted plans to formally orient them to the Committee ahead of the General Faculties Council (GFC) Standing Committees Orientation in Fall 2020.

In response a question, the Co-Chair explained that the University has made no formal decision on University employees' return to working on campus, but the new provincial guidelines suggest that postsecondary institutions are part of the first phase of re-opening the economy. The Co-Chair noted that the University anticipates further direction from the province and further discussion with CMT on the approach to a phased re-opening of campus.

3. Approval of the April 20, 2020 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 April 20, 2020 be approved.

Carried

Barry Wylant abstained.

4. 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. Robert McCorkell, Remo Panaccione, and Angelique Saweczko presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed changes, which exclude Winter 2020 term grades from GPA calculations for admission to Medical Doctor (MD) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs, beginning with the Fall 2021 intake and onward
- In response to questions, the proponents explained that:
 - The impact this would have on students who chose letter grades for all Winter 2020 courses is relatively low, and based on previous applicant pools it is unlikely that a student would do poorly in a Fall term and exceptionally in the following Winter term
 - With a very small staff in the Admissions Office for the MD program and an automated method for calculating students' GPAs, it is not possible to provide different options for calculating admissions GPAs as the Faculty of Graduate Studies does
 - The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has adjusted its delivery of the MCAT while ensuring that scores are comparable to that of an in-person written exam, so it does not appear that students will be disadvantaged from this perspective
 - Alberta medical schools reserve approximately 85% of seats in their programs for Alberta students, regardless of which institution they attended for undergraduate study
 - At this time, there is no option for a second review of applications when a University of Calgary student suspects that they have been disadvantaged as a result of this proposed change to the admissions process, as re-calculating GPAs for students on the border between admission and rejection would require the GPA z-score to be altered for the entire applicant pool
 - Students who present with nine or more credits in the Fall 2019 term would be considered full-time for the 2019-2020 academic year and would thus have this year counted as a full-time undergraduate year for admissions purposes
 - The GPA accounts for 20% of a MD applicant's overall admissions score
 - There is a category in the MD admissions scoring system, worth 10% of an applicant's overall score, which functions as a subjective academic assessment, and could be used to acknowledge Winter 2020 term grades completed by University of Calgary students
 - The GPA accounts for 30% of a DVM applicant's overall admissions score, and a standardized z-score is used to calculate the admission GPA
 - Admissions Committees are concerned that multiple methods of calculating the admission GPA would detract from equity and create potential for bias in evaluations
- The Committee discussed:
 - Other Canadian medical schools' decisions on the assessment of Winter 2020 term grades
 - Other DVM programs across the country, and what approach other programs are taking to assessment of Winter 2020 term grades

- The percentage of students who apply to the University of Calgary MD program with an undergraduate credential from an Alberta institution, the decision on Winter 2020 term grades at other Alberta institutions, and which groups within this population might be disadvantaged as a result of this change
- The timeline for the application cycle in the MD program and the possibility of opening up the MD application portal later than usual, to align the University's decision with other medical schools across the country
- The Committee suggested that the proponents discuss with their Admissions Committees the possibility of allowing full-time students who selected the grade option for all Winter 2020 courses, excluding those who selected some or all CR notations for Winter 2020 courses, to have these grades be reflected in their GPA calculation for admission to the MD or DVM program.

Secretary's Note: The motion was withdrawn.

5. APS Report for the April 20, 2020 APS Meeting

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

There were no questions.

6. Approval of the Closure of the Collaborative Degree Program (BA/BSc Psychology and BA/BA Honours Sociology) with Red Deer College

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed suspension and termination of the Psychology and Sociology programs offered at Red Deer College (RDC), noting that an increased demand for these programs on main campus, and the significant costs these programs incur, have made them no longer sustainable for the Faculty of Arts to run
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - One part-time advising position was terminated in conjunction with with the closure of these programs. The proponent noted that because this position was part-time, advising on main campus was needed for RDC students to supplement advising at RDC.
 - The Faculty of Arts usually sends tenured faculty to teach four courses per year in each of these RDC programs, causing decreased availability of faculty resources on main campus. It was noted that RDC instructors are also engaged to teach in the programs, but the Faculty of Arts has to fund these positions, and the Faculty of Arts has always tried to send full-time Calgary staff to RDC whenever possible to maintain degree standards.
 - The closure of these programs will not have an effect on RDC's application for university status
- The Committee discussed how this closure was communicated at RDC and in the media, and the proponent noted that all students currently registered in these programs will be supported through to

the end of their degrees

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension, effective August 15, 2020, and eventual termination of the Faculty of Arts Collaborative Programs (Psychology and Sociology) at Red Deer College, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

7. Approval of the Changes to Academic Regulation D.6.3 Program Extensions in the Graduate chapter of the University Calendar

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 change, which clarifies that when a student's request for an extension to their program is denied, they will be required to withdraw
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to the Academic Regulation D.6.3 *Program Extensions* 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.

Carried

8. Approval of the Creation of a new Specialization in Healthcare Innovation and Design within the Advanced Nursing Practice I and II Graduate Certificates

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Sandra Davidson and Kathryn King-Shier presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed Specialization, which will prepare nurses and non-healthcare professionals, such as those in technology, design, computer science and biomedical engineering, to work in technology-driven healthcare contexts
- In response to a question it was explained that the Specialization is open to any discipline, as outlined in the admissions criteria

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a new Specialization in Healthcare Innovation and Design within the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Nursing Practice I and II, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried**9. Approval of the Creation of an Interdisciplinary Specialization in Wearable Technology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Reed Ferber, Alix Westgard and AJ Macaulay presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal, noting that the Specialization in Wearable Technology is one outcome of an NSERC CREATE program grant, and trainees will gain experience in data science, data visualization, and entrepreneurship, and complete internships with leading companies such as FitBit and Garmin. The proponents noted that there is already a tremendous amount of interest in the program and that the NSERC CREATE grant already supports 33 Master's and PhD students researching in this field.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Each Specialization requires the completion of 15 units of coursework, which is customized to the student's research interests by their supervisory committee. The proponents noted that the common piece shared among all students in the Specialization is a practicum placement with a wearable technology company, where students can choose to complete two practicums back-to-back with the same company or two practicums with two different companies.
 - The enrolment plan reflects funding stipends at the points when students enter the program and when they graduate, so as to not commit funds to students where there is not funding available
 - PhD students funded through the NSERC CREATE grant are highly successful at securing external funding, which allows the program to provide top-ups and use the remaining funds to recruit new students
 - Courses from the Biomedical Technology and Data Science graduate programs will be available to students in the Specialization
- The Committee discussed that the Electrical and Computer Engineering program is currently working internally to adjust the course load requirements for students because of its higher departmental requirements for thesis-based students

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Interdisciplinary Specialization in Wearable Technology within the Master of Science (MSc) (thesis-based) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in Kinesiology, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Interdisciplinary Specialization in Wearable Technology within the Master of Science (MSc) (thesis-based) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in Biomedical Engineering, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Interdisciplinary Specialization in Wearable Technology within the Master of Science (MSc) (thesis-based) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried

Andy Knight abstained from the motion to create the Specialization within Electrical and Computer Engineering.

10. Revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book and Carla Bertsch presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions, which include the removal of a section on vexatious and frivolous claims that was thought to be an impediment to reporting, and updates to wording to make clear what supports are available, ensure the processes outlined are accurate, provide a clear description of the investigation process and resources, and make clear the connection between supports available and the investigative arms that run through appropriate offices. The proponents noted that the policy remains victim-centric and aims to support victim-survivors.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - As a result of student consultation, several clarifications were made, including what supports are available, and linguistic clarifications pertaining to the age of consent, as well as suggestions for the roll-out of the new Policy, such as training and building capacity
 - No group was specifically targeted for consultation on the development of the new policy, but rather, an open consultation period was provided to hear the unique perspectives of a number of invested groups. The presenters requested that if there is additional feedback, this should be directed to them.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The role of the Sexual Violence Support Advocate, and how the Sexual Violence Response Office (SVRO) has been created to provide both a place to go and a person to consult with. The presenters noted that the creation of the SVRO does not prohibit any appropriate office on campus from taking a lead role in the investigation process.
 - Whether the removal of “support” and “advocate” from the title of the SVRO detracted from the

welcoming tone of the office. The presenters noted that this phrasing is consistent with other response offices across the country.

- The process for reporting to the Board of Governors
- The statement about violating University alcohol and cannabis policies, why these kinds of violations may require further investigations, and what the University's responsibilities are related to managing learning, working, and living environments on campus
- How records will be stored and secured, and how confidentiality will be protected
- The Committee suggested that:
 - The policy clearly distinguish between the SVRO and the Sexual Violence Support Advocates who work within it
 - The policy define "Resolution through Supported Conversations"

11. International Strategy Progress Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall and Janaka Ruwanpura presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the International Strategy, noting that:
 - In Fall 2019 an external panel reviewed the Strategy and provided a very positive report on the University's advancement towards the achievement of its targets
 - The Strategy includes four primary goals, to increase diversity, improve cross-cultural competencies, enhance international partnerships, and engage in international development
 - The University has worked to increase diversity among its student population and to bring students to campus from various countries rather than just one or two primary ones
 - While many universities accept international students for the diversity of revenue sources, the University of Calgary focuses on increasing diversity to produce global citizens that can work in a globally connected world, and ensures that it is not reliant on international tuition revenue
 - The University continues to see strong numbers in its exchanges, group study programs, research and work abroad opportunities and faculty members who have been educated outside of Canada
 - The University has 269 active university partners, and the system used to assess the value of the University's formal agreements has been recognized internationally and has resulted in two awards
 - The number of joint publications with international partners has increased dramatically over the last five years
 - Research funding has increased from 2013 to the present, with the 2019-2020 year presenting the strongest numbers thus far
 - Since 2013, 480 students have enrolled in international development projects

- The Global Engagement Plan 2020-2025 responds to the external review conducted in September 2019, and will come forward for approval by GFC in May
- The Committee suggested that the presenters update the Peruvian flag to reflect the official version used in external presentations, and to adjust the scale on slide three to more meaningfully reflect the data provided
- The Committee noted their appreciation for giving Faculties greater involvement in driving these goals forward

12. Status of Program Approvals Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

There were no questions.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Motion to Adjourn

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the May 4, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary