



General Faculties Council
Academic Program Subcommittee
Approved Minutes

Monday, January 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #78

A167/Zoom

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

University Secretary

Courtney McVie

Meeting Secretary

Michelle Speta

Scribe

Vanessa Kozielec

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Denis Onen

Resource Personnel & Observers

Kelly Hoglund*, Senior Specialist, Academic Initiatives
Janelle Morris, Program Innovation Partner
Elizabeth Pando Burciaga, Program Innovation Partner
Kelly Kay Spurlock*, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

Guests

Aaron Williams, Undergraduate Program Director, Geography, Faculty of Arts
– present for Item 4
Melissa Boyce, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts
– present for Items 4-5
Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts
– present for Item 5
Aoife Mac Namara, Dean, Faculty of Arts
– present for Item 5

**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 January 20, 2025 Academic Program Subcommittee be approved.

Carried**1.2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement**

Cari Gulbrandsen provided a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

1.3. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chairs did not make any opening remarks due to the full agenda.

2. Approval of the November 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee approve the November 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

Carried**3. Recommendation of the Termination of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) Undergraduate Programs (Bachelor of Nursing, Diploma of Nursing)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Wendy Benoit, Interim Vice Provost (Teaching and Learning), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed termination of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) undergraduate programs, which include the Bachelor of Nursing, Diploma of Nursing, and Bachelor of Nursing Foundation Year. The termination of all academic programs offered by the UCQ is proceeding through governance alongside the dissolution of the Faculty, which will be effective August 31, 2025.
- The presenter explained that UCQ was established with the goal of building capacity within Qatar to offer nursing programs through local institutions. In 2021, the University of Calgary was informed that the State of Qatar would not extend the contract beyond its expiration and as such UCQ has been preparing for dissolution for the past several years.

- All current students are on-track to graduate in May 2025 and will receive a degree accredited in Canada, in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement. Support is being provided for students during this dissolution process.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - University of Calgary faculty members and staff in Qatar are employed under various contract types, which were extended as required to support wind-down of operations. As the programs conclude, staff are being supported in transitioning out of Qatar or moving to other institutions within the country.
 - The nursing programs that will now be offered through Qatari institutions will be accredited in accordance with the accreditation of those programs and will not be receiving Canadian accreditation.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the University of Calgary in Qatar Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing Foundation Year, and Diploma of Nursing, effective August 31, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried**4. Recommendation of the Creation of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours Degree in Urban Studies, Faculty of Arts**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Melissa Boyce, Associate Dean (Academic), and Aaron Williams, Undergraduate Program Director (Geography), both from the Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed addition of an Honours degree to the existing Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Urban Studies program. This new option aims to offer students an opportunity to develop research skills and explore specific research interests within the field of Urban Studies. Students will gain practical knowledge in their area of interest, supporting their transition into careers or further studies.
- The presenters highlighted that only half of Urban Studies programs across Canada offer an Honours degree, therefore, the introduction of this program at the University of Calgary will provide a competitive advantage. Many career pathways for Urban Studies graduates involve research; the Honours program will help students develop these crucial research skills, providing them with a competitive edge in the job market.
- The Honours stream will also serve to distinguish the Urban Studies program in the Faculty of Arts from the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape (SAPL), clarifying the educational pathway best suited for students.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The cohort will be limited to five students per year. Future expansion will be contingent on available resources (e.g., supervisory capacity), which are assessed during review of applications for admission.
 - The Honours degree will have its own application for admission (separate from the Urban Studies Major), following the process used in the Psychology program.

- The program will be supported by an Academic Program Specialist, but administrative support is provided by the Arts Student Centre.
- To support students in finding Honours thesis supervisors, the Geography department will offer information sessions and provide resources on their website listing faculty members who are accepting students, along with their research areas. The department's Undergraduate Program Director can also offer guidance on matching students with suitable supervisors. As part of their application for admission, students will identify their preferred supervisor.
- The capstone course is required for all Urban Studies students including Honours. Honours students may use their capstone project as a foundation for their Honours thesis.
- The capstone course also includes an end-of-year presentation. While not mandatory, students are strongly encouraged to participate in this celebratory event as it attracts interest from industry partners, providing valuable networking opportunities for students.
- The Honours thesis is graded (not credit/fail) and will be assessed using a common rubric, with feedback from both the student's supervisor and a second reader (who is not involved in the supervision), to ensure that students meet the required standards.
- The Indigenous Engagement and reconciliation practices embedded in the Honours program learning outcomes will be incorporated in the Major program after the completion of the Geography programs' curriculum review that is currently underway.

Secretary's Note: It was noted that the Decision Support Team recommendations for this proposal were missing from the document package in error. The recommendations were reviewed at table and the missed document was appended to the record after the meeting.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours degree in Urban Studies in the Faculty of Arts, effective Fall 2026, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

5. Approval of the Suspension of Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Arts

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Melissa Boyce, Associate Dean (Academic), Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Vice Dean, and Aoife Mac Namara, Dean, all from the Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposed suspensions of several undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. Specifically, four-year suspensions are proposed for degree programs in Ancient and Medieval History, Greek and Roman Studies, Religious Studies, East Asian Language Studies, East Asian Studies, and Spanish to allow their respective units time to review and revitalize their offerings. Suspensions of the Minors in Greek, Latin, and South Asian studies are also proposed, with the intention to terminate.
- The presenters explained that the rationale for the suspensions is grounded in the Faculty's responsibility to ensure the academic quality of its offerings and its commitment to student experience. Admitting

students to programs in which the Faculty cannot guarantee a quality academic experience harms both the students' future prospects and the University's reputation.

- The presenters explained that this proposal reflects the recommendations of curriculum reviews from the past five years, as well as challenges identified in curriculum reviews from 2019 and 2021 that have remained unaddressed. Furthermore, the 2024 Faculty of Arts Unit Review recommended closing low-enrolment programs.
- All of the proposals were recommended by the Faculty of Arts' Calendar and Academic Review Committee (CARC), however, not all of the proposals received the support of the Faculty of Arts' Council. As decision-making authority at the University is delegated from the Board of Governors, the proposal can proceed without the Faculty Council's recommendation.
- The Faculty is committed to reinvigorating these degree programs. The four-year suspension will provide support for current students while allowing departments the time to engage in the curriculum renewal process. Approval of the suspensions would have no impact on current students.
- Reactivation or termination will depend on the proposals developed by the units, with input from students, alumni, and other stakeholders. It was noted that if after the curriculum renewal process is complete, the Faculty of Arts decides they wish to terminate any of these programs, new proposals will come back through governance with final approval from the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC). If the Faculty takes no action, the programs will be automatically reactivated after the four-year suspension period ends.
- In response to questions, it was explained that
 - Working groups are being established for faculty members from the Faculty of Arts interested in participating in the curriculum renewal. A community engagement component will also be integrated as the first step in creating a more robust consultation model, incorporating feedback from families, employers, and organizations on what effective immersion and integrated learning looks like.
 - A process document has been created for the units, outlining required steps, contacts to engage, and metrics for success in the curriculum renewal. External advisors, e.g., faculty members from programs that have successfully completed similar program reinvigorations at UCalgary or other institutions, will be engaged.
 - There are no staff reductions planned as a result of the suspensions.
 - The Werklund School of Education is supportive of the suspension of the Concurrent Bachelor of Education (BEd)/BA in Spanish. The BEd with Specialization in Spanish will continue to prepare students for teaching in Calgary's K-12 Spanish immersion programs.
 - The Faculty of Arts' Dean's Office will provide resources to impacted programs based on their needs. Examples of resources that will be available include: enrolment data, Graduate Assistants to support the curriculum renewal work, Associate Deans for consultation, and communications support.
- The Committee noted that while the rationale for the suspensions was clearly explained, the plans for the programs' revitalization were not detailed. Accordingly, it was requested that the process for the curriculum renewal of the suspended programs be shared with the Committee for information.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee approve the suspension of the: Bachelor of Arts (BA), BA (Honours), BA with Co-operative Education, and BA (Honours) with Co-operative Education in Ancient and Medieval History; Greek and Roman Studies; and Religious Studies; BA and BA with Co-operative Education in East Asian Language Studies; and East Asian Studies; BA, BA (Honours), BA with Co-operative Education, BA (Honours) with Co-operative Education and Concurrent BA/Bachelor of Education in Spanish; and the Minors in Greek; Latin; and South Asian Studies, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

Jessie Dinh abstained.

6. Program Approvals Status Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:11 p.m.

Michelle Speta
Associate Secretary