



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

November 20, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

***Voting Members***

Robin Yates (Co-Chair)  
Dawn Johnston (Academic Co-Chair)\*  
Mark Bauer  
Marjan Eggermont\*  
Cydnee Seneviratne  
Barbara Brown  
Sheri Madigan\*  
Malinda Smith\* – arrived during Item 2  
Kirsten Nepriily\* – arrived during Item 2  
Shawna Cunningham

***Non-Voting Members***

Stefanie Hassel  
Melanie Zimmer\*

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Scribe***

Michelle Speta

***Regrets***

Kristin Baetz  
Shazia Jinnah Morsette  
Leighton Wilks

***Guests***

Catherine Heggerud (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Haskayne School of Business) –  
for Item 4  
Nancy Chibry (Academic Co-Chair, Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee) – for Item 4  
Penny Werthner (Interim Provost & Vice-President Academic) – for Item 5

*\*Attended virtually*

---

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda & Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Academic Co-Chair provided the territorial acknowledgement.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the November 20, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

### Highlights:

- Congratulations were extended to Committee member Marjan Eggermont on her recent induction into the American Society for Engineering Education Hall of Fame.
- The Co-Chair shared a number of updates from the Provost's Office, including:
  - Tuition and fees for 2024-2025 have been recommended to the Board of Governors for approval by the Finance and Property Committee. A 2% increase for tuition and non-instructional fees has been proposed for all students, except international undergraduate and course-based graduate students, for whom a 6% increase has been proposed. A 10% increase was planned for the latter group, but this has been decreased to cover inflationary increases only following consultation with students.
  - A record number of students crossed the stage at this year's Fall Convocation. It was noted that the Fall Convocation will be moving to a two-day schedule starting next year to accommodate the growing number of students convocating at this time of year.
  - The safety and psychological safety of students impacted by the Israel-Hamas war remains a top priority. The University is non-partisan and the primary concern is that all students feel safe on campus even when there are demonstrations taking place.
  - The School of Public Policy is in the final stages of hiring a new Director. Executive searches are underway for new Deans of the Schulich School of Engineering and Faculty of Law, as well as for the new Dean & Vice-Provost of Graduate Studies and the new Provost & Vice-President (Academic). The interim Vice-Provost of Teaching & Learning (18-month term) will be announced within the next couple of weeks.

## **3. Approval of the October 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes from the October 30, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Approval of the Haskayne School of Business Indigenous Pathway for Admission**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Catherine Heggerud, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Haskayne School of Business presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenter introduced the proposed Indigenous Pathway Program for admission to the Haskayne School of Business as a bridging program for students whose high schools do not offer English 30-1 and Math 30-1, both of which are required courses for admission to the Bachelor of Commerce program

- The program was modelled after equivalent Pathway Programs in the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts, with students taking ENGL 212 and MATH 212 in lieu of the 30-1 high school courses. Students can get credit for ENGL 212 and MATH 212 towards their degree requirements to ensure timely completion of their degree and are permitted to take other 200-level courses concurrently in order to maintain their full-time student status as required for band funding.
- The need for consistency across the various Indigenous Pathway Programs at the University was discussed, as well as the importance of using inclusive, non-deficit language. It was noted that both of these endeavours will necessitate dedicated working groups but will be a future priority for the University.
- In response to questions, the presenter explained that:
  - The Haskayne School of Business has an advisor/program specialist whose role it is to support students in the Pathway Program, but they will give further consideration to expanding in-house remedial academic support services
  - Students in the Pathway Program are not part of the Ch'nook Scholars Program until they are officially admitted into the Bachelor of Commerce degree program, but immediate enrolment in the Ch'nook Scholar Programs will be considered
  - The Haskayne School of Business is exploring options for scholarships that could be issued to Pathway Program students to cover the tuition cost of ENGL 212 and MATH 212
  - Consultations with Indigenous faculty members in the teaching faculties regarding instructor assignments for ENGL 212 and MATH 212 have not been held in the past, but will be done with consideration for existing teaching loads and individual interest going forward

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of an Indigenous Pathway for admission into the Haskayne School of Business, effective immediately, as recommended by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **5. Academic Plan**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner, Interim Provost & Vice-President (Academic), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Academic Innovation Plan is a three-year plan that focuses on operationalizing the goals of the overarching seven-year institutional strategic plan *Ahead of Tomorrow*
- The presenter explained that the plan is structured around four domains:
  - Domain #1: Transformative student experience
  - Domain #2: Innovative academic programs
  - Domain #3: Increase influence and investment in our communities
  - Domain #4: Inclusive, caring, and sustainable campus culture

- The presenter also specifically highlighted four key initiatives: increasing financial support to thesis-based graduate students (1.1); the First-in-Family initiative (1.2); expanding required programming that focuses on entrepreneurial thinking, research, and creative scholarship (2.1); and expanding and enhancing blended and online learning opportunities in courses and program (3.1)
- The student-centric focus of the plan was commended and it was noted that implementing pro-student initiatives like increased funding for thesis-based graduate students may facilitate the achievement of the other objectives (e.g., graduate students can be more engaged in their academic programs and the campus community if they do not have to take on other employment)
- The importance of student advisors in creating a positive student experience was discussed, and recognition of the fact that the University is under-resourced in this area due to the budget cuts of the past several years was shared
- Workload concerns for staff will also be addressed through process and systems optimization and automation, as per Strategy #4 in *Ahead of Tomorrow*. Directors of Operations from all faculties are being consulted on needs in this regard.
- Editorial feedback was provided for Domain #4, including emphasizing the intercultural capacities and different ways of knowing that students bring to the institution themselves, focusing on a strengths-based approach, and clarifying the rationale for the key initiatives in this domain
- In response to requests, the presenter explained that:
  - Increasing flexibility for students to change majors and take courses outside of their programs will run as a pilot after consultation with students and faculties
  - In response to the influx of people moving to Calgary, the University has requested an increase to our Campus Alberta grant to allow us to grow our student population. These funds would allow us to hire both more support staff and faculty members
  - More robust technical support (IT) is a recognized need within Key Initiative 3.1
- Committee members were asked to provide comments on all four plans (Academic, Research, Operational, and Community) and invited to send feedback, including editorial notes, directly to the Office of Provost

## **6. Status of Program Approvals Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only:

- a) Report on the October 19, 2023 Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee
- b) Report on the November 6, 2023 Academic Program Subcommittee
- c) Report on the October 18, 2023 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the November 20, 2023 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

---

Courtney McVie  
University Secretary