



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #61

December 6, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Jocelyn Hayley, Academic Co-Chair
Amy Dambrowitz
Ryan Hamilton
Lorelli Nowell
Renzo Pereyra – left during Item 8
Jason Wiens

Regrets

Karen Benzies
Kathryn King-Shier

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Justine Wheeler

Meeting Secretary

Cherie Tutt

Scribe

Tasha Hodzic

Staff

Elizabeth Sjogren

Guests and Observers

Lisa Gieg, Associate Professor; Associate Head (Undergraduate), Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 6
David Hansen, Department Head, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 6
Sean Rogers, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences – present for Item 6
Emmanuel Stefanakis, Department Head (Geomatics Engineering), Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 5
Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost – present for Items 2-6
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost – present for Items 2-6

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

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the December 6, 2021 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair highlighted for the Committee the role the Academic Program Subcommittee has in supporting proposals through the governance process and asked members to consider how program proposals are connecting to the Indigenous Strategy and addressing equity, diversity and inclusion.

The Academic Co-Chair noted the importance of considering diverse viewpoints when reviewing proposals.

3. Program Proposal Planning Session

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal scheduled for the meeting.

4. Approval of the November 15, 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 November 15, 2021 be approved.

Carried

5. Recommendation for the Creation of Minor in Software Engineering

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Emmanuel Stefanakis presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposal to create a Minor in Software Engineering (the Minor), highlighting that the Minor will allow students in the Geomatics Engineering Major (GEM) to be more competitive in the labour market and meet industry expectations in this field
- In response to questions, the proponent explained that:
 - The GEM currently includes some courses related to software engineering; the Minor addresses the current demand for students to have additional software skills based on their career goals; and software engineering offerings in the major may be expanded in the future
 - The Schulich School of Engineering (SSE) is looking at ways to increase student accessibility to engineering programs from equity seeking groups
 - The increase in course load for students taking the Minor has been considered and students will have options to take some courses in the Spring and Summer terms to better distribute course load and the program could consider reducing the number of courses in the Minor
 - Preparation for the promotion and communication of the Minor is underway with information sessions being planned for the new year
- The Committee discussed:
 - Concerns with the significant increase in course load for students taking the Minor, which may

lead to accessibility barriers; creating a minor which is limited to students in one major only; if the content in the minor should be part of the core curriculum or would be better suited as a concentration. It was confirmed that a Minor, as defined in the Calendar, is not required to be offered across multiple programs.

- The benefit to students in the GEM to access software engineering courses through the Minor and the potential for future development of curriculum in the GEM to include additional courses in software engineering to meet student demand
- The Committee recommended:
 - The proposal expand on how the department is addressing student accessibility into the program
 - The proposal include details on the consultation with the SSE Indigenous experts and how the Minor connects with the Indigenous Strategy
 - The proposal provide a more detailed rationale for why the Minor is only being offered to students within the GEM and how the Minor is better suited for students compared to offering the content as a concentration
 - The required courses for the Minor be reviewed by the Registrar's Office for feedback regarding the total number of course units in the Minor

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Programs Subcommittee (APS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a Minor in Software Engineering, for students in the Geomatics Engineering Major, Schulich School of Engineering, as set out in the proposal provided to the APS, with the requested amendments to the proposal documents.

Carried

6. Recommendation for the Suspension/Termination of the Major in Ecology within the BSc program in Biological Sciences

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Sean Rogers, Dave Hansen and Lisa Gieg presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal, explaining that the termination of the Ecology Major is part of a staged plan for curriculum renewal in the Department of Biological Sciences and that the majority of Ecology courses will continue to be offered within the new concentrations in Biodiversity and Conservation and Genetics and Evolution. The proponents reported that current students will be provided time to complete the Ecology Major.
- The Committee recommended that:
 - The Department, in general, expand student consultations to include the Students' Union representatives within the Faculty of Science
 - The proposal expand on the how accessibility for students is increased through the new concentrations versus the Major

The Committee had no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the at the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the immediate suspension and eventual termination of the Ecology major (including the Honours program) within the Department of Biological Sciences as set out in the proposal provided to the APS, with the requested amendment.

Carried**7. Status of Program Approvals**

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

8. Other Business

The Co-Chair discussed the advancements being made to program development to ensure programs are equitable, inclusive and encompass the University's strategies.

The Committee members were informed of the efforts made by the Program Innovation Team to support proponents with resources from the offices of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Indigenous Engagement, faculty experts, and the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

9. Adjournment

The December 6, 2021 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Cherie Tutt
Meeting Secretary