



General Faculties Council
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee
Approved Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #186

A167/Zoom

Voting Members

Robin Yates, Co-Chair
Dawn Johnston, Academic Co-Chair
Mark Bauer
Kristin Baetz
Barbara Brown*
Michael Hart* – arriving during Item 1.1
Ari Pandes
Ernia Rezaei-Afsah*
Cydnee Seneviratne
Saaka Sulemana Saaka
Andrew Szeto – arrived during Item 1.2

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Regrets

Sheri Madigan

Non-Voting Members

Tarun Aggarwal
Hannah Ashton
Justine Wheeler*

Guests

Tara Beattie, Co-Chair, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies – present for Items 3-6
Dan McGrath, Associate Dean, Research and Scholarships, Faculty of Graduate Studies
– present for Item 3
Safia Nathoo, Manager, Graduate Awards, Faculty of Graduate Studies
– present for Item 3

**Attended virtually*

Secretary's Note: In accordance with the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws Section 8.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Meeting Opening

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 10, 2025 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

1.2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Academic Co-Chair provided a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

1.3. Remarks of the Chair

The Co-Chair welcomed two new members to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC): Dr. Ari Pandes from the Haskayne School of Business, appointed by the GFC Executive Committee, and Dr. Andrew Szeto, the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Commitments, as an ex-officio member.

The Co-Chair also shared updates regarding new institutional appointments, effective July 1, 2025: Dr. Catherine Heggerud from the Haskayne School of Business as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Signature Learning Experiences, and Dr. Laura Spitz from Seattle University as the new Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Finally, the Co-Chair shared that revised Calendar language for the residency requirements for admission to the Faculty of Nursing's Indigenous Community Route has been approved by Dr. Michael Hart on the Committee's behalf, as directed by the APPC at the December 9, 2024 meeting.

2. Approval of the February 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting held on February 24, 2025 be approved.

Carried

3. Approval of the Revisions to Calendar Section *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards*

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. From the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dan McGrath, Associate Dean, Research and Scholarships, and Safia Nathoo, Manager, Graduate Awards, presented this item. Tara Beattie, Co-Chair, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) provided comments on the GAPS' recommendation.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards* Calendar regulations. The substantive change is increasing the dollar values for the maximum amount that a student is permitted hold in UCalgary competitive scholarships.
- The presenter explained that these dollar amounts have not been updated in approximately ten years, and are being raised to keep pace with the recent increase in value of Tri-agency scholarships for Master's and doctoral students. A maximum dollar value is set to ensure fair distribution of the University's internal competitive academic awards.

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The maximum dollar amounts apply only to UCalgary internal competitive awards. For example, the maximum dollar amounts are not applicable if a student wins two large external awards.
 - Certain types of funding do not count towards the maximum dollar value. The exempt funding sources are listed in the regulations, and include graduate program funding, supervisor funding, and pay from Graduate Assistantships.
 - The regulations state that “Indigenous government funding” does not count towards the maximum amount, but the intention is that all external Indigenous funding is exempt, in alignment with the FGS’ Graduate Student Funding Operating Standards.
 - Scholarship and award funds cannot be used to pay honoraria (e.g., for Indigenous Elders or Traditional Knowledge Keepers). However, the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) has dedicated funds available to students for these purposes.
- The Committee discussed the need for further revisions be made to this Calendar section beyond those brought forward to this meeting. Specifically, the Committee noted that revisions are required to clarify how the regulations apply to internal awards versus external awards, and to clarify the regulations regarding the exemption for Indigenous funding.
- The Committee directed that these additional revisions be made in consultation Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) Calendar Working Group, and brought to the APPC for approval.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revision to Calendar Section *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

4. Approval of the Revisions to the Calendar Section *Credentials and Nomenclature* for Transdisciplinary Graduate Programs

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed revisions to two sub-sections of the *Credentials and Nomenclature* chapter of the Academic Calendar. The revisions are to add information on the new transdisciplinary graduate credentials that are now offered by the FGS.
- The presenter explained that the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Transdisciplinary Research, the thesis-based Master of Transdisciplinary Research (MTR), the course-based Master of Transdisciplinary Studies (MTST), and the Graduate Certificates in Transdisciplinary Studies I and II have all been approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education. The PhD, MTR, and Graduate Certificate I are open for Fall 2025 admission.
- Applications for admission to the Graduate Certificate II and the MTST program are not yet open, as these programs are part of a ladder pathway that starts with Graduate Certificate I. The presenter reported that the GAPS’ discussion focused on whether those two programs should be included in the Calendar when they are not yet open for admission.

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The “interdisciplinary degree” is a general term to describe an individual student’s thesis-based Master’s or PhD degree in which they are doing research that does not fit within the traditional disciplinary requirements of a single graduate program. Some graduate programs offer interdisciplinary specializations that formalize this.
 - Conversely, the term “transdisciplinary degree” refers to a specific credential (MTR, MTST or PhD in Transdisciplinary Research) offered by the FGS, which has specific degree requirements and thematic specializations.
- The presenter reported the following amendments requested by the GAPS:
 - Removal of the MTST from the bullet-point list in sub-section *Graduate Studies Summary of Degree Programs* since this degree program has not yet been launched.
 - Removal of the bullet-point list of specific credentials from the new Transdisciplinary Credentials section of *Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree and Specializations, and Transdisciplinary Credentials* and replacing it with the sentence: “The Faculty of Graduate Studies offers Transdisciplinary credentials at the Certificate, Master’s and PhD levels.”
 - Striking “also” from the last sentence that refers to the FGS website on transdisciplinary programs.
- The Committee requested the following amendment to the first paragraph in the new Transdisciplinary credentials section: “Transdisciplinary programs are designed ~~for students interested in working across multiple disciplines. Unlike interdisciplinary programs, which integrate two or more disciplines or fields of study (where the disciplines offer the same credential, e.g., MA or MSc), transdisciplinary programs to~~ allow students to pursue research or studies that bridge multiple fields and cross disciplinary boundaries.”

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section *Credentials and Nomenclature*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided, with the reported amendments and the requested amendment.

Carried

5. Approval of the Revisions to Graduate Regulations G.A.3 Graduate Admission Categories

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Graduate Regulations G.A.3 *Graduate Admissions Categories*. The two changes are: 1) removal of the information regarding interdisciplinary students as this is not a formal category under which students can be admitted; and 2) revisions to the Visiting Students sections to add clarity on the admission process.
- The revisions to the Visiting Students section are intended to help make it clear to prospective visiting students that they are required to apply for admission and be registered as a student during their tenure at UCalgary.

- In response to questions, it was explained that there is still one Cotutelle student remaining in program. This admission category will be removed once there are no more students.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section G.A.3 *Graduate Admission Categories*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

6. Approval of the Revisions to the Calendar Section P.2.5 Graduate Student General Fees

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the distance delivery program information in Calendar Section P.2.5 *Graduate Student General Fees*. Students who are in distance delivery programs are not assessed on-campus general fees (health and dental insurance, Campus Recreation, Athletics, and City of Calgary UPass).
- The revisions for the APPC's consideration are for the Faculty of Social Work: the addition of the Master of Social Work (MSW), as all MSW's are now distance delivery programs; and the removal of the Lethbridge location, as graduate programs are no longer delivered from that site.
- The presenter explained that the GAPS requested the removal of the Precision Health program from the distance delivery list because the program was not originally approved as such. The program was initially developed and approved as a hybrid program, but was launched during the Covid-19 pandemic as an online program and remained as such going forward. The GAPS directed that the program's modality be changed before the general fees are updated in the Calendar.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The rationale for the GAPS' amendment to use the term "site" for Social Work programs in Edmonton is that the University of Calgary leases space from the University of Alberta for the Faculty of Social Work and therefore does not have a physical campus in Edmonton.
 - Distance delivery programs may have short-term residency requirements on-campus.
- The presenter reported the following amendments requested by the GAPS:
 - Removal of the Precision Health Medicine program from the list of distance delivery programs.
 - In reference to the Faculty of Social Work's Edmonton location, strike "campus" and replace with "site".
- A typographical correction to add "and" before 'Master of Nursing' was noted.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section P.2.5 *Graduate Student General Fees*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and as set out in the documents provided, with the reported amendments.

Carried**7. Subcommittee Reports**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

The Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee provided a report for the meeting held February 12, 2025.

8. Program Approvals Status Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:19 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary