



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes for Approval

Meeting #56
April 19, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Jocelyn Hayley, Academic Co-Chair
Semhar Abraha
Ryan Hamilton
Kathryn King-Shier
Lorelli Nowell
Angelique Saweczko
Jessica Shaw – left after Item 4
Jason Wiens

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Karen Then

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Staff

Elizabeth Sjogren

Guests and Observers

Violet Baron, Director – Strategic Educational Initiatives, Werklund School of Education – present for Item 4
Amy Burns, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Werklund School of Education – present for Item 4
Jacob Thundathil, Associate Dean (Graduate Education), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 5
Sara Fedoruk, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost – present for Items 4 and 5
Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost – present for Items 4 and 5
Renzo Pereyra, Incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)- present for Items 4 and 5
Rahim Pira, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost – present for Items 4 and 5

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the April 19, 2021 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- Semhar Abraha was thanked for her service to the Committee on this occasion of her last meeting
- Renzo Pereyra, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) was welcomed to the Committee

The Academic Co-Chair highlighted the expectation of a busy meeting year for the Committee and the slower pace of program proposals coming forward, noting that the 2021-2022 meeting year is expected to be busier

3. Approval of the March 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on March 8, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Creation of a Bachelor of Education Honours Degree Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Amy Burns and Violet Baron presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to create an Honours program within all streams of the Bachelor of Education (BEd) offered in the Werklund School of Education (WSE). It was explained that the proposed program aims to integrate research into students' teaching practices, that Honours students would take one six-credit course in the Spring/Summer term preceding their final year in the BEd program, that the program would be financially supported with existing resources in the WSE, and that supervision of Honours students would be considered part of Faculty members' regular workloads.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Students in the Honours course will work individually with a Faculty supervisor, much like a graduate student would
 - There will be an instructor of record for the Honours course who will oversee the process, alongside the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), ensuring consistency in marking across Honours projects and that students complete their projects on time, as well as supporting student-supervisor relationships
 - Student research topics may vary between literature-based and practice-based projects, and it was explained that a baseline Honours project would be a paper based in literature
 - Students are expected to complete their Honours project by the end of the Fall term of their final year in the BEd program, and it was noted that while the Honours course will be graded, the project itself will be assessed as pass/fail
 - The WSE expects Honours cohorts to be about ten students per year
 - The Honours program is open to all students completing the BEd on campus or in the community,

and all students will complete the Honours in the Spring/Summer term preceding their final year of study in the BEd program

- The Committee discussed:
 - The timeline for when the minimum admission GPA will be posted to the WSE website, so that undergraduate students can plan their studies accordingly, and it was noted that the WSE will target a very specific pool of students for this program and that the admission GPA will be determined in much the same way as admission to the BEd itself
 - The possibility of offering a presentation day where students can showcase their Honours projects
 - How the WSE will adapt to operational changes as the program gets underway, and how other Faculties with longstanding Honours programs may be able to support the WSE as it develops its Honours program
- The Committee suggested that:
 - The proposal explicitly state that while the Honours course will be graded, the Honours project will be considered non-credit and assessed as pass/fail
 - The proposal outline possible delays to completion of the Honours project and how the WSE will support these students

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a Bachelor of Education Honours Program in the Werklund School of Education, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

Carried

5. Recommendation of the Creation of a Leaders in Veterinary Medicine Program (Combined DVM/MSc (thesis-based) and Combined DVM/PhD)

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Jacob Thundathil presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposal, which aims to provide a new educational pathway for students to obtain a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and a graduate degree in a shorter timeframe than if they were to complete the programs individually, and responds to increasing demand for additional qualifications beyond the DVM to compete in various job markets
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Students who are not able to complete the combined program will be managed on a case-by-case basis
 - It is normal in Veterinary Medicine schools to have a small number of students in this type of program, and support for these students is typically provided by the school. It was explained that student intake will be based on the amount of funding available, and it is expected that 50% of a student's stipend will come from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) and 50% will come directly from the student's Faculty supervisor. It was also noted that there is demand from

Faculty members for student researchers, so it is expected that the UCVM will be able to admit additional students where Faculty demand warrants it.

- The Committee discussed:
 - The proposed pathways to admission to the Leaders in Veterinary Medicine (LVM) program, the proposed implementation plan for the program, an overview of program oversight and the proposed program requirements
 - The additional supports available to LVM students, who will be expected to complete two very rigorous academic programs in a short timeframe and how students will be supported in absence of a cohort experience
 - How the proposal refers to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and that the program better aligns with the University's Global Engagement Plan and internationalization than EDI principles
 - The student survey results used in the proposal, and whether they paint an accurate picture of student demand, given the relatively low response rate
 - The high tuition cost, particularly when students enter the graduate phase of the program, and the lucrateness of the job market that could balance out this expense
 - The number of students to be admitted versus the resources it will take to run the program
 - The loss of opportunity to conduct paid work over the summer months given the rigorous nature of the LVM program
 - The competitiveness of the program and the likelihood that students admitted are highly motivated and high-performing students who will likely succeed in the program
- The Committee suggested that:
 - The proposal reframe current discussions related to EDI as steps towards internationalization in support of the Global Engagement Plan
 - It be made clear in the proposal what exit strategies exist for students who enter the combined program but come to realize, under whatever circumstances, that they cannot complete both programs
 - The proposal address program oversight more explicitly to acknowledge the roles of the Graduate Program Director, Graduate Program Administrator, and Graduate Program Committee in the UCVM, and to state that as the program develops, the UCVM will adjust its oversight and expand based on student and program needs
 - The proposal state that the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program is an optional component for interested students after year one in the LVM program
 - The proposal clearly justify the overall number of students versus the cost of resources to support these students
 - It be reported to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) that the Committee had questions about the proposal that related to the graduate components of the program
 - The proponents return with a revised proposal before proceeding to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee for approval

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Leaders in Veterinary Medicine Program (Combined Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)/Master of Science (thesis-based) and Combined DVM/Doctor of Philosophy), as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Defeated

Secretary's Note: following defeat of the motion, the Committee requested that a revised proposal taking the Committee's suggestions into consideration be brought forward to a future Committee meeting.

6. Status of Program Approvals

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

The April 19, 2021 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary