

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

April 17, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Penny Werthner, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Kristin Baetz
Mark Bauer
Marjan Eggermont
Michael Hart
Dawn Johnston
Nicole Schmidt – arrived during Item 5
Malinda Smith
Dora Tam

Regrets

Barbara Brown
Saaka Sulemana Saaka

Guests

Boris Dragicevic, Associate Vice-President (Facilities Development) – present for Item 7
Stephen Hubbard, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Science – present for Item 5
Mary O’Brien, Senior Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 4
Adam Pidlisecky, Interim Department Head, Geoscience, Faculty of Science – present for Item 5
Jackie Sieppert, Interim Director, The School of Public Policy – present for Item 6
Amy Warren, Associate Dean, Curriculum, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 7
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost Graduate Studies and Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee – present for Item 4

Non-Voting Members

Hannah Ashton
David Stewart
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

Resource Personnel

Christine Johns, Senior Director, Program Innovation and Planning

The Co-Chair provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the April 17, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair remarked on:

- Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), has accepted an extension of her role until December 31, 2023
- The Presidential Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility has begun meeting and has had two successful meetings. The Task Force will be taking a break during July and August and will resume meetings in the Fall.
- The You at UCalgary event held on April 1st for the incoming undergraduate class of 2027 had excellent attendance and provided incoming students an opportunity to discover the campus, connect with faculty, and learn about resources that will be available to them
- The 55th annual Night of the Dino awards gala took place on April 11th and was a great night of celebration in recognition of the University's varsity and club teams

3. Approval of the March 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meetings held on March 13, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of Graduate Academic Regulation Changes to Sections D.1: Registration and D.3 Student Status related to Term-based Registration

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Mary O'Brien presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the rationale for the changes to the graduate Academic Regulations for Sections D.1: Registration and D.3 Student Status, explaining that as preparations were being made to implement term-based registration for course-based graduate students in Spring Term 2023, it became apparent that these sections required updating to align with new definitions, to explain the effects of a course-based student withdrawing from courses and to add clarity for both course-based and thesis-based students around scheduled breaks, and what happens when students fail to register
- It was reported that term-based registration was approved last year and was done in part to ensure the University's compliance with Canadian law in terms of part-time and full-time status for students
- In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The implementation of term-based registration was preemptive and not reactive to a specific case, and the presenters believe the new system will provide clear information about a student's status
- That when full-time and part-time status were defined the University did a thorough review of other graduate level Faculties and are in alignment with other Canadian universities, with the University's definitions falling on the student-centric side

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to Graduate Academic Regulations Sections D.1: Registration and D.3 Student Status in the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, effective for Spring Term 2023, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

Carried**5. Recommendation of the Name Change for the Department of Geoscience to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Stephen Hubbard and Adam Pidlisecky presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the history of the Department of Geoscience, including how internal and external factors have led to the current low enrolment in the Department's programs and which prompted the proposed name change from the Department of Geoscience to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment (DEEE). It was reported that along with the rebranding the Environmental Science program, which currently is not associated with any department, will be moved within the DEEE.
- The presenters explained that the proposed name change aligns with the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary priorities of the University, and that the proposed rebranding and the move of the existing Environmental Science program are the result of extensive engagement with stakeholders in the geoscience community. The presenters then reviewed how the rebranding responds to student demand and will create a home for addressing Earth's grand challenges, both in research, pedagogy and innovation within the Faculty of Science.
- In response to questions, the presenters reported:
 - There are no intentions to change the names of the programs within the Department
 - On the consultations with the Department of Geography in the Faculty of Arts, the interrelationship between the two departments, overlapping subject areas, operational challenges to working together, and that there is no intent to usurp programming or students from Geography and the changes are focused on building a strong Department within the Faculty of Science
 - That outreach with high schools is being done to engage with potential new students

- That 'Science' was left out of the new Department title as it is felt that because the Department is within the Faculty of Science this would be clear, and the proposed name is believed to better reflect the transdisciplinary nature of the programs. The Department will ensure that the communications which announce this change will be worded to reduce any confusion.
- At this stage the proposal before the Committee is for a name change and there will be greater consultation during future stages with relevant programs and the Office of Indigenous Engagement and the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility. It is felt that the name change is critical to start the revitalization of the Department.
- Support for the evolution and diversification of the Department was expressed by the Committee, and members provided suggestions for future work, including ways to align with ii' taa'poh'to'p and highlight the work the Faculty of Science and Department are doing in terms of Indigenous engagement, and to be able to demonstrate the Department's expressed commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA)
- The Committee discussed:
 - Concerns that there is duplication with the proposed Department name and the Energy and Environment Minor in the Schulich School of Engineering
 - Concerns with the timing of the consultation conducted with the Department of Geography and the presenters' response to said consultation, and that consultation should be done with all relevant parties enough in advance to allow for meaningful feedback and dialogue
 - The challenges arising from having programs/departments with duplication across different Faculties and how this may cause confusion for students, and the supports needed to better operationalize transdisciplinary teaching, learning and research. Some of the Committee members expressed being uncomfortable moving forward with the name change, with some of the larger structural issues being unresolved.
- The Committee suggested that:
 - Including next steps within the briefing note or supporting materials could be beneficial, such as what efforts will be made to engage potential students or anticipated curricular changes
 - Prior to presentation at the General Faculties Council, the documentation and presentation be updated to reflect that the name change supports the Department's commitment to increase diversity of faculty, staff, and students

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve a change of name of the Department of Geoscience to the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, as presented to the Committee.

Carried

Malinda Smith and Dawn Johnston abstained and Marjan Eggermont opposed.

6. Quality Assurance Unit Review for The School of Public Policy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner and Jackie Sieppert presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided the rationale for the delay in the Committee receiving the Quality Assurance (QA) Unit Review for the School of Public Policy (SPP), including that there was a delay with the review team producing the report and staffing changeovers in both the Provost's Office and the SPP. It was observed that the QA report for the SPP is relatively brief and lacks detail. The SPP had already identified many of the suggestions raised within the report and work to address these is underway.
- The Interim Director of the SPP was acknowledged for his work and it was reported that the hiring process for the SPP's new Director will commence shortly
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - As per the process outlined in the QA Academic Unit Review Handbook the Committee receives the public report, which includes the recommendations from the review report and the response to the recommendations from the unit, and not the full review report
 - The report and responses were shared with the SPP members at a town hall and were also circulated via email
 - There is support for the SPP remaining an autonomous unit and there was extensive discussion regarding this. It was not felt that as per recommendation one (1) that the SPP should be embedded in the Faculty of Law.
 - The SPP has a committee which is tasked with enhancing its organizational culture and reviewing procedures and structures to identify and respond to implicit biases
- The Committee suggested that in developing responses relating to recommendation four (4) *SPP should ensure its team is diverse and inclusive* it would be beneficial for the unit to consult with the Office of Indigenous Engagement and the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility on actions and responses. This would help to ensure that the work that is planned to address both areas is distinct, and that work being done aligns the SPP with the Indigenous Strategy.

7. Space Program for Veterinary Medicine Program Expansion

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Boris Dragicevic and Amy Warren presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the space program and the blocking and stacking proposed for the Veterinary Medicine Program Expansion project, explaining that the main objective for the project is to create additional teaching and learning spaces to respond to the increased enrolment from 50 to 100 students in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The new washrooms are all single person and gender neutral. Gendered washrooms are available in the connecting Clinical Skills building. The Committee noted the importance of having clear signage for the washrooms and a variety of options for inclusivity.
 - The fitness/yoga and meditation room is located in the Clinical Skills building near the change rooms. Renovations to the Clinical Skills building will be happening concurrently. There will also be some changes happening at the W.A. Ranches site.
 - The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine received Students' Union Quality Money to support the creation of a dedicated examination space, with space to accommodate 40-50 students, and the space is being developed with accommodation needs in mind, including individual soundproofed rooms
 - The next stage of the project will include consultation with the Indigenous community, and a meeting with Indigenous elders has been planned. The Indigenous perspective on the animal and human bond and how this relates to the proposed space will be invaluable.
 - There will be rooms that will be smudge friendly
- The Committee discussed that:
 - It is pleased to see dedicated space for a lactation room, but that this should be separate from a prayer space. Members of the Committee shared their experience that requiring prayer space to be booked in advance can create access barriers and it is better if there is a space that can be accessed anytime. It was also suggested that, if possible, a larger space be created for this purpose, noting the growing need for these facilities.
 - Signage will be important and should include braille
 - Advisor spaces would benefit from more than one access point to create safer spaces and panic buttons should be included in areas where exits are less accessible

8. Other Business

Nicole Smith was acknowledged for her contributions and service on the Committee for the past two years on this occasion of her last meeting.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the April 17, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.