



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

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

Meeting #142

December 13, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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***Voting Members***

Teri Balsler, Co-Chair  
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair  
Elena Braverman  
Nicole Culos-Reed  
Michael Hart  
Nicole Schmidt  
Tanille Shandro  
Malinda Smith  
Dora Tam  
Amy Warren  
Penny Werthner – arrived during Item 2  
Barry Wylant

***Non-Voting Members***

David Stewart  
Melanie Zimmer

***Meeting Secretary***

Cherie Tutt

***Scribe***

Tasha Hodzic

***Staff***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Violet Baron

***Guests***

John Brown, Dean, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape – present for Item 6  
Kyla Flanagan, Senior Instructor, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5  
Lisa Gieg, Associate Professor; Associate Head (Undergraduate), Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5  
David Hansen, Department Head, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5  
Bernhard Mayer, Interim Dean, Faculty of Science – present for Item 5  
Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) – present for Items 5 and 6  
Mindi Summers, Senior Instructor, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 5

***Observers***

Kelly Hogle, Program Proposal Specialist – present for Items 4-7  
Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies)  
Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost – present for Items 5 and 6  
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost – present for Items 5 and 6

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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 December 13, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

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

The Co-Chair reported on the continuing enhancements to the process for the development of programs and curriculum, noting the importance of proposals incorporating institutional strategies at an earlier stage.

The Academic Co-Chair thanked the Committee members for sharing their perspectives and expertise in the review and discussion of proposals and highlighted the commitment the Co-Chair and Academic Co-chair have in supporting a respectful and open dialogue at meetings.

**3. Program Proposal Planning Session**

The Committee discussed the need for supplementary guidelines for proposals; recommended proposals specify the staffing groups required for, or impacted by the proposed programs; and ensure they are compliant with the collective agreements.

**4. Approval of the November 22, 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 November 22, 2021 be approved.

**Carried****5. Approval of the Creation of three new concentrations within the BSc program in Biological Sciences: Genetics and Evolution, Biotechnology, and Biodiversity and Conservation**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kyla Flanagan, Dave Hansen, and Bernhard Mayer presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal which creates three new concentrations within the Bachelor of Science (BSc) program in Biological Sciences (BISI) to offer concentrations in Genetics and Evolution, Biotechnology, and Biodiversity and Conservation. The proponents explained that these concentrations were developed following a curriculum and Faculty unit review and aim to improve

student experience, increase experiential learning opportunities and provide students with the option to explore emerging areas in the biological sciences.

- In response to questions, the proponents explained that:
  - The creation of the concentrations will improve student experience by providing priority access to courses that have been difficult to enroll in previously and student experience is also supported through student clubs and activities
  - The three concentrations are optional to take and available to students in the BSc in BISI
  - The BISI department is evaluating further program changes to address low enrolment, such as the suspension of the Ecology major and other suspensions may be put forward in the future depending on the success of the concentrations
  - Concentrations appear on the transcript, so that students can indicate for prospective employers their specific area of study within their degree
- The Committee discussed the distinction between a major, a specialization, and a concentration and how the differences will be communicated to students
- The Committee suggested that the proposal expand on how the new concentrations will improve student experience and that the proponents consider building Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the creation of the concentrations in:

- Genetics and Evolution,
- Biotechnology,
- Biodiversity and Conservation

within the Bachelor of Science program in Biological Sciences, as set out in the proposal provided to the APPC and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee.

**Carried**

#### **6. Approval for the Creation of the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation (BDCl) program within the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. John Brown and Barry Wylant presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal, explaining that the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation (BDCl) will be the first undergraduate degree offered within the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, and that the BDCl will provide flexibility for students to prepare for careers in design and city building or progress onto professional programs following degree completion
- In response to questions, the proponents explained that:
  - The rationale for the staffing compliment for the BDCl includes limited term positions to provide instruction that is relevant and reflective of current practices, aims to recruit people early in their professional practice or who recently completed a post-doctoral degree and will be balanced and supported by tenured faculty

- The BDCI is expected to begin in the Fall term of 2023 with curriculum development to begin in the Spring 2022 and recruitment in Fall 2022
- Design education is in high demand with Alberta based students needing to go out of province for this area of study; comparative program offerings in western Canada are limited to design based degrees, the BDCI will provide students with additional areas of study in city innovation
- The Committee discussed:
  - The effort that the SAPL has taken to ensure the BDCI is sustainable within the University's budgetary environment and concerns with the proposed staffing compliment as it is unclear if they are in compliance with the Collective Agreement between the Faculty Association and the Governors of the University of Calgary (the Collective Agreement)
  - The positive effects of recruiting instructors for the BDCI from across Canada and the impact of structural inequities and staffing stability within the program
- In response to a comment, the composition of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) program subcommittees, which include Faculty Association representatives was noted, and it was confirmed that Human Resources (HR) Partners are consulted prior to program proposals being brought forward for approval on HR matters
- The Committee recommended that:
  - The proposal be amended to refer to unlimited term positions as tenured track positions
  - Prior to the proposal moving forward that it be confirmed that the proposed staffing positions are in compliance with the Collective Agreement
  - The Faculty engage with the Office of Indigenous Engagement to develop an Indigenous student bridging pathway for entry into the BDCI and with the Faculty of Kinesiology to review courses, which may be good elective offerings for the BDCI

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the creation of the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation (BDCI) program within the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, as set out in the proposal provided to the APPC and as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee, with the requested amendment and clarification to the proposal documents.

**Carried**

Barry Wylant and Penny Werthner abstained.

**7. Future Outlook**

The Committee continued their discussion on best practices for proposal development and discussed options for templates or guidelines to form the consultations in addition to the government's proposal template.

The Committee was informed of a handbook under development that will include the program approval process as well as annotated suggestions and interpretations for the proposal template. The Committee requested the handbook be distributed to the APPC for review and feedback.

**8. Subcommittee Reports**

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

1. Academic Program Subcommittee November 15, 2021 meeting
2. Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee November 17, 2021 meeting
3. Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee November 18, 2021 meeting

**9. Status of Program Approvals Report**

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

**10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**11. Adjournment**

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| The December 13, 2021 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee was adjourned by consensus. |
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The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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Cherie Tutt  
Meeting Secretary