



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #123

September 28, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Elena Braverman
Nicole Culos-Reed
Frank Finley
Andy Knight
Tanille Shandro
Amy Warren
Penny Werthner
Barry Wylant

Non-Voting Members

Violet Baron
David Stewart
Florentine Strzelczyk
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Staff

Elizabeth Sjogren

Guests

Bev Adams, Senior Associate Dean (Education), Cumming School of Medicine – present for Item 4
Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) and Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee – present for Items 4 & 5
John Brown, Dean, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape – present for Item 7
Ian Holloway, Dean, Faculty of Law – present for Item 5
Remo Panaccione, Assistant Dean (Admissions), Cumming School of Medicine – present for Item 4

Observers

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies) – arrived during Item 4

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 September 28, 2020 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 Penny Werthner to her first meeting and all other members were thanked for their service.

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- The Committee can expect a busy year as business relating to the Growth Through Focus Strategic Vision comes through the governance system
- University staff, academic staff, and students were thanked for their commitment to keeping the institution safe during the pandemic
- Course delivery in the Winter term will continue as hybrid model, with up to 30% of courses being delivered face-to-face, and an announcement will be made later this term outlining which courses will be delivered in-person
- The Growth Through Focus Vision will be presented to the General Faculties Council (GFC) for feedback in October. It was noted that feedback is valued highly and changes to the Vision will continue to be implemented as feedback is received.
- The timeline for establishing the new budget has been adjusted to accommodate the Growth Through Focus timeline, but the University is on track for a March budget approval as is usual

The Academic Co-Chair encouraged Committee members to take care of themselves in anticipation of the busy year ahead.

In response to a question, it was explained that no decisions have been made regarding Winter 2021 international exchange opportunities, and that the University aims to make an announcement about this later this month.

3. Approval of the July 21, 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 July 21, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Changes to the Admissions Process for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program to add a Black Applicant Admissions Process

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bev Adams, Remo Panaccione and Susan Barker presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair reviewed the normal GFC approvals process for changes to Faculty-level admissions procedures, and explained that the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) is seeking retroactive approval

for the addition of the Black Applicant Admissions Process (BAAP) that was implemented for 2021 Doctor of Medicine (MD) admissions

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that the BAAP responds to a Call for Action Plan by the Calgary Black Medical Students' Association (BMSA) and provides an optional opportunity for applicants to self-identify as Black on their application, to include an optional personal essay highlighting why they have chosen to apply through this application stream, and to have their file reviewed by at least two members of the Black community
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The BAAP will bring the CSM in line with other medical schools in Canada
 - The MD admissions process is holistically structured to consider numerous elements of an applicant's experience in addition to their GPA and MCAT score, and proponents noted that this holistic review process aids in removing barriers to entry for disadvantaged applicants. The proponents highlighted other efforts to remove barriers to entry, which include the Pathways to Medicine Scholarship Program, and explained that the CSM continues to adjust its admissions process to remove barriers to entry as they are identified.
 - The admissions process already allows for reviewers to flag unique applicant files, such as where immigration, low socioeconomic status, or other hardship is evident in the student's application
 - The CSM has increased the diversity of its interviewers in the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process in recent years to combat collective bias
 - The BAAP is an optional supplement to the student's application, but does not represent an entirely new application stream. It was clarified that within an application year, applicants could not apply through the BAAP and, if unsuccessful, then apply to the general stream, or vice versa.
 - The CSM is committed to supporting all students through the duration of their program, not just through the admissions process
- The Committee discussed the use of the term "radicalized" in the BMSA's "Calls to Action to Address Institutionalized Racism in Medical Education and HealthCare" document and whether this was intended, and the proponents noted that they would bring this to the attention of the BMSA
- The Committee suggested that Dr. Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) review the language proposed in the BAAP admissions process and Calendar entry

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the admissions process for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the direction for a review of the wording of the admissions process changes and associated Calendar wording by the University's Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).

Carried

5. Changes to the Admissions Process for the Juris Doctor (JD) program to add a Black Student Admissions Process (BSAP)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ian Holloway and Susan Barker presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was explained that the Faculty of Law is seeking retroactive approval for the addition of the Black Student Admissions Process (BSAP) that was implemented for 2021 Juris Doctor (JD) admissions, that the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee (CCS) discussed alignment between this proposal and the BAAP proposal from the CSM, and that the CCS postponed approval of the BSAP Calendar entry, requesting more detailed wording
- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that the BSAP arose from a series of meetings with the Calgary Chapter of the Black Law Students' Association, and provides an optional opportunity for applicants to self-identify as Black on their application, to include an optional personal essay highlighting their experience, and to have their file reviewed by at least two members of the Black Students Admissions Process Subcommittee
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Income data is not collected by the Faculty, but applicants who include their lived experience in their application do at times address their financial background
 - The BSAP is unique to the University of Calgary, and it was noted that other Canadian law schools adhere to very formulaic admission criteria, with the exception of Dalhousie University, which has long offered the Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative (IB&M), though the context for the IB&M is very different
- The Committee discussed:
 - The Law School Admission Test (LSAT), Grade Point Average statistics and the Faculty's holistic admissions process
 - The BSAP's alignment with the Faculty's current Indigenous Admissions Review Process
 - The issue of recruitment, and it was noted that the Faculty is focused on broadening student recruitment efforts. The proponents highlighted the free LSAT Summer Prep Course for students from disadvantaged backgrounds as one example of efforts to diversify student recruitment.
- The Committee suggested that Dr. Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) review the language proposed in the BSAP Calendar entry

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the admissions process for the Juris Doctor (JD) program, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the direction for a review of the Calendar wording by the University's Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).

Carried**6. Recommendation of the 2020-2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall and Tara Beattie presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair outlined the anticipated business for the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Quality Assurance Mid-Term Unit Review Report: School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall and John Brown 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 internal and external reviewers, a report with reviewer recommendations and the unit's responses, and a final public report. The Co-Chair noted that at the mid-point, the Dean of the Faculty is invited to report on the progress made to respond to the recommendations of reviewers.
- The proponents reported on the progress made on the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) recommendations since its 2018 unit review
- In response to a question, it was explained that most SAPL programming is internal, so the shift to the downtown campus should not negatively impact student experience and, in fact, the move downtown could positively impact student experience as many projects are community-based and this is central to the discipline.
- The Committee discussed the recommendations and actions, in particular:
 - The SAPL moving entirely to the downtown campus, the positive impact this will have on SAPL research and teaching and learning from a community-engaged learning perspective, and the positive impact that centrally-located design schools can have on the surrounding communities more generally
 - Efforts to increase diversity in the Faculty, in particular with Indigenous students. The proponents noted that recent efforts have been made to integrate Indigenous scholars and knowledge keepers into the SAPL's design studios, to connect with the Tsuut'ina Nation, and to determine what opportunities there might be to create pathways for Indigenous students from high school to a SAPL program. It was also noted that the SAPL has a special interest in urban indigeneity, and the move downtown presents new opportunities to engage in this research space.
 - The SAPL's efforts to recruit from diverse undergraduate disciplines, and what potential opportunities exist to connect with different University of Calgary Faculties to offer new micro-credentials that study city-building in the context of a student's undergraduate discipline

8. Status of Program Approvals Report

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

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the September 28, 2020 meeting.

Carried

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

Susan Belcher
University Secretary