



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

Meeting #148  
April 11, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

***Voting Members***

Teri Balsler, Co-Chair – left at the start of Item 5  
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair  
Elena Braverman  
Barbara Brown  
Michael Hart  
Nicole Schmidt  
Tanille Shandro – arrived during Item 4  
Dora Tam – left during Item 5  
Barry Wylant

***Regrets***

Malinda Smith  
Penny Werthner  
Nicole Culos-Reed

***Guests***

Derek Monar (Director of Operations), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4  
Elena Samoilova, HR Partner, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4  
Renate Weller, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4

***Observers***

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Program Innovation and Planning) – left during Item 5

***Non-Voting Members***

Violet Baron  
David Stewart  
Melanie Zimmer

***Meeting Secretary***

Cherie Tutt

***Scribe***

Tasha Hodzic

***Staff***

Elizabeth Sjogren  
Holly Lywin

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 April 11, 2022 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair made no remarks.

The Academic Co-Chair introduced Holly Lywin, Governance and Student Appeals Coordinator to the Committee as a new member of the Secretariat staff. Tanille Shandro was thanked for her contributions to the Committee and the University on the occasion of her last meeting.

### **3. Approval of the March 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting held on March 28, 2022 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Recommendation of the Dissolution of Departments and the Creation of a Non-Departmentalized Structure for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Renate Weller presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent presented the proposal for the dissolution of departments within the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) and the creation of a non-departmentalized structure, reviewing the challenges within the Faculty that have led to this decision and the consultation process for determining the proposed structure
- In response to questions the proponent explained:
  - The FVM only has one undergraduate program, and the graduate programs within the Faculty are not specifically tied to Departments, so it is not anticipated that the new structure will impact how the programs are run
  - There are no plans to change current support staffing numbers, but there will be some reorganization and changes to tasks, and in response to feedback received during faculty consultation, a greater effort will be made to provide better clarity around roles and responsibilities
  - Students were consulted during a monthly student forum, and it was explained that students do not have a good understanding of the current departmentalized structure. It is hoped that removing the departmental structure will increase equity by standardizing supports for graduate students, such as mentorship opportunities and resource allocation.
  - That creating a non-departmentalized structure will create a more coherent network for collision/connectivity points between activities and people with a minimum of 2 contact points for each persons. There will also be efforts made to create cross-cutting interest groups, for different areas, such as outreach and curriculum delivery.
  - The roles and responsibilities for the two Associate Deans' (Professional Development) positions within the Faculty

- The Committee discussed the different leadership team roles, suggesting that further consideration be given to creating a Chair versus an Associate Dean of Wellbeing, Equality, Inclusion and Diversity, and that if the FVM moves forward with this structure that it be mindful of the potential power differential between the Chair and other Associate Deans and that mechanisms be put in place from the outset to support both Indigenous Engagement and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- The Committee requested that prior to the proposal being submitted to the General Faculties Council:
  - That the proposal address consultation with both undergraduate and graduate students and how the new structure will embed Indigenous Engagement
  - That the proposal clarifies the different consultation bodies and dates, who is included in the term “team”, and the roles and responsibilities for the new Associate Deans’ (Professional Development)

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) recommend that the General Faculties Council recommend that the Board of Governors approve the dissolutions of the Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, Department of Production Animal Health and Department of Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences and approve a non-departmentalized structure for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, effective immediately, as presented to the APPC with the requested amendments.

**Carried****5. Committee Survey Results Continued**

The Co-Chairs presented this item.

Prior to departing the meeting during this item, the Co-Chair thanked the members for their time and effort in response to the survey, noting that the Committee is in a transition period and that efforts are being made to create a path forward in a positive way and there is a commitment to making continuous improvements. She reported that the guidelines for program proposals relating to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Engagement requested by the Committee are in development and have been sent to the Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement and Vice-Provost of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for feedback and will be brought to the Committee once this feedback has been incorporated.

The Academic Co-Chair then remarked on the diversity of the feedback, highlighted that every member of the Committee is valued and appreciated, and that the Co-Chairs work to ensure all voices are heard.

1. The Academic Co-Chair then provided members with a full overview of the comments received and provided explanations of the University’s shared governance model, the role of the Committee, how the meeting schedules are set, Agenda planning, that feedback from the Committee is being considered by the Program Innovation Team for future changes to the program templates, expectations for proponents, the roles of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair, plans for the Committee specific orientation, how feedback from the Committee has been received by some proponents, and the voting and non-voting membership structure.

The Committee discussed: that some of the challenges the Committee has faced this year may be in part due to having the meetings held over Zoom versus in person; that the nature of some topics is more contentious than others and that it is ok to have a debate and different viewpoints; perceived inequities amongst members relating to voting and non-voting status, that all members of General Faculties Council (GFC) are voting, including individuals from the different unions and that given responsibilities are delegated from the GFC to the Committee this should be further considered along with the other concerns raised

#### 6. Future Outlook

This item was not discussed.

#### 7. Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 8. Adjournment

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the April 11, 2022 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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Cherie Tutt  
Meeting Secretary