



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Special Meeting
May 14, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Elena Braverman
Frank Finley
Dawn Johnston
Andy Knight
Jackie Sieppert
Tanille Shandro
Barry Wylant

Non-Voting Members

Violet Baron
Paul Rogers
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Regrets

Nicole Culos-Reed
Florentine Strzelczyk

Guests

Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Items 3-4
Remo Panaccione, Director of Admissions for the MD Program, Cumming School of Medicine, present for Item 3
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – arrived during Item 4

Observers

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the May 14, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee special meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair noted that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee does a tremendous amount of work annually to ensure the academy runs effectively and efficiently at the University, and thanked Committee members for all the work they have done in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of Changes to the Admissions Process for the MD Program due to COVID-19

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Remo Panaccione presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposed changes, which allow students to choose one of two methods for how 2019/20 grades are evaluated, and clarified that, if a student elects to have all letter grades reflected on their transcript rather than selecting all or some Completed Requirements (CR) notations, then they can choose to have these Winter 2020 grades included in their GPA calculation. The proponent noted that the proposed changes have been vetted by the Admissions Committee for the Medical Doctor (MD) program in the Cumming School of Medicine.
- The Committee commented on the elegance of this solution for those students who wish to have their Winter 2020 grades considered in their application for admission to the MD program

Moved/Seconded

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

Carried

Secretary's Note: The Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee (CCS) did not review or recommend the changes to the proposal made since the CCS recommended it to the Committee.

4. Approval of Changes to the Admissions Process for the DVM Program due to COVID-19

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed changes, explaining that if applicants declare all letter grades for the Winter 2020 term, these grades will be included in the admission GPA calculation. The proponents noted that the changes reflect consultation with the Admissions Committee and the feedback from this Committee, and that, once approved, these changes become immediately effective for admissions currently being processed in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program.
- In response to a question, the proponents explained that in cases where a student who presents a Winter

2020 term with a mix of letter grades and CR notations or a full term of CR notations, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine will accept the Winter 2020 term as one of the four required semesters of full-time study, but will not use any letter grades from this term in the admissions GPA calculation

- The Committee discussed:
 - The difference between what is being proposed by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and what was approved for the MD program, and in particular that the Cumming School of Medicine will allow those students who took all letter grades in the Winter 2020 term to decide when applying to the MD program whether they want the Winter 2020 term grades included in their admissions GPA calculation, while in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine the decision to include Winter 2020 term grades in the admissions GPA calculation is implicit and is not a choice the student is able to make
 - The standard practice for evaluating applications to the MD and DVM programs, and how semesters of study are considered for both the admission GPA calculation and the number of terms of full-time study completed

Moved/Seconded

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

Carried**5. Other Business**

To ensure that the Faculty of Medicine and the Committee were aligned in their understanding of what was being proposed, Remo Panaccione returned to the discussion to confirm that students who elected to take letter grades for all Winter 2020 term courses will be able to decide, when applying to the MD program, whether they want the Admissions Committee to use their letter grades for both the Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 terms or just the Fall 2019 term when calculating the student's admission GPA. The presenter noted that this information will be made available to applicants as soon as possible, while notifying them that not all medical schools across the country will proceed with the same policy.

6. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

The May 14, 2020 special meeting of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee was adjourned by consensus.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary