



General Faculties Council  
**GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

December 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom

***Voting Members***

Robin Yates – arrived during Item 7  
Kathryn King-Shier  
Amy Dambrowitz  
Rhiannon Jones  
Andy Knight  
Mary O'Brien  
Michael Wright  
James Steele

***Regrets***

Jocelyn Hayley  
Warren Wilson

***Non-Voting Members***

Christine Johns  
Francine Smith  
Louise Wells

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Meeting Secretary***

Cherie Tutt

***Scribe***

Holly Lywin

***Guests***

Violet Baron, Director Strategic Education Initiatives, Werklund School of Education – present for Items 4 & 5  
Maureen Hiebert, Director, Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies – present for Items 7 & 8  
Daniel McGrath, Graduate Program Director, Department of Psychology – present for Item 6  
Marlon Simmons, Associate Dean Graduate Programs, Werklund School of Education – present for Items 4 & 5

***Observers***

Kelly Hoglund, Partner, Program Innovation, Provost Office  
Elizabeth Pando Burciaga, Partner, Program Innovation, Provost Office  
Karen Quinn, Interim Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Provost Office  
Kelly Kay Spurlock, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Provost Office

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and confirmed quorum

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the December 14, 2022 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

## **2. Remarks of the Academic Co-Chair**

Karen Quinn, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Provost Office, was welcomed on this occasion of her first Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting. Karen will be filling in during a parental leave.

## **3. Approval of the November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes for the November 16, 2022 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Recommendation of the Termination of MSc in Educational Research**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Marlon Simmons and Violet Baron presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal to terminate the Master of Science (MSc) in Educational Research (EDER) program within the Werklund School of Education (Werklund School). It was reported that there has been a lack of demand for this program, there have been no new students admitted since 2015 and no students in the program since 2019 and an equivalent Master of Arts (MA) degree is available. This change will clarify admission pathways.
- The Committee suggested a small editorial change within the proposal to remove redundant information

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the termination of the Master of Science in Educational Research within the Werklund School of Education, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **5. Recommendation of a Change to the Course Requirements for the PhD in Educational Research in Adult Learning**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Marlon Simmons and Violet Baron presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed changes to add three course requirements (9 units) to the PhD in Educational Research Adult Learning Specialization. It was explained that the additional three courses will provide students with deeper understanding of the discipline, a stronger foundation in doctoral level specialization, and more research content. Additionally, the proposed

change aligns the total number of units required for all the specializations under the PhD program and still allows students opportunities to take additional courses.

- In response to a question, the presenters acknowledged while there may be trends in other fields to reduce the number of course requirements within PhDs. The proposed increase is consistent with other comparable education programs and there was substantive discussion within the Faculty about the appropriate number of courses for a PhD in Education. It was also explained that the additional courses will better support students in their research.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the change to course requirements for the Adult Learning Specialization in the PhD in Educational Research, Werklund School of Education, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****6. Recommendation of a Change to the Course Requirements for the MSc and PhD in Psychology**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Daniel McGrath presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed course requirement changes in the MSc and PhD in Psychology, to reduce the required coursework from 18 to 12 units in both programs without a specialization. Specifically, the proposed change includes the elimination of six units of electives to streamline the program, increase time for research and get students into labs doing research sooner, and allow for more cohort interactions in the elective options available.
- It was explained that the proposed decrease in course requirements comes after recognizing the programs elective requirements are difficult for students to complete due to the lack of department offerings. As a result, students are enrolling in courses external to the department or faculty members are being required to create independent study courses extra to their assigned teaching loads. Independent studies courses will still be used to supplement a program if deemed necessary.
- In response to a question, it was clarified there would be no changes to the Industrial/Organizational Psychology or Medical Imaging specializations and therefore would not affect licensure requirements
- The Committee discussed concerns about the effect on quality when Departments are pressured to reduce the number of units to make a program more attractive or more economical. The presenter explained that the proposal was supported unanimously by all faculty members at the fall 2022 Faculty of Arts Council meeting. Additionally, the presenters reassured the Committee that the proposed course requirements better align with similar Psychology programs in the U15.
- The Committee recommended that a statement be added to clarify why licensure requirements are not affected

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the change in course requirements for the Master of Science (MSc) in Psychology and Doctorate (PhD) in Psychology, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****7. Recommendation of a Change to the Course Requirements for the Master of Strategic Studies**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Maureen Hiebert presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenter provided an overview on the proposed changes to reduce the course requirements from 36 to 24 units for the Master of Strategic Studies (MSS), course-based program. Specifically, instead of a two-year program with 18 units in the first year and 21-units in the second year, students would complete a one year 24-unit program
- It was explained that this change will make the program more competitive with similar programs, while also decreasing financial implications for students. With less time to completion, graduate level credential accessibility for diverse and working populations is projected to increase. Additionally, with the addition of a prerequisite and a decreased need for students to find electives in other faculties or universities a more consistent foundation and refined student experience will be achieved.
- The presenter also explained that in response to student feedback Political Science 681, will be replaced with Strategic Studies (SES) 647 to offer more professionally applicable information
- The Committee expressed concern that the changes proposed to the course-based master's program create a six-unit differential from the department's thesis-based stream. This may create inequity between the program's course-based and thesis stream students.
- The Committee recommended the following updates to the proposal before it is submitted to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) for approval:
  - Change name of SES 603 course to reflect the proposed changes to number, content, and number of units
  - Ensure all tables and figures are included in final proposal
  - The number of credits for the Co-op program needs to be clarified as this will affect student's full-time/part-time status and has implications for tuition applications and funding opportunities. Additionally, the Co-op set-up is not consistent with University of Calgary's standards and the proponent should work with the Registrar to address this.
  - Any faculty volunteer work that supports the STST 653 paper research component could be overload duties. A clearer understanding of what will be required of faculty members must be outlined and then reviewed by Human Resources to confirm proper compensation. The presenters were referred to Section A 12.8 and 12.9 of the Collective Agreement.
  - Update language to clarify that the 'recruitment drive' refers to seeking volunteers from the University of Calgary's current academic staff group
  - Differentiate the equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) components in the

briefing notes between the Masters and PhD proposals

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the change to course requirements for the Master of Strategic Studies, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the required amendments.

**Carried**

**8. Recommendation of a Redesign of the Military, Security and Strategic Studies PhD program**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Maureen Hiebert presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter commented on recommendations of a proposed redesign to the interdisciplinary Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies (CMSS) PhD program that will tailor student dissertation research around careers while maintaining traditional academic rigor. Changes include requiring professional experience to apply; increasing foundational courses to standardized student experience; more structure to assist progression; and decreasing dissertation requirements.
- It was clarified that at this time the program did not consider changing from a PhD to a professional doctorate because the Military does not recognize a professional doctorate, only a PhD
- The Committee expressed concern that there are no specific ways to ensure students finish in a timely manner, but the presenter noted their students are generally professionals who only have a finite amount of time off to complete their PhDs and are motivated to finish
- The Committee recommended the following updates to the proposal before presenting to APPC:
  - Guidelines for students and supervisors should be established to ensure the dissertation can be evaluated and published without significant redaction as well as ways to keep the supervisors engaged
  - Clarify the guidelines and supports that will be used to ensure students complete their dissertation in a timely manner to ensure increased completion rates of the program
  - Use consistency when referring to CMSS Fellows home with a faculty or a department
  - Expand the rationale for recruiting Fellows to include Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) considerations, diversity in the field of Military, security and strategic studies(MSS), retirements, etc.
  - Clarify part-time options for students regarding time to completion to better illustrate this option for students. The Committee suggested reviewing and adapting the language already used in the Veterinary Medicine Calendar entry.
  - Remove the word limit restrictions for the PhD thesis. The work should contribute to the body of knowledge and not be limited.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the redesign of the Military, Security and Strategic Studies PhD program, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the suggested amendments.

**Carried**

9. **Approval of Calendar Changes for the Graduate Programs in the: School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Engineering (MEng, Software Engineering program)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Louise Wells presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenter outlined the proposed changes to the Graduate Programs in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Engineering (MEng, Software Engineering program). It was explained that these changes include language updates to standardize, clarify and clean-up course options, and prerequisites.
- The Committee suggested a small editorial change to the Schulich School of Engineering (MEng, Software Engineering program) Calendar submission

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, as set out in the document provided to the GAPS, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

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

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the Cumming School of Medicine, as set out in the document provided to the GAPS, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

**Carried**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the Faculty of Science, as set out in the document provided to the GAPS, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

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

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the Schulich School of Engineering (MEng, Software Engineering program), as set out in the document provided to the GAPS, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, with the requested amendment.

**Carried****10. Status of Program Approvals**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. Questions can be directed to the Program Innovation and Planning Office.

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**6. Adjournment****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the December 14, 2022 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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Cherie Tutt  
Meeting Secretary