



General Faculties Council
GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #54, November 18, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom Platform

Voting Members

Robin Yates, Co-Chair
Kathryn King-Shier, Academic Co-Chair
Jalel Azaiez
Jocelyn Hayley
Rhiannon Jones
Mary O'Brien
Alex Paquette
David Paskevich
Angelique Saweczko
Michael Wright

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Melanee Thomas
Louise Wells

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jyoti Myers

Staff

Jaclyn Carter, Governance and Student Appeals Office
Coordinator

Observers

Catherine McLeod, Senior Director, Strategic Operations,
Faculty of Graduate Studies
Rahim Pira, Graduate Internship Student – left after Item 6
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the
Provost

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 November 18, 2020 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair welcomed new members: Kathryn King-Shier, as Academic Co-Chair, Jocelyn Hayley, Rhiannon Jones, Mary O'Brien, Michael Wright and Melanee Thomas, and returning members to the first meeting of the year.

3. Approval of the Change from Letter Grade to CR/F in Final Courses for all Stackable Certificate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kathryn King-Shier, Associate Dean Graduate Programs and Professor, Faculty of Nursing presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed change from a letter grade to a CR/F in the final courses of all Stackable Certificate programs will ensure that there is consistency between the Stackable Certificates and also eliminate the current inconsistencies related to the grading of the final projects that are completed by students
- The Committee learned that the final projects are representative of the cumulative learning that has taken place in the courses and that during the finalization of the Spring 2020 course outlines, there were some inconsistencies that were identified
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Faculty of Nursing received special permission from the Dean of Graduate Studies to utilize the CR/F grading for the Summer 2020 offering of these courses
 - The proposed change will not impact the graduation requirements for students or any other areas in the Calendar
- The Committee discussed the proposal and suggested an amendment to replace, “effective immediately” with “January 1, 2021” as the effective date for the change

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the change from a letter grade to a CR/F in the final courses: NURS 608, NURS 618, NURS 628, NURS 668 and NURS 658 for all of the Stackable Certificate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing, effective January 1, 2021, as presented to the Committee.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Curriculum Changes to the Direct-Entry Master of Nursing (thesis-based and course-based) Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kathryn King-Shier, Associate Dean Graduate Programs and Professor, Faculty of Nursing presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent outlined the background and rationale for the proposed curriculum changes to the Master of Nursing (MN) (thesis-based and course-based) Program, noting that there are several courses offered within each of the pathways to the MN degree and that currently there is a lack of clarity in the alignment of some of the core courses in the pathways. The proposed

changes will ensure that there is a better utilization of the existing resources and ensure curricular alignment within the MN Program.

- The Committee learned that the proposed curriculum changes would be applicable for all pathways to the MN degree except for the Laddered Certificate Pathway, which has a stand-alone proposal, and that all students presently enrolled in the MN Program will complete their requirements as outlined in the Calendar published the year of their admission to the program
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - There will be no impact on the workload for graduate teaching with the reduced number of core courses and the increased number of courses for the Stackable Certificates
 - Students will have the ability to complete the required modules at their own pace and will be expected to complete the non-credit milestone in advance of completing their modules to avoid any negative consequences
 - The removal of specific courses from the program was based on student demand and determined in consultation with students
- The Committee discussed the proposed curriculum changes and the benefit that students will receive from the opportunities for practical applications, and suggested the following amendments: clarification of the alignment between this proposal and the other MN proposals; an outline of the efforts made by the faculty to streamline the program; the identification of follow-up protocols in place for students that do not complete the non-academic writing component within the allotted timeframe; and the inclusion of a statement that outlines the completion date of the non-credit component

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the curriculum changes to the direct-entry Master of Nursing (thesis-based, MN/NP and MN/MBA course-based) program, effective August 15, 2021, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

Carried**5. Recommendation of the Curriculum Changes to the Laddered Certificate Pathway to the Master of Nursing (course-based) Program**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kathryn King Shier, Associate Dean Graduate Programs and Professor, Faculty of Nursing presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent presented the proposed curriculum changes to the Laddered Certificate Pathway to the Master of Nursing (MN) (course-based) Program, noting that the proposed changes result from the feedback received from students, as well as the decision to use the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) rather than the National League of Nursing (NLN) competencies, as

the CASN competency incorporates a leadership course and academic and scholarly writing milestone

- The Committee discussed the proposal, noting the redundancy in the current required capstone course, that the proposed curriculum changes will allow the program to remain at 36 units and that the leadership component in the program will enhance overall student experience and allow students greater opportunities for advancement in the nursing profession

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the curriculum changes to the Laddered Certificate Pathway Master of Nursing (course-based) Program, effective September 2021, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried**6. Recommendation of the Suspension of the Nurse Practitioner Program**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Kathryn King Shier, Associate Dean Graduate Programs and Professor, Faculty of Nursing presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the proposed 3-year suspension of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) program in the Faculty of Nursing will allow for the redevelopment and revitalization of the program. The Committee learned that the current program is unsustainable and has not been updated substantially since it was launched nearly 20 years ago, and that there is a strong demand for a program that meets the evolving health needs of Albertans and the evolving health care delivery needs of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Caritas Health.
- The Committee discussed the proposal and the rationale for the suspension, noting that there has been extensive consultation with Alberta Health Services, professional nursing associations, nursing administrators and former NP students and, in response to questions, it was explained that the impact of this proposed pause in NP training at the University will be minimal as the NP program is offered at other institutions in Alberta and across the country
- The Committee suggested that the proposal be amended to add enrolment numbers for other comparative graduate nursing programs to provide greater context for the variety of graduate education pathways available for students

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Programs Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension of admissions to the Nurse Practitioner program (Combined MN/NP program and the Post-Master's Diploma) for a period up to three years, effective Spring 2021, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

7. Recommendation of the English Language Proficiency Tests for Admission to the Graduate Programs

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Mary O'Brien, Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), Faculty of Graduate Studies presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported on the proposed revisions to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Tests for Admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and explained that the revisions reflect the acceptance of the Duolingo English Test (DET) and TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition Test through the Summer 2022, and that the minimum score for the DET will be increased from 115 to 125 to ensure that students have English language skills at an acceptable ELP level
- The Committee learned that the proposed revisions will address the challenges that students have experienced resulting from the closure of ELP testing centres due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are in alignment with the temporary changes that have been implemented for undergraduate admissions at the University
- In response to questions, the proponents reported that:
 - There is a substantial difference in price for the online Duolingo test in comparison with the in-person TOEFL test and the flexibility of in-person or online completion that the revised testing will provide to students
 - The Faculty of General Studies will implement the acceptance of the minimum test score of 125. All other faculties will have discretion on equivalency and acceptance of the test scores.
- The Committee discussed the proposal, particularly the criteria for the ELP requirements for undergraduate admissions, and noted that an evaluation of the accepted testing will be completed in 2022 and will include an analysis of the data and student feedback

MOTION 1:

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the extension of the revisions to the Regulation in Section A.1 *Qualifications* of the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar that include the addition of the Duolingo English Test and TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition Test among the list of acceptable English Language Proficiency tests for admission to graduate programs for the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 academic terms, as presented to the Committee.

Carried

MOTION 2:**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the change to A.1 Qualifications in the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar to increase of the minimum Duolingo English Test score for graduate admissions from 115 to 125 for the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 academic terms, as presented to the Committee.

Carried**8. Recommendation of the 2020-2021 GAPS Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Kathryn King-Shier presented this item.

The Committee reviewed the anticipated business for the 2020-2021 meeting year and requested that the recommendation of the Committee's Work plan be reflected for the November meeting in the Work Plan.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the GAPS Work Plan for the 2020-2021 academic year, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the requested amendment.

Carried**9. Approval of Calendar Changes for the Graduate Programs:**

- 1. Faculty of Law**
- 2. Schulich School of Engineering**
- 3. School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Louise Wells, Graduate Calendar Coordinator presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the proposed Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Faculty of Law, the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE) and the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) have been reviewed by the GAPS Calendar Working Group and changes include:
 - Minor edits to the program descriptions in the Faculty of Law program

- Changes to the program description for the Environmental Engineering program to reflect the Ministry's approval of the program; the addition of the Wearable Technology specialization as a prerequisite to several of the Engineering courses; and updates to the Calendar entries
- The addition of a full-time registration statement to the SAPL calendar entries, the addition of new courses and a modification for hours on several other courses in SAPL
- The Committee discussed the proposed changes and suggested revised wording in Sections 5 and 10 of the Environmental Engineering program in the SSE and the corresponding Calendar entry for greater clarity and consistency; and Calendar wording that states the required grade point average for the new SAPL courses

MOTION 1:**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Faculty of Law, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

Carried**MOTION 2:****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Schulich School of Engineering, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, with the request that the proponents seek clarification of the matters discussed by the Committee and make any necessary changes to the Calendar.

Carried**MOTION 3:****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

Carried**10. Status of Program Approvals**

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

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the November 18, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Susan Belcher
Secretary