



General Faculties Council  
**GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #56, January 20, 2021, 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  
Louise Wells

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Jyoti Myers

***Observers***

Catherine McLeod, Senior Director, Strategic Operations,  
Faculty of Graduate Studies

***Regrets***

Melanee Thomas

***Guests***

Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning – present for Item 10

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Co-Chair reported that an item has been added to Other Business.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the January 20, 2021 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved, as amended.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair welcomed members and congratulated Angelique Saweczko on her appointment at the University of Toronto, effective April 1, 2021.

### **3. Approval of the December 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on December 16, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Approval of Calendar Changes for the Graduate Programs:**

- 1. Werklund School of Education**
- 2. Cumming School of Medicine**

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 Werklund School of Education (WSE) and the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) have been reviewed by the GAPS Calendar Working Group and substantive changes include:
  - An amendment to the English Language Program (ELP) requirements and the addition of a link to the pre-admissions checklist for several of the programs in the WSE
  - The addition of the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Precision Health, amendments to wording relating to course requirements, as well as editorial changes
- The Committee discussed the proposed Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the WSE and requested a minor clarification related to the wording for the prerequisites
- The Committee then reviewed the proposed Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the CSM, and in response to questions, it was noted that the course requirements and the number of units related to the program differs with each type of student. The Committee determined that additional clarification was required for the wording related to course requirements and more concise language to clarify the number of units required for different students, and asked that this item return to a future meeting for a further review.

**MOTION 1:****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Werklund School of Education, as set out in the Summary provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, with the suggested clarification.

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

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

**Postponed****5. Recommendation of Changes to Section F.3.1 Academic Standing and Section F.3.2 Unsatisfactory Standing in the University Calendar**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko, Registrar presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponent reported that the proposed changes will provide clarity in the definitions for the various academic standings in both Sections and simplify the procedures related to admissions, re-admissions and progression in-program in the University Calendar
- The Committee discussed the proposed changes and the specific requirements for each Section and, in response to questions, the proponent explained that it is implied that students have met the minimum requirements in order to be classified as “in good standing” however there are variances between faculties
- The Committee agreed that the language should be explicit to eliminate confusion, and requested that revised language related to academic standing matters be added to differentiate between requirements for undergraduate students and graduate students, and that this item return to a future meeting for a further review

*Secretary's Note: The motion was withdrawn.*

## **6. Recommendation of Changes to the *Important Notice and Disclaimer* in the University Calendar**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Angelique Saweczko, Registrar presented this item.

### **Highlights:**

- The proponent reported that the proposed changes reflect updated information that has been reorganized in the University Calendar for clarity and to align with other governance documents
- The Committee discussed the rationale for the proposed changes and learned that there were inconsistencies in the Calendar and that revisions were required to clarify students' responsibilities and to formalize the University's authority in granting credentials. It was noted that the proposed changes were initially brought for discussion at the December GAPS meeting and that additional feedback was requested from other Committees and Legal Services.
- There were no questions

### **MOTION:**

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the *Important Notice and Disclaimer* section in the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **7. Termination of the Master of Arts in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program**

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 termination of the Master of Arts in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program of the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar was approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education in 2020 as a result of no students being registered in the program
- There were no questions

## **8. Approved 2020-2021 GAPS Work Plan**

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

**9. Status of Program Approvals Report**

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

**10. Other Business****Recommendation of the Flexible Grading for the Winter 2021 Term**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leslie Reid, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning and Angelique Saweczko, Registrar presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed flexible grading option for the Winter 2021 term and indicated that students will be able to select the assigned letter grade or request a “CR/F” grade for each of their Winter 2021 courses
- The proponents outlined the rationale of the proposal, noting that the shift to remote learning has created a stressful environment for students and there is a need to review grading options for students to address the concerns received about the mental health and well-being of students, account for the workload associated with the online courses and recognize the ongoing challenges that students have experienced related to technology
- The Committee learned that the proposed flexible grading option is an interim solution and that extensive consultation with each academic unit and approval from the General Faculties Council is required prior to the University implementing a longer-term, institutionalized policy that would be applicable to all faculties, meet accreditation and licensing requirements and align with its peer universities
- The Committee discussed the proposal and the challenges associated with maintaining consistency with institutional regulations, noting that the flexible grading option was offered to students in the Fall 2020 term and was very well-received. The Committee then suggested minor amendments to strengthen the proposal.

**MOTION:****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the flexible grading option for the Winter 2021 term, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

**Carried**

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the January 20, 2021 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
Secretary