



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

February 5, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

A167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robin Yates (Co-Chair)
Mark Bauer
Marjan Eggermont
Barbara Brown
Sheri Madigan – arrived during Item 7
Malinda Smith*
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette*
Kirsten Nepriily*

Non-Voting Members

Melanie Zimmer*
Hannah Ashton

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Regrets

Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)
Kristin Baetz
Shawna Cunningham
Cydnee Seneviratne

Observers & Resource Personnel

Christine Johns
Kelly Hoglund*
Jessica Revington*

Guests

Tara Beattie (Interim Dean and Vice-Provost, Graduate Studies and Co-Chair of Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee) – for Items 4, 5, and 6
Ari Pandes (Associate Dean, Professional Programs, Haskayne School of Business)* – for Item 5
Patrick Nay (Program Specialist, Haskayne School of Business)* – for Item 5
Dorothy Badry (Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, Faculty of Social Work)* – for Items 5 and 6
Gail Zuk (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Social Work)* – for Item 7
Jennifer de Roaldes (Associate Registrar, Information, Admissions, Recruitment) – for Items 7 and 8
Amy Dambrowitz (Co-Chair of Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee) – for Items 7 and 8

**Attended virtually*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Co-Chair provided the traditional land acknowledgement.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the February 5, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair reminded the Committee to complete the APPC member mid-year survey, noting that feedback is especially important this year as the Committee's Terms of Reference are up for review. The Co-Chair also extended thanks for the Committee's contributions to the Academic Innovation Plan, which is going to General Faculties Council (GFC) for approval on February 8, 2024.

3. Approval of the January 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the January 15, 2024 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of the Revisions to Graduate Academic Regulations Section A.3 Admission Categories

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Tara Beattie, Interim Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter explained that the 'Joint PhD Students' graduate admission category was initially developed in tandem with the closure of the Cotutelle program
- The proposed revisions to this admission category are to expand the joint program structure to all thesis-based graduate students, including Master's
- This was initiated by the launch of the University's partnership with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and will allow for the development of joint degree agreements for students at both the Master's and doctoral levels
- The Committee requested that the sentence regarding joint degree arrangements be revised to read: "Students will have supervisors at both institutions, and are required to physically attend the collaborating institution as a visiting student researcher for a minimum of six months for PhD programs and four months for thesis-based Master's programs, unless otherwise approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies."

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to graduate academic regulations Section A.3: *Admission Categories*, effective for the 2024-2025 Calendar, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried

5. Approval of the Termination of the Master of Social Work/Master of Business Administration (MSW/MBA) Combined Degree

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Dorothy Badry, Associate Dean Graduate Programs, Faculty of Social Work, and Ari Pandes, Associate Dean, Professional Graduate Program, Haskayne School of Business, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters explained that the termination of the MSW/MBA was due to a number of factors, particularly lack of interest from students, with only three students in total completing the program over the course of fourteen years
- The presenters also noted that the termination of the combined degree does not in anyway impact either Faculty's individual offerings of the MSW and MBA
- The Committee discussed lessons that can be learned from programs that do not succeed, noting that:
 - Special interest by an individual faculty member can be the driving force for program proposals, but it's important to ensure there is wide interest in the program and buy-in from across the Faculty to support it
 - It is critical to consider the value proposition to students when developing new programs. As an example, when developing a combined degree, thought must be given to how the combined program is more time- and cost-efficient for students than the two degrees taken individually would be.
 - It can take almost as much time to suspend and terminate an unsuccessful program as it does to develop and launch a new one
- The Committee thanked the proponents for doing the important work of cleaning up undersubscribed programs

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the Master of Social Work/Master of Business Administration combined degree program, effective immediately, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

6. Approval of the Termination of the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Mental Health and Addictions

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Dorothy Badry, Associate Dean Graduate Programs, Faculty of Social Work presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter explained that these programs were developed over 10 years ago as an inter-Faculty initiative, with the Faculty of Social Work being the home unit, in partnership with Alberta Health Services
- After the programs were approved, there was a change to the funding landscape, and as a result the programs were never launched and admissions were never opened
- Subsequently, the redesign of the MSW program incorporated mental health and addictions into its new curriculum, and the Faculty of Social Work developed the highly subscribed Interprofessional Health Education (IHPE) suite of courses, which cover these same topics and are open to students outside of Social Work
- In response to questions, it was explained that the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) is reaching out to Deans to discuss how their Faculties can contribute to offerings in the new transdisciplinary credential space
- The Committee noted that transdisciplinary credentials may offer a structure in which standalone certificates and diplomas (i.e., those that are not part of a ladder pathway to a Master's degree) would be more successful

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Mental Health and Addictions, effective immediately, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Approval of Revisions to the Faculty of Social Work's Undergraduate Admission Regulations

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Gail Zuk, Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Social Work presented this item. Amy Dambrowitz, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee (CCS) Co-Chair provided a preamble from the CCS.

Highlights:

- The presenter explained that Social Work (SOWK) 201 was an admission requirement to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program, but this was a barrier to entry. The proposal to make the course a program requirement instead of an admission requirement is an important change for accessibility.

- In response to questions it was explained that:
 - Students can still choose to complete SOWK 201 prior to applying for admission and this change has no impact on deferrals of admission
 - Students are required to complete the course by the end of the Winter term of their admission year. SOWK 201 is offered as a block week course in both the Fall and Winter terms. Extenuating circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a student earns a D grade in the course, they will have met the requirement to remain in the BSW program, but would need to retake the course to earn the pre-requisite pass grade of C- to continue to subsequent courses

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to the Faculty of Social Work's undergraduate admission regulations, effective immediately for Fall 2024 admissions, as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee and as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

8. Approval of Revisions to Undergraduate Admission Regulations

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Jennifer de Roaldes, Associate Registrar, Information, Admissions and Recruitment, presented this item. Amy Dambrowitz, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee Co-Chair, provided a preamble from the CCS.

Highlights:

- The presenter and CCS Co-Chair shared that the proposed changes are intended to improve pathways to the institution, clarity for students, and harmonize central admissions regulations with Faculty admissions regulations
- Revisions to Section A.5.6.2 *Indigenous Admission Supplementary Process* were made in consultation with Sarah Eaton, Academic Director and Interim Director of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Students are required to submit a request for a deferral of admission before the start of the admission term, but exceptions are made in extenuating circumstances
 - An example of a situation when exceptions were made to this regulation was in Fall 2021, when large numbers of international students were granted late deferrals of admission in response to the Canadian's governments delays in processing study permits
- The Committee requested the following amendment:
 - In Section A.4.5 *Deferral of Admission*, revise the sentence: "Requests to defer an offer of admission are not normally considered after the start of the admission term" to remove the term 'normally' and add language clarifying that requests are considered in exceptional circumstances only

- The Committee also recommended that, as part of the review of all Indigenous Pathway Programs, Section A.5.6.2 *Indigenous Admission Supplementary Process* be reviewed to ensure that language is achievement-oriented and positive. The language used for an equivalent program at the University of Saskatchewan was referenced as an example.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to the undergraduate admission sections in the Calendar, effective immediately for the Fall 2024 admissions cycle, as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee, and as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried

9. Status of Program Approvals Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

10. Subcommittee Reports

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

The Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held January 17, 2024. The Academic Program Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held January 22, 2024.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the February 5, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.