



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

General Faculties Council
GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #58, March 17, 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
Michael Wright

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Louise Wells

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Jaclyn Carter

Secretariat Staff

Jyoti Myers

Regrets

Melanee Thomas
Angelique Saweczko
Vanessa Wood

Guests

Cheryl Dueck, Senior Academic Director (International), University of Calgary International – present for Item 5
Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Director, Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies – present for Item 6

Observers

Sara Fedoruk, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost – present for Item 6
Catherine McLeod, Senior Director, Strategic Operations, Faculty of Graduate Studies
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 March 17, 2021 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair noted that an increase in the volume of proposals at the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Council will lead to some busy Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meetings over the next few months.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of the February 17, 2021 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 February 17, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of Calendar Changes for the Graduate Programs and Admissions:

- 1. Faculty of Social Work**
- 2. Faculty of Nursing**
- 3. Section A.1 Qualifications**

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 Social Work, the Faculty of Nursing, and the changes to Section A.1 *Qualifications* under Admissions, include:
 - Clarifying statements for programs in the Faculty of Social Work, including the part-time nature of graduate certificate programs and the full-time nature of course-based laddering programs
 - The deletion of certain courses and the creation of a milestone requirement for the Master of Nursing (thesis-based) students
 - An update to the English Language Proficiency requirements to include the addition of the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test and the Duolingo English Test
- The Committee reviewed the proposed Calendar changes, and in response to a question, it was clarified that the University aligns with other institutions in accepting an overall score of 86 on the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test without delineating minimum sub-test scores as part of this overall benchmark
- The Committee suggested that an asterisk be added to 2. f) under Section A.1 *Qualifications* to clarify that individual faculties may require higher minimum test scores on the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test, as is clarified with the Duolingo English Test

MOTION 1:**Moved/Seconded**

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

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

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for Section A.1 *Qualifications* in the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar, as set out in the document provided to the Committee and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, with the requested amendment.

Carried**5. Recommendation of Changes to Section A.3 Admission Categories to add Joint PhD Admission Category**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Jalel Azaiez and Cheryl Dueck presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed Joint PhD admission category, which aims to alleviate many of the challenges brought on by the current Cotutelle admission category, including the negotiation of graduation requirements between partner institutions, the student's time to completion, and the difference between regulations at the home and partner institutions. It was explained that that Joint PhD agreements established under this new category of admission will align with provincial and University guidelines; focus on the dissertation and its supervision and defence; result in one parchment issued by the home institution, with an acknowledgement that the degree was completed in collaboration with a partner institution; and isolate financial obligations to the home institution.
- The proponents then provided an overview of the template agreement established in FGS, noting that the template has been through legal review and consultation with various stakeholders, and that the agreements will encourage research relationships and a flow of graduate students between partner institutions
- In response to questions, it was explained that:

- Regulations at the student's home institution will determine the nature and composition of the dissertation examining committee
- If a student withdraws from a Joint PhD program at their home institution, they are automatically withdrawn from the program at the partner institution. It was explained that if a student wanted to switch institutions, they would need to be readmitted and could request recognition for work already completed, but that FGS would manage these situations on a case-by-case basis.
- The home institution employs the supervisor and the partner institution employs the co-supervisor. It was noted that while both supervisors are expected to contribute to students' progress reports, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure a student is making progress.
- The agreement is intended to support program-to-program collaborations, and further language may need to be developed to make it clear that the proposed admission category is not intended for broad-scale institutional partnerships
- The Committee discussed:
 - The advantages and disadvantages of offering a Joint PhD on a part-time basis, including students' eligibility for health and dental benefits and international travel. It was noted that health insurance requirements differ in different regions and that the Graduate Students' Association benefits may not be sufficient for the requirements of the partner institution, and that this issue would be managed on a case-by-case basis.
 - The potential differences in admissions processes when the University acts as the home or partner institution. It was noted that there is more work to be done in establishing an admissions evaluation process in situations where the University is considered the partner institution.
- The Committee suggested:
 - The proponents add language to the Calendar that clarifies that the home institution governs the makeup and conduct of the oral examination
 - The proponents adjust the language in the Calendar entry regarding parchments issued by other institutions, which the University cannot regulate

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to Section A.3 *Admission Categories* in the Graduate Chapter of the University Calendar, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

Carried**6. Recommendation of the Suspension of the PhD in Strategic Studies**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposal to suspend the PhD in Strategic Studies, due to low enrolment and a low number of applications to the program, and which responds to concerns expressed by students, Faculty members, the FGS, and the most recent unit review in the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies. It was noted that the program would be suspended temporarily

to allow the Centre to conduct a curriculum review and augment the program to make it more attractive to students.

- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension of the PhD in Strategic Studies, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried**7. Changes to Sections H.8 Convocation, H.9.1 Hoods and H.9.3 Gowns in the University Calendar**

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

8. Approved 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules

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

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

The March 17, 2021 meeting Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary