



General Faculties Council  
**ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**  
Minutes for Approval

Meeting #125  
November 2, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

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

***Regrets***

Nicole Culos-Reed  
Penny Werthner

***Guests***

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) and Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee – present for Items 4-7  
Jennifer de Roaldes, Associate Registrar, Admissions and Recruitment, Office of the Registrar – present for Items 5-7

***Observers***

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)

***Non-Voting Members***

Violet Baron  
David Stewart  
Florentine Strzelczyk  
Melanie Zimmer

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Jaclyn Carter

***Staff***

Elizabeth Sjogren

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 November 2, 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:

- It is anticipated that the new year will bring busier meeting agendas as units begin to respond to the Growth Through Focus (GTF) vision with program changes
- An overview of the status of the University budget. It was noted that a number of uncertainties will affect the budget, including the possibility of an in-year budget cut, the Alberta System Review, and the shift to the Investment Management Agreement and Performance-Based Budgeting.
- The status of a proposed tuition increase. Consultation with students is underway and tuition town halls will be scheduled in the weeks to come.
- An overview of the progress of the GTF vision

The Academic Co-Chair thanked Committee members for their hard work, noting the busyness of this term, and encouraged members to take time for themselves and their families and to be mindful of their own health and wellness needs.

In response to a question, the Co-Chair explained that the University has observed an increase in reports of mental health concerns amongst students, faculty and staff as a result of COVID-19. It was noted that the suicide rate is down from last year, and that the Wellness Centre is fully staffed and currently able to keep up with the increased demand for wellness services. Concern about a lack of immediate access to these services was expressed, and it was noted that the University will watch this very closely to ensure that the University community is appropriately served. It was also noted that the Graduate Students' Association's (GSA) Empower Me program, which is included in its GSA Health Plan, enables students to connect with counsellors, consultants and life coaches for a variety of issues. Finally, concerns about faculty and staff burnout were expressed, and Committee members were encouraged to take care of themselves and to watch for signs of burnout in others.

### **3. Approval of the October 19, 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 October 19, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

In response to a question, the Co-Chair explained that she meets with the Students' Union and GSA leaders regularly to ensure that student concerns about online course delivery are being addressed in a timely fashion. When faculty members express concerns to The University of Calgary Faculty Association, the Co-Chair asked that she be made aware of these issues as soon as possible.

### **4. Approval of the 2020-2021 Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee Work Plan**

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

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the work plan, explaining that the plan reflects the regular work cycle of the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee (CCS), and that an additional COVID-19 item has been added as a regular item of business for each meeting to address matters related to the pandemic

- There were no questions

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee Work Plan for the 2020-2021 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**5. Approval of Changes to A.5 Undergraduate Admission Requirements in the University Calendar**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker and Jennifer de Roaldes presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of changes were made to secondary grading practices, where secondary schools, agencies or governments cancelled standardized examinations or implemented alternative grading schemes for the Winter 2020 through Fall 2020 terms. It was noted that practices vary across jurisdictions, and this has created uncertainty for students in how their applications for admission will be considered in future terms. The proposed changes will create a fair and equitable admissions process for all students, given the various grading schemes implemented worldwide.
- In response to a question, it was explained that where calculations of admission averages potentially skew the admission GPA, the Admissions Office will examine applications on a case-by-case basis to ensure the admission GPA accurately reflects the student's performance in high school courses
- The Committee discussed the distinction between a Winter 2020 term at the University level and at the high school level, and the proponent clarified how these terms translate between secondary and postsecondary environments
- The Committee requested that the Admissions Office extend their consideration of alternative high school grading practices from Winter 2020 through to Winter 2021 to accommodate ongoing changes to these practices as a result of the pandemic

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to section A.5 *Undergraduate Admission Requirements* in the University Calendar, effective for the Spring 2021 intake onward, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendment.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of Changes to A.5.2 International High School Admission in the University Calendar**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the agenda. Susan Barker and Jennifer de Roaldes presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that in the United States (US), some

institutions are moving to make the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Testing (ACT) optional, and that some recent reports have raised questions about inherent racial bias within the SAT. The Admissions Office is recommending the discontinuation of the use of the SAT and ACT as requirements for admission consideration for students applying from a US high school, and it was explained that students who choose to sit these exams may submit their test scores as part of a diverse qualification application at their own discretion.

- In response to a question, it was explained that in current practice, a student needs a score of at least 1190 to move forward to the next step of the admissions evaluation, that removing this barrier will allow all students to go through the high school evaluation process, and that if a student feels their high school grades do not capture their academic record accurately, they are able to present SAT or ACT scores as an additional document for consideration for admission
- The Committee suggested a shift in phrasing from “minimum score” to “minimum GPA” or “minimum average” in the Calendar wording to reflect the updated admissions process, and suggested deletion of “a” in the phrase “present a SAT subject tests”

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to section A.5.2 *International High School Admission* in the University Calendar, effective for the Winter 2021 intake onward, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendments.

**Carried**

#### **7. Approval of Changes to A.11 English Language Proficiency in the University Calendar**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the agenda. Susan Barker and Jennifer de Roaldes presented this item.

#### Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that in the Winter 2020 term, the University approved a temporary acceptance of the Duolingo English Language Test (DELTA) to address the closure of most English Language Proficiency (ELP) testing centres, and that it is proposed to continue accepting the DELTA on a temporary basis through the Winter 2022 term to allow the University to assess whether the DELTA is meeting expectations. It was noted that in the Fall 2020 term, the Admissions Office received 78 DELTA test scores, and of these 50 were successful for admissions purposes.
- In response to a question, it was explained that Duolingo conducts its own research on the validity and reliability of the DELTA, that there are no comprehensive studies that measure long-term student success when the DELTA is used for admissions decisions, and that the Admissions Office may work with the Werklund School of Education to investigate this further
- The Committee discussed the disadvantages of not offering the DELTA as an option for students, the chosen minimum score of 115 for undergraduate admissions, that the Faculty of Graduate Studies sets its own score and that this may be different from what is set for undergraduate admissions, and that the Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Bachelor of Nursing (BN) programs do not accept the DELTA as proof of ELP
- The Committee suggested that the score chart in the Calendar entry be updated to show that the DELTA is not applicable as proof of ELP for BEd and BN admissions

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to section A.11 *English Language Proficiency* in the University Calendar, effective for the Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 terms, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendment.

**Carried****8. Status of Program Approvals Report**

Documentation for this item was circulated for information only.

**9. Other Business**

The Co-Chair provided an overview of the University's position on shifting the Add/Drop/Swap date to later in the term. It was explained that the University will not be moving forward with a change to this date, as it would negatively affect the distribution of student loans as a result of a shift to the fee payment deadline, create complications in the Registrar's Office related to fee payment and refunds, affect the University's ability to report to the provincial government within the set reporting guidelines, and cause some students to miss a full four weeks of the term, which could lead to extra work for both students and faculty members to ensure that these students catch up.

The Co-Chair also provided an update on the status of the Crisis Management Team (CMT) and how it is responding to concerns about face-to-face classes, rising COVID-19 case numbers, and the University's plan for ensuring on-campus safety in the Winter 2021 term. The Co-Chair explained the new voluntary mask guidelines, how the Registrar's Office utilizes a heat map to ensure the scheduling of face-to-face classes avoids creating hot spots on campus, and how practicum placements will be conducted in the Winter 2021 term. It was noted that at the present time there is no plan to move completely online, and that the University provides more face-to-face instruction at present than many other Canadian postsecondary institutions.

**10. Adjournment****Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the November 2, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary