



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

February 26, 2024, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

A167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

***Voting Members***

Robin Yates (Co-Chair)  
Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)  
Mark Bauer  
Cydnee Seneviratne  
Marjan Eggermont – left during Item 5  
Barbara Brown\*  
Sheri Madigan\* – arrived during Item 4, left during Item 5  
Shawna Cunningham\* – arrived during Item 2  
Kristin Baetz  
Shazia Jinnah Morsette\*  
Kirsten Nepriily

***Regrets***

Malinda Smith

***Guests***

Tara Beattie (Co-Chair of Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Item 4  
Justin MacCallum (Associate Dean Graduate, Faculty of Science) – for Item 4  
Michelle Dolgos (Associate Head Graduate, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science) – for Item 4  
Jeff Van Humbeck (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science) – for Item 4  
Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair of Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Item 5  
Sara Hastings-Simon (Associate Professor, Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, Faculty of Science) – for Item 5  
David Eaton\* (Professor, Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, Faculty of Science) – for Item 5  
Nancy Chibry (Associate Dean Undergraduate, Faculty of Science) – for Item 5  
Joanne Fung (Program Proposal Specialist, Faculty of Science) – for Item 5

*\*Attended virtually*

***Non-Voting Members***

Melanie Zimmer\*  
Hannah Ashton\*

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie\*

***Scribe***

Michelle Speta

***Observers & Resource Personnel***

Christine Johns  
Kelly Hoglund  
Jessica Revington  
Elizabeth Pando Burciaga\*

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 February 26, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs**

The Co-Chair shared that the Provost's Team is working with the Alberta government regarding the development of a system for issuing provincial attestation letters for international students. Students are now required to submit a provincial attestation letter with their study permit application as part of the new federal cap on study permits. The Alberta government is aiming to have a system in place by early March and the Provost's Office is carefully monitoring international student application pressure and conversion rates for Fall 2024.

**3. Approval of the February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes from the February 5, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**4. Approval of the Change in Course Requirements for the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemistry**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Jeff Van Humbeck, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, and Justin MacCallum, Associate Dean Graduate, Faculty of Science, presented this item. Tara Beattie, Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) provided a preamble on the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview for the proposal to reduce the required course load for the MSc and PhD programs in Chemistry, dropping the number of required units from 9 to 7 for the MSc and from 12 to 10 for the PhD
- Additionally, a new 1.0 unit mandatory course for both MSc and PhD students on Teaching and Mentorship in Chemistry is proposed
- The changes are being made in response to student feedback in parallel with a departmental course redesign
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - Currently, the most popular course for thesis-based graduate students is independent studies, and feedback from students revealed that they do not feel most courses are adding value to their academic experience because of the subject matter not being relevant to their research areas
  - Feedback from students also indicated a desire for more flexibility to pursue professional development and entrepreneurial opportunities, which the Faculty of Science supports

- The new number of required courses is a minimum, and graduate supervisors can recommend that students take additional courses if any knowledge gaps are identified
- The proposed changes have no budgetary impacts
- The Committee discussed the new Teaching and Mentorship course, Chemistry 654, and identified a need for the Calendar description to be revised. In particular, the Committee requested clarification on the type of teaching for which students will be prepared over the course of their degree program.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the change in course requirements for the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemistry, effective Fall 2024, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) and as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee with the requested amendment and except for the Calendar entry for Chemistry 654 which shall return to the GAPS Calendar Working Group and GAPS for revision and approval, respectively.

**Carried****5. Approval of the Creation of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Minor in Energy Science**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sara Hastings-Simon Associate Professor, Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, Faculty of Science, presented this item. Wendy Benoit, Co-Chair of the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) provided a preamble on the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal to create a new Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree program with a Major in Energy Science, noting that the program responds to industry employer demand and a high degree of interest from students
- Students in the program will develop a transdisciplinary skillset that includes both a scientific core understanding of energy systems and knowledge of how energy systems connect with society, all integrated with Indigenous studies
- Complementary to the BSc, the proposed Minor in Energy Science would replace the existing Concentration in Energy Science that is currently available to students in the BSc in Natural Sciences
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - Land-based Learning could be incorporated into some of the program's core courses, with care to ensure reciprocity in relationships with Indigenous communities
  - The Faculty of Science is aiming for a large cohort of students upon program launch because of the Faculty's trends in application pressure, which show that for every student offered admission five qualified students are not offered a seat due to capacity limitations. The Faculty is planning nationwide recruitment of students for direct entry into the program in addition to transfer students from other Science programs.
  - The proposed budget for the program, noting that if the Government of Alberta opens a call for enrolment expansion funding this year, the Faculty of Science will submit a proposal for this program. Otherwise, the Faculty of Science will reallocate funding to support the program.
  - The "non-personnel costs" line item in the budget refers to startup costs for new faculty hires and lab renovations

- The Faculty of Science reserves seats in first-year courses for Science majors, and this reserve will be expanded starting in Fall 2025 to account for Energy Science. The Faculty of Science also consulted with the Faculty of Arts regarding the Indigenous courses and confirmed that they have capacity to take on more students.
- The Faculty of Science recently hired four new Indigenous faculty members, three of whom hold expertise in energy systems and will be involved with the program
- The Committee advised the proponents to connect with the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning regarding their work on developing a parallel path for Experiential Learning and Land-based Learning for support with incorporating the latter in the Energy Science curriculum

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Energy Science, effective July 1, 2025, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

**Carried****Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve creation of a Minor in Energy Science, effective July 1, 2025, contingent upon approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education to deliver a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Energy Science, as recommended by the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

**Carried****6. APPC Mid-year Member Survey Results**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

*Secretary's Note: This item was postponed to the next meeting due to time limitations.*

**7. Program Approvals Status Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**8. Subcommittee Reports**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

The Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held January 25, 2024.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:04 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary