



General Faculties Council  
Academic Program Subcommittee  
Approved Minutes

Monday, March 3, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting #79

Zoom

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**Voting Members**

Wendy Benoit, Co-Chair  
Getachew Assefa, Academic Co-Chair  
Amy Dambrowitz  
Jessie Dinh  
Cari Gulbrandsen  
Donna Slater  
Qiao Sun  
Samantha Thrift  
Leanne Wu

**Meeting Secretary**

Michelle Speta

**Scribe**

Vanessa Kozielec

**Non-Voting Members**

Christine Johns – arrived during Item 1.2  
Denis Onen

**Resource Personnel & Observers**

Elizabeth Pando Burciaga, Program Innovation Partner  
Kelly Hoglund, Senior Specialist, Academic Initiatives  
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant  
Kelly Kay Spurlock, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

**Guests**

Andrew Estefan, Associate Dean, Curriculum Development & Program Evaluation, Faculty of Nursing  
– present for Item 3

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*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 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Meeting Opening**

**1.1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the March 3, 2025 Academic Program Subcommittee be approved.

**Carried****1.2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement**

The Co-Chair provided a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

**1.3. Remarks of the Co-Chair**

The Co-Chair included the following in their opening remarks:

- The Co-Chair expressed gratitude for the ongoing learning journey and parallel processes related to the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, *ii'taa'poh'to'p*. Emphasis was placed on the significant progress being made in teaching and learning. The presence of Elders Reg and Rose Crowshoe at the Teaching Awards ceremony was noted as an important symbol of the parallel paths and the University's continued journey toward reconciliation.
- Congratulations were extended to Cari Gulbrandsen for receiving the Award for Educational Leadership in the 2024 University of Calgary Teaching Awards.
- The Co-Chair thanked members for their thoughtful questions and discussions concerning the proposals presented to the Committee.

**2. Approval of the January 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the minutes of the Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on January 20, 2025 be approved.

**Carried****3. Approval of the Suspension of the Bachelor of Nursing (BN) Degree Program**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Andrew Estefan, Associate Dean, Curriculum Development & Program Evaluation, Faculty of Nursing, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the suspension of the Bachelor of Nursing (BN) degree program which is being proposed as part of the broader implementation of the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program.
- The presenter explained that the first cohort of the BScN started in Fall 2024, and the last cohort of the BN program will graduate in Winter 2027. During this overlap period, the Faculty is in the "teaching out" phase for the BN. The necessary accreditations for both the BN and BScN programs are in place with the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA) and the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). A seven-

year accreditation for the BScN from CRNA has been received, and this will cover the interim period until full accreditation is achieved following the graduation of the first BScN cohort.

- The BN program will not be reinstated after its suspension, as the Faculty has determined that the BScN better aligns with its goals.
- The Faculty is addressing BN students who are out of sequence or are returning to the program after a stop-out on a case-by-case basis, and where possible, matching students with corresponding BScN courses. Independent study courses may also be utilized where appropriate. The programs share significant overlap in topics.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The Bachelor of Nursing (BN) degree program is being suspended rather than redesigned, as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program is a distinct degree, and the creation of a new credential represents a broader change in the curriculum.
  - The proposed timeline for the suspension includes an additional two-year buffer to allow students who may need extra time to complete their degree requirements. This timeline ensures that students who have fallen out of sequence or need additional support will be accommodated.
  - The BScN program's flexibility will facilitate course matching for out-of-sequence BN students. Due to the various reasons students may fall behind in the BN program, it is not possible to predict the number of students that will require individual support, but it is not expected to be a large number.
  - In student consultations about the development of the BScN, the Faculty provided transparency about the rationale for changes, while demonstrating the connections between the two degree programs and reiterating the credibility of the BN program based on evaluation metrics such as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rates. The BScN is not meant to be considered a "better" degree but is an alternate path reflecting ongoing curriculum changes in the nursing field.
  - The Faculty incorporated feedback from BN students and evaluations over the years to inform the development of the BScN curriculum, including the integration of Indigenous health topics and perspectives within the BScN program.
  - Running the two programs concurrently during the BN teach-out is not expected to cause a significant workload burden on faculty members. Space constraints, particularly in lab spaces, may pose some challenges during the overlap period. The Faculty is working to address these concerns, with teaching assignments already planned for the year ahead at a regular load. If needed, sessional appointments may be considered in the future to help manage loads during the teach-out.
  - Certain first and second-year BN courses have already been fully retired.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Program Subcommittee approve the suspension of the Bachelor of Nursing degree program, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried****4. Program Approvals Status Report**

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

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business.

For the Committee's information, the Registrar noted that there has been a significant increase in student demand since the BScN was launched.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:40 p.m.

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Michelle Speta  
Associate Secretary