



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

May 27, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

A167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robin Yates* (Co-Chair) – left during Item 4, returned during Item 5
Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)
Marjan Eggermont* – left during Item 4
Sheri Madigan*
Shawna Cunningham
Malinda Smith
Kristin Baetz
Ermia Rezaei-Afsah
Saaka Sulemana Saaka – left during Item 5

Regrets

Mark Bauer
Cydnee Seneviratne
Barbara Brown

Guests

Tara Beattie (Co-Chair, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Item 4
Dave Anderson (Associate Dean, Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Faculty of Graduate Studies) – for Item 4
Kenna Kelly-Turner (Senior Program Development Specialist, Faculty of Graduate Studies) – for Item 4
Brian Calliou (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law) – for Item 5
David Wright (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law) – for Item 5
Andrew Showalter (Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives, Faculty of Law) – for Item 5
Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair, Academic Program Subcommittee and Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning) – for Items 5 and 6
Vanessa Wood (Deputy Registrar) – for Item 6
Amy Dambrowitz* (Registrar and Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee) – for Items 6 and 7
Nancy Chibry (Academic Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee) – for Item 7
Verity Turpin (Vice-Provost, Student Experience) – for Item 7
Caroline O’Shea* (Project Associate, Student and Enrolment Services) – for Item 7
Ellen Perrault (Dean, Faculty of Social Work) – for Item 8

**Attended virtually*

Non-Voting Members

Hannah Ashton – left during Item 4
Justine Wheeler – arrived during Item 4
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Resource Personnel

Christine Johns
Kelly Hoglund
Elizabeth Pando*
Jessica Revington*
Jaclyn Carter*

The Academic Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Academic Co-Chair provided the traditional land acknowledgement and noted that Item 8 will be presented after Item 5 for scheduling reasons.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the May 27, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Academic Co-Chair shared that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) has appointed their President, Saaka Sulemana Saaka, to the APPC and welcomed him to his first meeting. She also welcomed Ermia Rezaei-Afsah, for whom this is the second meeting as Students' Union (SU) President.

The Academic Co-Chair shared that Dr. Sandra Davidson has been appointed Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for a five-year term starting July 1, 2024, and that Dr. Catherine Laing has been appointed Interim Dean for the Faculty of Nursing.

3. Approval of the May 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the May 13, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the Creation of the Specialization in Water Resilience within the Master of Transdisciplinary Research and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Transdisciplinary Research

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. This item was presented by Marjan Eggermont, Executive Co-director, UNU Hub, and David Anderson, Associate Dean Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS). Tara Beattie, Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) provided a preamble on the Subcommittee's recommendation.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed specialization, noting that it aligns with institutional priorities for transdisciplinary research, complements the other two transdisciplinary specializations in Policy Studies and Quantum Science and Technology, and is intended to be accessible to students across all areas of study on campus
- The presenters also provided an overview of the partnership with the United Nations University (UNU) associated with this specialization, which is expected to come with a scholarship. They explained that the University of Calgary is the world's first UNU Hub, and that other UNU Hubs are currently under development.

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Transdisciplinary programs will have their own funding policy, which is currently under development. The policy will ensure that students are supported at or above FGS minimum requirements while also ensuring that their supervisors are not disincentivized from applying for grant funding. It will also address stipend payments for students who go beyond their expected program completion time, in alignment with existing precedents.
 - The transdisciplinary programs will be integrated with the Graduate College to provide a central home for students in these programs and foster a transdisciplinary program community. Mentorship opportunities will be built into this structure. Training for supervisors taking on students in transdisciplinary research is also under consideration.
 - One MaPS staff member (Senior Program Manager) and one AUPE staff member (Coordinator, Graduate College) have been hired to support the transdisciplinary programs. Funding has also been set aside to hire a second AUPE staff member (Graduate Program Administrator) before the programs launch in Fall 2025.
 - The proponents have not yet connected with specific Indigenous Elders as they are awaiting the arrival of Dr. Deborah McGregor, incoming Canada Excellence Research Chair in Indigenous Ways of Climate and Water Sustainability for Planetary Health and Well-being, who will be leading the UNU Hub's 'Building resilience in Indigenous communities' research cluster as of July 1, 2024
- The Committee's discussion included the following suggestions:
 - Exploring linkages with Indigenous-led water-related initiatives, such as the Water & Tribes Initiative in the Colorado River Basin
 - Utilizing the term "meaning inclusion" instead of just "inclusion" to capture inclusive governance practices and our institutional commitment to pluralism
- The Committee noted that this specialization also aligns with the University's Mental Health strategy, in addition to those listed in the proposal

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Specialization in Water Resilience within the Master of Transdisciplinary Research and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Transdisciplinary Research, effective for Fall 2025, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Approval of the Creation of the Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law within the Juris Doctor (JD) Program, Faculty of Law

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. This item was presented by Brian Calliou, Assistant Professor, David Wright, Associate Professor, and Andrew Showalter, Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives from the Faculty of Law. Wendy Benoit, Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) provided a preamble on the Subcommittee's recommendation.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed concentration, which has been developed by the Faculty of Law in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Call to Action and a need for more Indigenous-specific law education recognized since the 1970s

- The presenters explained that there is strong student interest in this concentration and that the proposed effective date of Winter 2025 would allow students who have supported the development of the concentration to be admitted to it before they graduate
- The presenters shared that consultation with local law firms confirmed labour market demand for law school graduates that have Indigenous-specific training
- The University of Calgary would be the first post-secondary institution in the prairie provinces to offer Indigenous-specific programming for a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, and would allow us to compete with schools like the University of Victoria that are established in this field
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Hiring a tenure-track Indigenous faculty member is a priority for the Faculty of Law
 - Developing an Indigenous law course is also a priority, and would incorporate Nakoda, Blackfoot, and Dene culture and perspectives on dispute resolution and normative behaviour
 - The Faculty of Law has a dedicated AUPE staff member (Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives) for supporting this program as well as other Indigenous initiatives
- The Committee's discussion included the following suggestions:
 - Considering Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park as a possible site for moot court or other field-based learning opportunities for JD students
 - Encouraging staff and faculty members in the Faculty of Law to take the new URise program, created by the Office of Indigenous Engagement in collaboration with Human Resources, to enhance their understanding of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures and worldviews
- The importance of having a strong recruitment strategy for hiring an Indigenous faculty member was also discussed, recognizing that there is significant competition to recruit and retain Indigenous legal scholars in Canada

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law within the Juris Doctor (JD) program in the Faculty of Law, effective Winter 2025, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

Secretary's Note: Item 8 was presented before Item 6 due to the availability of proponents.

6. Approval of the Changes to the Academic Regulations: Section E. Course Information and Section G. Academic Assessments and Examinations

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. This item was presented by Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar, Vanessa Wood, Deputy Registrar, and Wendy Benoit, Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the changes that were made in response to feedback received at the last APPC meeting, including:

- A direct point of contact for students requesting accommodation on protected grounds other than disability has been added
- Revision of Section G.2.3 to address complexities that can arise if a student misses an academic assessment, including provision for the Dean (or their delegate) to support
- Revision of wording in Section G.2.1 to ensure compatibility with Section B.14.1 *Withdrawal from a Course(s)* regarding a student’s right to be informed of their current standing in a course in advance of the withdrawal deadline
- Clean-up of grammar and subsection numbering/organization

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the Academic Regulations Section E. *Course Information* and Section G. *Academic Assessments and Examinations*, effective September 1, 2024, as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee and the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee, and as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Approval of the Changes to Academic Regulation Section M.1 Supporting Documentation

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. This item was presented by Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost, Student Experience. Nancy Chibry and Amy Dambrowitz, Co-Chairs of the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee provided a preamble on the Subcommittee’s recommendation.

Highlights:

- The presenter shared that based on feedback received through the governance process, the updated academic regulation Section M.1 will be implemented jointly with Sections E and G.
- The presenter explained that a communication plan is under development to support the Fall 2024 roll-out of all three academic regulations. This plan will be prepared by the M.1 Working Group in consultation with Amy Dambrowitz (Registrar) and Wendy Benoit (Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning).
- This work will also include the development of a webpage for faculty members and students to support operationalization of the regulations
- Appreciation was extended by the Students’ Union President for the collaborative approach to these changes and for the incorporation of student feedback

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the academic regulation Section M.1 *Supporting Documentation*, effective Fall 2024, as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee and as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

8. Faculty of Social Work Midterm Unit Review Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. This item was presented by Ellen Perrault, Dean, Faculty of Social Work.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the Faculty of Social Work's unit review, which was completed virtually due to Covid restrictions in Fall 2020. All three Social Work campuses (Calgary, Lethbridge, and Edmonton) were included in the review.
- The presenter shared that the Master of Social Work (MSW) program was granted the maximum accreditation term of 7 years from the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators and will be applying for accreditation for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program next year.
- The presenter also highlighted changes that the Faculty of Social Work has made in response to the unit review's recommendations:
 - Developed a new BSW curriculum, combining two separate curricula into one. New curriculum was approved by the APPC in March 2023 for Fall 2024 implementation.
 - Reorganized Associate Dean portfolios to oversee programs (e.g., undergraduate, graduate) rather than campuses (e.g., Lethbridge, Edmonton)
- The Faculty is also working to address an over-reliance on sessional instructors identified in the unit review by seeking new faculty hires in the Assistant Professor (Teaching) stream
- The Committee's discussion included:
 - That 10-12% of the Faculty of Social Work's student population is Indigenous and this makes it a leader in this area at the University
 - The Faculty does not have a specific strategy to address under-representation of males in the field, but this is an area for future consideration
- The Faculty of Social Work was commended for its work in anti-racism and equity, as well as for its continued excellence in building academic partnerships with Indigenous communities

9. Program Approvals Status Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

10. Subcommittee Reports

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. The Academic Program Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held May 6, 2024.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

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

Courtney McVie, University Secretary