



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

March 25, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

A100a (Executive Suite)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robin Yates (Co-Chair)
Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)
Mark Bauer
Marjan Eggermont
Barbara Brown
Sheri Madigan – arrived during Item 4
Shawna Cunningham*
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette*

Regrets

Kristin Baetz
Kirsten Nepriily
Malinda Smith
Cydnee Seneviratne

Non-Voting Members

Hannah Ashton
Justine Wheeler*
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Observers & Resource Personnel

Elizabeth Pando Burciaga
Jaclyn Carter*
Kelly Hoglund*

Guests

Jeffrey Priest (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & MEng Program, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Items 4 and 5
Joanna Wong* (Associate Head, Graduate Studies, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 5
Ron Hugo (Professor, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 5
Ke (Duke) Du* (Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering) – for Item 5
Ryan Hamilton (Assistant Head, Undergraduate, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science) – for Item 6
Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair of Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Items 6 and 7
Nancy Chibry (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs & Student Affairs, Faculty of Science) – for Items 6 and 7
Kristin Chow (Senior Specialist, WIL & Careers, Faculty of Science) – for Item 7
Amy Dambrowitz* (Registrar) – for Item 7

**Attended virtually*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Academic Co-Chair provided the traditional land acknowledgement.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 25, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair shared that the operationalization of the Academic Innovation Plan is now underway. When the Committee is approving program proposals, they are asked to keep in mind the size of the program being considered in the context of institutional enrolment expansion goals.

The Co-Chair also shared that work is underway to assign Interim Deans for the Schulich School of Engineering and the Faculty of Law.

3. Approval of the March 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the March 11, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the Termination of the Thesis-based Master of Engineering (MEng) Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Jeffrey Priest, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & MEng Program, Schulich School of Engineering presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposal to terminate the thesis-based Master of Engineering (MEng) program. This program has not been offered for a number of years and students interested in research are better served by the thesis-based Master of Science (MSc) in Engineering program, through which students receive funding.
- This termination will bring clarity to the graduate degrees offered by the Schulich School of Engineering, with the MEng being the course-based professional program option and the MSc being the thesis-based research program option
- In response to questions, it was explained that this termination does not require Ministry approval as the thesis-based stream is a delivery option of the MEng credential, rather than a unique credential itself

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the thesis-based Master of Engineering (MEng) program, effective immediately, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Approval of the Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Pipeline Engineering

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Jeffrey Priest, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & MEng Program; Joanna Wong, Associate Head, Graduate Studies, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering; Ron Hugo, Professor, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering; and Ke (Duke) Du, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, from the Schulich School of Engineering presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal to terminate the Graduate Certificate in Pipeline Engineering. The certificate was originally developed as a condensed training program for working professionals in response to demand from industry partners.
- The primary reason for termination is insufficient interest from students
- When asked about lessons learned, the presenters noted that the shorter completion time was not enough of an incentive to outweigh the higher tuition rates of the certificate courses relative to that of the MEng with specialization in Pipeline Engineering program. Additionally, for shorter programs, working professionals are choosing in-house training programs offered by their employers as they can be completed during company time.
- In response to questions, it was explained that as the 1-unit certificate courses are no longer offered, the student who remains registered in the program has been offered the option to complete the program with comparable 3-unit MEng courses
- It was acknowledged that the proposal noted there would be no impact to AUPE staff as a result of the program termination
- The Committee commended the proponents for bringing forward this proposed termination, recognizing the importance of being able to learn from reviewing programs that do not succeed

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Pipeline Engineering, effective July 1, 2025, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried

6. Approval of the Reactivation of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) and BSc Honours in Statistics, and Suspension leading to Termination of the Statistics Concentration in the BSc in Mathematics

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Ryan Hamilton, Assistant Head, Undergraduate, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and Nancy Chibry, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs & Student Affairs, from the Faculty of Science presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal to reactivate the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Statistics, which was prompted by recommendations from the 2023 Faculty of Science curriculum review, as well as student and alumni feedback
- Students interested in specializing in Statistics would be better served by a BSc in Statistics than by the Concentration, as this would make their area of expertise more visible to employers, and the department better able to respond to their needs

- The curriculum review recommended a number of changes to the BSc in Mathematics that have not been implemented because they would negatively impact students who are pursuing the Statistics Concentration. Terminating the Statistics Concentration would allow for the necessary changes to be made to the BSc in Mathematics, thereby benefiting students pursuing the general degree program.
- The Faculty of Science did not incur any cost savings following the suspension of the BSc in Statistics, therefore the reactivation is not expected to result in new expenses
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The proposal was prepared with a projected enrolment of 50-200 students to plan for an upper limit, but the actual number of students expected to join the BSc in Statistics program is lower
 - There is no anticipated need for additional support staff as the majority of students joining the BSc in Statistics are expected to be moving from other programs
 - The Faculty of Science has a combined degree agreement with the Haskayne School of Business for the Actuarial Science and Mathematics majors, and the BSc in Statistics will be added if reactivation is approved
 - All courses associated with the BSc in Statistics are still offered, and in some cases even offered more frequently than prior to the suspension of the program due to the subsequent launch of the Data Science and Analytics graduate program

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the reactivation of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) and BSc (Honours) in Statistics, effective July 2024, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension leading to termination of the Concentration in Statistics within the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Mathematics, effective July 2024, contingent upon the Ministry of Advanced Education's approval of the reactivation of the BSc/BSc Honours in Statistics, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried**7. Approval of the Changes to the Science Internship Program**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. From the Faculty of Science, Nancy Chibry, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs & Student Affairs, and Kristin Chow, Senior Specialist, WIL & Careers presented this item. Wendy Benoit, Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) attended to provide a preamble on the APS recommendation.

Highlights:

- The presenters shared an overview of the proposed changes to the Science Internship Program (SIP), which was launched in Fall 2020, and requires students to complete an eight-month continuous work placement. After the pandemic, four-month work terms started to become more common, resulting in the Faculty of

Science making many exceptions to allow students to meet the requirements of the SIP by completing two (or more) four-month work terms with academic periods in between.

- The proposal is to change the SIP to a Co-operative Education (Co-op) program, as the Co-op model would allow students the flexibility to complete their required work placements either as separate four-month work terms or as continuous terms ranging in length from eight to sixteen months
- The proposal also includes the addition of a new course, Science (SCIE) 505 that students could choose to take while on work term. The course would be asynchronous, online and would include professional skills development modules as well as reflective exercises pertaining to the student's work placement.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The future vision for WIL programming in the Faculty of Science is a more flexible structure that would allow students to get various forms of recognition for different lengths of work placements. The University of Victoria's model was raised as an example.
 - The SCIE 505 course will have same tuition rate as other Science courses. It will be pass/fail (CR/F) and students will get feedback on each module within the course. Since the course would count for credit towards their degree, taking the course would not increase the overall tuition paid for their program.
 - SCIE 505 will not cover pre-work term skills, such as resume writing, job searching, or networking, but the Faculty of Science offers student advising services in these areas
 - To ensure quality WIL experiences, the Faculty of Science internship team vets all placements at the job posting stage, when students receive an offer letter, and through regular check-ins with students during the course of their work terms
- The Committee's discussion included:
 - The Faculty of Science's program does not align with Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada's definition of a Co-op program but does align with the University's definition. Changes would be required for this program, as well as other Faculties' internship/Co-op programs, should the University seek CEWIL accreditation in the future.
 - Flexibility in WIL programs is an important consideration because the ability to offer students quality WIL experiences is impacted by the broader economic climate
 - The importance of communicating the program changes to third-party sponsors. All work placements are paid positions, which may impact a sponsored student's ability to continue receiving funding.
 - Ensuring that all instances of the term "internship" are replaced with "Co-op", such as the program's webpage URL
 - The Co-op Program will be noted on degree parchments for students who complete the program
- The Committee expressed strong support for allowing students the option to take a course for academic credit while on work term

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the Faculty of Science's Internship Program, effective Fall 2024, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Carried

8. Mid-Year Member Survey Results

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Courtney McVie, University Secretary, presented this item for discussion.

Highlights:

- The presenter shared that out of 16 members polled, 7 responses were received
- In response to the feedback, the University Secretariat will work with the Program Innovation Hub on streamlining program proposals for ease of review and add information on the Committee composition and purpose to the orientation presentation provided in the first meeting of the year
- Feedback from the survey was also considered for the annual updates to the Committee Terms of Reference, which will be discussed at the next meeting
- Technical upgrades currently underway in A167 should address recent sound quality issues for members attending virtually

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 March 4, 2024.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:57 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary