

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

Special Meeting  
July 21, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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***Voting Members***

Dru Marshall, Co-Chair  
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair  
Elena Braverman  
Andy Knight  
Amy Warren  
Barry Wylant

***Regrets***

Nicole Culos-Reed  
Frank Finley  
Tanille Shandro  
Penny Werthner

***Non-Voting Members***

Violet Baron  
David Stewart  
Florentine Strzelczyk  
Melanie Zimmer

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Jaclyn Carter

***Staff***

Tasha Hodzic

***Guests***

Mary Grantham O'Brien, Associate Dean (Policy), Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 4  
Natasha Kenny, Senior Director, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning – present for Item 3  
Leslie Reid, Vice Provost (Teaching and Learning) – present for Item 3  
Angelique Saweczko, Registrar – present for Item 3  
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) and Co-Chair, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee – present for Item 4

***Observers***

Christine Johns, Senior Director (Academic & International Strategies) – left during Item 4

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Co-Chair reported that two items will be addressed under Item 4 (Other Business): Changes to the Admission Requirements for Graduate Programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology and Changes to the Field Work Requirements for the PhD Programs in Anthropology and Archaeology.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the July 21, 2020 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair noted that all of the items being brought forward today were seen by the Academic Crisis Management Team in some form.

The Academic Co-Chair thanked Committee members for gathering on such short notice.

**3. Approval of Technology Requirements for Students Taking Online, Remote and Blended Courses**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Natasha Kenny, Leslie Reid and Angelique Saweczko presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, which will modify the Academic Regulation E.1 *Course Outlines* in the University Calendar and provide a list of Technology Requirements for Students Taking Online, Remote and Blended Courses (Technology Requirements) in Fall 2020. It was noted that this list will be communicated widely, posted online, and incorporated into applicable course outlines, and that the proponents considered students' differentiated access to technology as they created the list of technology requirements.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - Faculty members will have access to the technology resources needed in order to deliver their courses successfully, and the University continues to add additional resources to make teaching and learning easier on faculty and students in the Fall term. It was noted that some University communications have gone out to faculty already regarding access to technology, and that further communications are forthcoming.
  - Where instructors choose to use software or operating systems not provided by the University, this information should be included in the course outline so that students are aware of the specific technology requirements and possible costs associated with the course ahead of time. It was noted that students should not be expected to use competing operating systems for different courses on campus, and that, wherever possible Faculties should strive for consistency.
  - Students may contact their course instructors to ensure that they have the technologies needed to be successful in the course
- The Committee discussed:
  - The number of students who took advantage of technology loans when the University first shifted to online delivery in March of this year and what resources, in addition to the device loaner program, will be available to students who need access to certain technologies
  - The necessity of a webcam, which implies that it must be attached to a computer or laptop, and

whether a computer with internet access and a mobile device with a camera may suffice for students who do not have access to a computer with a webcam

- The Committee suggested that:
  - The phrase “webcam” be revised to “built in or external camera”
  - The word “only” be added to follow “tablet and mobile devices” on page 2 of the Technology Requirements document, and that “tablet and cell phone camera device may be sufficient” be added
  - A link to the Microsoft Office downloads be added to the list of software available to University students
  - A footnote be added to alert students to the fact that not all Technology Requirements listed will be used in the same way in each course and that students should read their course outlines and, if necessary, consult with each of their instructors to determine requirements for individual courses

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed changes to the Academic Regulation E.1 *Course Outlines* in the University Calendar, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

**Carried****4. Other Business****a. Changes to the Admission Requirements for Graduate Programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the agenda and tabled at the meeting. Mary Grantham O’Brien and Robin Yates presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, explaining that COVID-19 has made access to the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) very difficult, and that by removing the GRE from the list of admission requirements, the Faculty of Graduate Studies is able to remain competitive with other postsecondary institutions in Canada
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The Clinical Psychology program admits students in September, and the Psychology program admits students in January and September, and the GRE will be waived for all 2021 admissions to these programs
  - The Educational Testing Service has had technical issues offering the GRE during the pandemic, and an invigilator is normally required, which makes testing much more difficult for prospective students
  - 11 of the 13 postsecondary institutions in Canada that offer programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology have waived the GRE for 2021 admissions, and the University would like to remain competitive with these other programs by doing the same

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the temporary changes to the admission requirements for the Master of Science (thesis-based) and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, effective for the 2021 admissions cycle.

**Carried****b. Changes to the Field Work Requirements for the PhD Programs in Anthropology and Archaeology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the agenda and tabled at the meeting. Mary Grantham O'Brien and Robin Yates presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents provided an overview of the changes, which make field work requirements in Anthropology and Archaeology more flexible for those students who have begun or will begin their field work between 2019 and 2021, because COVID-19 is likely to have a significant impact on students' ability to complete field work according to pre-COVID-19 standards. It was noted that field work requirements will be revised at the discretion of each student's supervisory committee.
- There were no questions

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the temporary changes to the field work requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy programs in Anthropology and Archaeology, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, effective for field work started between 2019 and 2021.

**Carried****5. Adjournment****Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the July 21, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary