



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES

April 8, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

A167 (Governors Boardroom)

Voting Members

Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair)
Amy Burns (Academic Co-Chair)
Sandra Amin
Getachew Assefa*
Amy Dambrowitz
Cari Gulbrandsen*
Samantha Thrift*
Leanne Wu

University Secretary

Courtney McVie

Meeting Secretary

Michelle Speta

Scribe

Holly Lywin

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Dora Tam*

Regrets

Qiao Sun

Guests

Anders Nygren, Vice-Dean, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 4
Arindom Sen, Department Head, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering
– present for Item 4
Sheila LeBlanc, Associate Vice-President, Continuing Education and Co-Chair, Professional & Continuing
Education (PaCE) Working Group – present for Item 5

Resource Personnel

Elizabeth Pando, Program Innovation Partner, Program Innovation Hub – present for Item 4

**Attended virtually*

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

1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement and Approval of the Agenda

Samantha Thrift, Associate Professor (Teaching), Faculty of Arts, provided the Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the April 8, 2024 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs thanked Sandra Amin, Vice-President (Academic) of the Students' Union, for her contributions to the Committee during her 2023-2024 term.

The Co-Chairs also confirmed that the proposals for the addition of a Practical Experience Requirement to the Graduation Requirements for Engineering Majors, the reactivation of the BSc/BSc Honours in Statistics and suspension leading to termination for the Statistics Concentration in Bachelor of Science (BSc) Mathematics, and the changes to the Science Internship Program were approved by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC).

3. Approval of the March 4, 2024, Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the March 4, 2024 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation for the Reactivation of the BSc in Oil and Gas Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Anders Nygren, Vice-Dean, Schulich School of Engineering and Arindom Sen, Department Head, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed reactivation of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Oil and Gas Engineering program, which was suspended in July 2021 due to low student enrolment because of an extended downturn in the oil and gas industry.
- Since then, the industry has rebounded and increasing industry demand for engineers with oil and gas training is the rationale for reactivation of the program.
- In response to questions, it was explained:
 - Due to continuing student enrolment in the Petroleum Engineering Minor, as well as in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering graduate programs, the BSc program will not require additional resources to reactivate
 - Although the reactivation is requested effective July 1, 2024, enrolment would only start in Fall 2025 as all engineering students share a common first year. Reactivating the program now would allow the SSE to advertise the program to first-year students, who apply to their preferred discipline in the Winter term by rank ordering their preferred specializations.
 - The program is anticipated to be resilient to future market fluctuations due to the heightened focus on energy security. Additionally, there is a growing interest in energy transition fields (e.g., hydrogen, geothermal energy, carbon capture and storage), which require oil and gas engineering expertise.
 - The SSE is planning a review of the program, including a possible name change as well as curriculum changes, after reactivation. The rationale for reactivating the program before making these changes is to allow for advertising to students in the Fall term and to demonstrate responsiveness to our industry partners.

- The program's Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) accreditation has lapsed. The CEAB has been consulted and will begin their accreditation process once there are fourth year students in the program to allow for a review of all content.
- The Committee recommended additional details be added to the briefing note to include:
 - That consultations with CEAB have taken place and details on the plan for accreditation of the program
 - The outline of future plans for rebranding as an "energy" program
 - A plan to commit to continuous faculty appointments to avoid reliance on sessionals
 - Clarification on the opportunities for students to pursue Minors in other specializations for enhanced employability
 - The rationale for not pursuing other options for this specialization area, such as creating an Oil and Gas Concentration
- The Committee requested an amendment to add information regarding Indigenous engagement and learning plans for the program to the reactivation proposal

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the reactivation of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Oil and Gas Engineering, effective July 1, 2024, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee with the requested amendment.

Carried

5. Updates to the Non-Credit Professional and Continuing Education Credentials Framework

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) Working Group Co-Chairs, Sheila LeBlanc, Associate Vice-President, Continuing Education and Christine Johns, Associate Deputy Provost, presented this item for discussion.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed updates to the Non-Credit Professional and Continuing Education Credentials Framework, which include the introduction of a micro-credential category that would allow students to apply both credit and non-credit courses towards a non-credit/professional micro-credential program.
- In response to questions, it was explained:
 - "Professional programs" in this context refer to non-credit micro-credentials that ladder into non-credit professional credentials within Continuing Education. Non-credit courses in Continuing Education are taught primarily by working professionals.
 - Continuing Education courses with assessments undergo review by an advisory committee of academic staff to ensure research-informed content
 - Approval processes must be followed for each type of credential as outlined in the Framework
 - The structure facilitates integration of credit and non-credit learning for non-traditional students to get professional upskilling. Courses developed jointly with Continuing Education but delivered by a Faculty would adopt a revenue-sharing model. Provincial funding is available for non-credit course and micro-credential development.

- The possibility of transferring non-credit courses into credit programs via a learning recognition assessment is not currently under consideration. The current proposal is only to allow for credit courses to apply towards non-credit programs.
- In collaboration with the Office of the Registrar, Continuing Education is looking into options for digital recognition of micro-credentials (e.g., digital badges)
- The Committee shared enthusiasm for the opportunities this will create for interprofessional learning and students interested in learning opportunities outside of their discipline
- The Committee recommended an addition to the proposal to clarify the framework is not related to credit professional programs and to add information on future work regarding digital badging

6. **Program Approvals Status Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. It was advised that questions can be directed to the Program Innovation Hub.

7. **Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the April 8, 2024 meeting.

Carried

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

Courtney McVie
Secretary