



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

General Faculties Council  
**ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Special Meeting  
November 30, 2020, 3:30 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***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Guests***

Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) and Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee  
Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)  
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar

***Observers***

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the November 30, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee special meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

### **3. Approval of Flexible Grading for the Fall 2020 Term**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Barker, Leslie Reid, Angelique Saweczko and Florentine Strzelczyk presented this item.

#### Highlights:

- The Co-Chair provided an overview of the University's shift to the Completed Requirements/Fail (CR/F) model in the Winter 2020 term and the return to regular grading for the Spring/Summer and Fall 2020 terms. It was explained that as the Fall 2020 term has progressed, student stress levels have increased and the University is considering ways to help alleviate some of the pressure on students that also balances the needs of academic staff and administrators' workloads.
- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal, under which a student can choose to take one CR in a course of their choosing for the Fall 2020 term. It was explained that too many CRs on a student's transcript can inadvertently pose long-term challenges for academic progression and academic review, as well as for applications to professional programs and for employment when the transcript is considered for hiring purposes.
- The Committee discussed:
  - The extraordinary circumstances that students, academic staff and administrators are facing, and the University's desire to show compassion
  - The similarities and differences between this proposal and what was offered in the Winter 2020 term
  - The decision to offer a one CR option and not more than one and it was noted that the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee (CCS) did not support a proposal for more than one CR option this term.
  - The consultation of Deans and faculty members who provided mixed reviews but generally supported the proposal
  - The increased workload for teaching staff this year, with additional accommodations, deferred exams, and adjusted coursework, to the point of almost personalizing courses for students, and that this is not being recognized
  - Concerns raised by leaders in professional programs, where a D grade is not considered sufficient for prerequisites and progression, and where accreditation and professional recognition may be compromised when a student has a CR on their transcript
  - Concerns about how the CR/F affects a student's progression and academic review processes, scholarship competitions and admission GPA when applying to other programs and institutions, particularly in the U15, as well as jobs where the transcript is considered. It was noted that the CR option may create a perceived divide between those who are doing well and those who are not.
  - Concerns raised by students and whether it should be up to students to decide how many CRs they need in the Fall 2020 term, and whether students have all of the information and are able to effectively weigh the advantages and disadvantages when making this decision
  - Whether students would be able to reverse their CRs within a specified period of time and the ability to reverse a withdrawal this term in order to take advantage of the CR option
  - How other Canadian institutions are responding to similar concerns
  - How this change will be communicated to students, and the importance of clearly

communicating the potential consequences of selecting the CR

- The need for a more permanent policy to address this type of situation and the challenges with making these decisions on an ad-hoc basis so late in the Fall 2020 term. The Committee discussed the parameters of a more permanent policy, which will come forward for consideration in Winter 2021.
- The Committee suggested that the proponents add 1.0 unit courses to the list of courses for which the CR option is available
- Following lengthy discussion, it was decided that the proponents would take the proposal away, consider the discussion, and bring an updated proposal based on the input from the Committee to the Committee tomorrow

***Secretary's Note: The motion was withdrawn.***

#### **4. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **5. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the November 30, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary