



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #129
February 1, 2021, 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

Gillian Ayers, Program Evaluation and Planning Specialist, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 8
Susan Barker, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) – present for Items 4-7
Jennifer de Roaldes, Associate Registrar, Admissions and Recruitment – present for Item 7
Jodie McGill, Team Lead (Undergraduate Program), Faculty of Kinesiology – present for Items 9-10
David Paskevich, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Kinesiology – present for Items 9-10
Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) – present for Items 6 and 8-10
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Items 5-6
Arindom Sen, Head, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering – present for Items 8
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Faculty of Graduate Studies) – present for Items 11-12

Observers

Sara Fedoruk, Analyst, Planning & Reviews, Office of the Provost – present for Items 8-10
Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies), Office of the Provost
Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost – present for Items 8-10
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost – present for Items 8-10

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 February 1, 2021 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:

- The University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Week is February 1-5, 2021, and Committee members are encouraged to attend the University's EDI Awards, which will occur February 3
- February is also Black History Month, and a number of speakers will be joining the University's events via Zoom. Committee members are encouraged to attend as many events as they can.
- The University's budget is on track for approval by the Board of Governors in March
- Searches for a Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a Dean of the Faculty of Science, and a Registrar are underway

The Academic Co-Chair announced that the annual mid-year Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) membership survey will be distributed this week and discussed at a future APPC meeting.

3. Approval of the January 11, 2021 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 January 11, 2021 be approved, with the requested amendment.

Carried

4. Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee Report for the December 17, 2020 Meeting

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

The presenter provided an overview of the report and provided an update on the use of students' emergency contact information, as discussed at the last APPC meeting. It was noted that the University is looking into the establishment of a formal guideline and training for individuals with access to this information in PeopleSoft.

5. Changes to the Important Notice and Disclaimer in the University Calendar

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, which include creating one section at the front of the University Calendar that is common to undergraduate and graduate students and that will clarify student responsibilities, use more inclusive language around credentials offered, provide consistency between varying University documents, and add a statement on the University's authority to grant credentials
- In response to a question, it was explained that a landing page will remain in the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar that directs students to this information in the larger University Calendar
- The Committee discussed language relating to University liability, and it was explained that Legal Services was consulted in the drafting of this language

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the *Important Notice and Disclaimer* section in the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee.

Carried

6. Flexible Grading for the Winter 2021 Term

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

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the discussion by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, noting that there were numerous concerns raised including the potential that students do not understand the implications of choosing CR grades and how CR grades are interpreted for the purposes of accreditation and starting salaries
- The Co-Chair then reminded the Committee of the Fall 2020 term flexible grading decision and noted that the University is developing a longer-term policy on flexible grading, but that this will take time. It was noted that large-scale communications will be required if this proposal is approved so that students clearly understand the consequences of their decision to choose a CR grade.
- The proponents then discussed the proposal, noting that for Winter 2021, the option for undergraduate students to choose an unweighted D or D+ has been removed to better manage academic progression and academic support, as well as mitigate inadvertent GPA inflation, and that the B- threshold for graduate students, which is unchanged from Fall 2020, does not affect academic progression
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - While data collection and verification of numbers is ongoing, currently the total number of CR requests submitted in the Fall 2020 term was 4710 or about 13% of students and, of these, only 188 requests came from graduate students
 - In the Fall 2020 term, students expressed that access to the option was enough to provide some stress relief, and it was noted that many students wrote to the Co-Chair to express their gratitude for the option even though they had no intention of taking advantage of it

- The Academic Turnaround and early alert programs are based on GPA calculations, so providing an unweighted grade option that is not tied to a GPA value raises the possibility that students who should be included in these programs are not properly flagged in the system
- It is not feasible to capture those students with D or D+ grades before the unweighted option is applied, as the GPA is only calculated once per term, and manual intervention would have an unsustainable impact on advising and Registrar's Office workloads
- The Registrar's Office has not yet completed its analysis of CR vs D and D+ unweighted grades from the Fall 2020 term, and it was explained that, while some students may attempt requests to shift their D+ to a C- to take advantage of the CR option proposed, there is little concern that this will impact department workloads in a measurable way. It was also noted that the majority of students who requested the CR in the Winter 2020 term did so for courses with a B+ grade or higher, which emphasizes the GPA pressure students feel to win scholarships or move into professional programs or graduate school.
- This proposal is effective for the Winter 2021 term only, as it is anticipated that a University policy will be in place by the time the Spring and Summer terms arrive
- The Committee discussed:
 - The graduate student CR threshold of B-, and it was noted that there was no negative feedback about this in the Fall 2020 term
 - What information will be communicated to the University community
 - Other ways that the University can help alleviate stress on students, including deadline extensions, a reduction in the number of assignments required in a term, or an option to weight assignments differently in some cases
 - The cumulative effect of CR and unweighted D or D+ grades for the purposes of scholarships and awards, as well as academic progression, since students could now have up to six of these notations on their transcripts

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the flexible grading option for the Winter 2021 term, as set out in the document provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee.

Carried

7. Changes to Section A.8 Special Admission Categories and A.14 Admission to Open Studies (Degree holder and Non-Degree holder) 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, which include enabling international students to enroll in Open Studies, the shift to unofficial transcripts for admission to Open Studies, continued enhancement of the admissions policy to streamline and create transparency in admission requirements, clarification of the Indigenous Student Access Program (ISAP), separating degree and non-degree-holder requirements, and streamlining admissions processes to support different Faculties and professional

programs

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Registrar's Office worked with the Writing Symbols Lodge to identify ISAP admission requirements, and there is no current alternative available to providing proof of Indigenous ancestry
 - The Registrar's Office is considered the home unit for Open Studies students, and an allocation from the Provost's Office supports the budget needed for processes such as academic review and student appeals
- The Committee discussed:
 - The potential impact on AUPE employees who take courses sporadically without intention to enroll in a specific program
 - The potential risks of requiring proof of Indigenous ancestry, and it was noted that the Registrar's Office works closely with the Writing Symbols Lodge and no concerns were expressed about this requirement
- The Committee suggested:
 - That the term "withdrawn" in A.14.2 be changed to "discontinued" for consistency
 - That the Calendar entry distinguish between withdrawing from a course as an Open Studies student and withdrawing from Open Studies
 - Minor editorial changes

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to sections A.8 *Special Admission Categories* and A.14 *Admission to Open Studies (Degree holder and Non-Degree holder)* in the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, with the requested amendments.

Carried

8. Suspension of the Bachelor of Science in Oil and Gas Engineering

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Arindom Sen and Gillian Ayers presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal, explaining that this program is in low demand and has a low retention rate, that a task force created to examine the current and future state of the oil and gas industry found that the current downturn is expected to last for several years and that many companies are shifting to renewable energy as a result, that students have uniformly indicated that they are worried about their job prospects in this sector and that industry consultations corroborate these concerns. It was explained that the Department intends to maintain a presence in petroleum engineering, that all students currently in-program will be supported through completion of their degrees, that the Minor in Petroleum Engineering and the Master of Engineering in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering will continue, and that it has not yet been determined if the Faculty will terminate this program.

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - It is not expected that any AUPE staff will lose their jobs as a result of this suspension
 - Faculty members will continue to teach in Petroleum Engineering, that new courses may be created in response to the changing industry, and that the Department sees it as important that specialists in this area continue to contribute to the industry
- The Committee discussed the continuation of some Petroleum Engineering courses, as the Department will still offer the minor, and it was noted that updates may be made to existing courses to reflect the skills students need to succeed in a changing oil and gas industry
- The Committee suggested:
 - The routing table be updated to indicate that this proposal will go to the Ministry in 2021
 - That, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee, those courses that will be removed from the Calendar as a result of this suspension still needs to be clarified

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension of the Oil and Gas Engineering program within the Bachelor of Science, Schulich School of Engineering, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee, effective September 2021 to June 2024, with the requested amendments.

Carried**9. Suspension/Termination of the Concentration in Pedagogy within the Bachelor of Kinesiology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, David Paskevich and Jodie McGill presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that this proposal responds to the suspension and termination of the combined Bachelor of Kinesiology (BKin) (Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching)/Bachelor of Education (BEd) program and the creation of a broader BKin/BEd program, as the Faculty is no longer focused on delivering pedagogy training
- The Committee suggested:
 - The date of termination be made consistent as 2026 throughout the document
 - The routing table be updated to reflect a chronological approval process

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension and eventual termination of the Concentration in Pedagogy within the Bachelor of Kinesiology (Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching), as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee, effective July 1, 2021, with the requested amendments.

Carried

10. Name Change of the Specialization in Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching within the Bachelor of Kinesiology

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, David Paskevich and Jodie McGill presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed name change, from 'Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching' to 'Leadership and Coaching', explaining that this proposal aligns with the suspension and termination of the Concentration in Pedagogy and aims to better reflect the Concentration's focus
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve a change of name of the Specialization in the Bachelor of Kinesiology from 'Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching' to 'Leadership and Coaching', as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee, effective July 1, 2021.

Carried

11. Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee Report for the January 20, 2021 Meeting

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates presented this item.

There were no questions.

12. Quality Assurance Mid-Term Unit Review Report: The Graduate College

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Dru Marshall and Robin Yates 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. It was noted that this report will be used to determine how the University can improve the Graduate College and determine whether it continues given increasing budget constraints.
- The presenters reported on the progress made on the Graduate College recommendations since its 2018 review, noting that:
 - This is an autonomous unit that is not part of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), but that it does report through FGS to the Provost, and that the budget is also tied to FGS
 - A number of changes have been made in the last couple of years, including a change to the Head of College, a change to student leadership and changes to the composition of the Graduate College Oversight Committee, as well as removal of the GPA for admission considerations in an

effort to be more inclusive and to attract a membership that is engaged in the community

- The Committee discussed:
 - The make-up of the review team
 - The correct or incorrect perception that the Graduate College is elitist and exclusive, and the efforts made to break down stigmas and open the unit to a more EDI and anti-racist focus
 - The membership cap of 65 students and how this could evolve over time given the increasing number of graduate students on campus
 - The transition to online delivery of Graduate College programming in light of COVID-19. It was noted that this shift has broadened access to College events to the greater campus community and that the lessons learned from this shift will factor into programming moving forward.
 - The importance of the Graduate College to help the University differentiate itself from other graduate schools as it seeks to increase its graduate student population

13. Status of Program Approvals Report

Documentation for this item was circulated for information only.

There were no questions.

14. Other Business

Relating back to the approval of the name change for the Specialization in Leadership in Pedagogy and Coaching (Item 10), it was clarified that the Ministry of Advanced Education classifies a major as a specialization, and this proposal is reflective of Ministry rather than University nomenclature. The Committee discussed the use of the term 'specialization' in the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE) and the Faculty of Kinesiology, as well as the difference between undergraduate and graduate specializations. It was noted that the University Calendar stipulates that only the SSE offers specializations at the undergraduate level, which is not accurate.

In response to a question, it was explained that a micro-credentials framework is currently under development, which addresses any credential under a certificate and diploma, and the intent is that this will align with provincial and national standards.

15. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

The February 1, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary