



General Faculties Council
GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #61, October 20, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom Platform

Voting Members

Robin Yates, Co-Chair
Kathryn King-Shier, Academic Co-Chair
Amy Dambrowitz
Jocelyn Hayley
Mary O'Brien
David Paskevich
Alex Paquette
Warren Wilson
Michael Wright

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns – joined during Item 2
Anthony Sayers
Louise Wells

Meeting Secretary

Cherie Tutt

Scribe

Jyoti Myers

Regrets

Rhiannon Jones

Observers

Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost
Kelly Kay Spurlock, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 20, 2021 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: Warren Wilson and Anthony Sayer, and returning members to the first meeting of the year.

The Co-Chair then reminded members about the role of the Committee and highlighted the approval process for program proposals.

The Academic Co-Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and commented on the importance of ensuring a welcoming attitude to reflect patience and compassion towards proponents and guests that are joining the virtual Committee meetings.

3. Approval of the Changes to the Admission Requirements for Graduate Programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology for the 2021-2022 Graduate Calendar

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Mary O'Brien, Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Louise Wells, Graduate Calendar Coordinator presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the proposed changes to the admission requirements for the graduate programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology reflect the removal of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) requirement due to concerns raised over cost and accessibility
- The Committee learned that the GRE requirements were temporarily removed for the Fall 2021 cycle due to pandemic-related obstacles and that the continued use of the GRE may result negatively on student recruitment

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the changes to the admission requirements for the Master of Science (thesis-based) and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Psychology and Clinical Psychology, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Creation of the Doctor 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 provided an overview of the proposal, explaining that the creation of the Doctor of Nursing (DN) program will be the first DN program in Western Canada and is aimed at preparing nurses for senior roles in the healthcare industry by providing them with the required knowledge and skills necessary for the advancement of innovative health systems
- The proponent noted that there is a high demand for the proposed DN program due to the key gaps that exist within nursing education and that this proposal will enable nurses to leverage their front-line experience towards senior system-level roles and administrative positions
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The DN program is designed to be a 3-year post graduate degree and will include a research component similar to all doctoral programs. It was suggested that this component be referred to as a thesis project.

- The Faculty of Nursing maintains a conservative view on the anticipated enrolment as nursing students in the DN program would not be enrolled in any other doctoral program at the University
- The tuition differential between domestic students and international students is based on preliminary budgetary analysis and is intended to serve as a starting point for the program
- The Committee discussed the overall proposed program proposal including: the positive impact on leadership roles in nursing careers; the enrolment plan and the potential for increasing the international tuition to generate higher revenues and to enable a richer student experience; the flexibility of utilizing scholarship funds to encourage equity, diversity and inclusion; the delivery options for the curriculum and creating more opportunities for camaraderie amongst colleagues
- The Committee provided some minor suggestions to reflect clarity in the proposal and recommended that the proposal move forward to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee for approval

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Programs Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Doctor of Nursing program in the Faculty of Nursing, effective January 1, 2023, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

Kathryn King-Shier abstained.

5. GAPS Committee Meeting Format

The Co-Chair and the Academic Co-Chair requested feedback from the members about the preferred format for Committee meetings in the future, commenting that an alternative variation could include a hybrid model for the meeting.

The Committee discussed the potential variations of the meeting, noting that there are challenges related to hearing one another with the mask mandate and that evidence has been cited, that virtual meetings allow for a higher attendance rate at the meetings.

The Committee agreed that for now, meetings will continue in the virtual format and that the meeting format should be reassessed in the new year.

6. Ministry Program Approval Process Update

Christine Johns presented this item.

The proponent provided an update on the program approval process reporting that the Ministry has modified the program approval process to shorten the time needed for approvals from approximately 1 year to a few months. The modified process includes new templates for program approvals and the internal process has changed to align with the Ministry. The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) has determined that the University may complete audits of its programs once every 5 years, and that the CAQC does not need to review every program proposal from the University before it is presented to the Ministry for approval

7. Status of Program Approvals Report

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

8. GAPS Revised Terms of Reference

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

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Motion to Adjourn**Moved/Seconded**

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

Carried

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:10 p.m.

Cherie Tutt
Meeting Secretary