



General Faculties Council
GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #60, May 26, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom Platform

Voting Members

Robin Yates, Co-Chair
Jalel Azaiez
Amy Dambrowitz
Mary O'Brien
Alex Paquette
David Paskevich
Michael Wright

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Melanee Thomas
Louise Wells

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Regrets

Jocelyn Hayley
Rhiannon Jones
Kathryn King-Shier

Guests

Janice Braun, Director of the Master of Biomedical Technology Program – present for Item 5

Observers

Sara Fedoruk, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost
Elizabeth Pando, Program Proposal Specialist, Office of the Provost
Jessica Revington, Program Proposal Assistant, Office of the Provost

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the May 26, 2021 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair remarked that Jalel Azaiez' term as Senior Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies is coming to an end, and acknowledge Jalel for his time and service on the Committee and its working group on this occasion of his last meeting.

The Co-Chair acknowledged the efforts of the Committee over the meeting year.

3. Approval of the April 21, 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 April 21, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. Approval of Calendar Changes for Graduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing

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

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the proposed Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Faculty of Nursing include:
 - New Calendar language for two new specializations within the Advanced Nursing Practice Graduate Certificates I and II
 - Course changes (modifications, additions, and deletions), minor changes to the text of the program descriptions, changes to degree options, and changes to program-level admission requirements
- The Committee requested a further review of the two specializations Calendar sections to ensure that the content and order of information in both sections is consistent or differentiated as required
- In response to a question, it was explained that additional Graduate Certificates may be created in Advanced Nursing Practice if there is demand, but currently, students are using the model to ladder into the Master's program

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 with requested clarifications/amendment.

Carried

5. Recommendation of a Load Change for the Master of Biomedical Technology

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Janice Braun presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided an overview of the proposal, explaining that there are two load changes being proposed: 1. that the MDSC 678 course, which runs over two terms, be changed to MDSC 688 and that the number of units for the course increase from three (3) to six (6) units to better reflect the course workload for students and the course instructor, and 2. that a Science and Communication workshop that has been piloted for the past three years be formalized into MDGE 615, a new one (1) unit, 12 hour-course, increasing the total load of the program from 33 units to 37 units
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The load change is block loaded in the Ministry of Advanced Education's PAPRS System and therefore does not need to be presented to the Ministry for approval
 - MDSC 678 has been running over two terms for several years and the course material has evolved, so that the course should have been re-classified as a 6 unit course versus a 3 unit earlier, but didn't come to the attention of the program until students requested the change to more accurately reflect the work they were doing in the course
 - Students did not ask for a corresponding decrease to the program course load to accommodate the increases from MDSC 688 and MDGE 615
- The Committee discussed the consultation with students, what information was shared with them, and the level of student support for the load changes, the tuition costs associated with the load changes, the importance of the Science and Communication course content and the rationale for formalizing this course, and how the changes may impact demand for the program
- The Committee requested that:
 - The Briefing Note be updated to provide a full outline of both load changes and include the total load change for the program and that each of the load changes be referenced in the separate proposals
 - Evidence of student consultation be added to the proposal
- The Committee noted that it may be beneficial to include the draft Calendar entry, if it is ready, with the proposal when it is presented to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the load changes for the Master of Biomedical Technology Program in the Cumming School of Medicine, effective for the Fall 2021 term, as set out in the proposals provided to the Committee and with the requested amendments to the proposal documents.

Carried

6. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the GAPS Terms of Reference

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates presented this item.

The Co-Chair reviewed the performance of the Committee over the past year and thanked the members for their preparation and attention to detail. The Committee discussed the conduct of the meetings, the delivery format, and the Committee membership.

In response to a question, it was explained that the Board of Governors approves all tuition and fees for programs, however this information is also often included as part of the program proposal for the Committee's information when reviewing the program overall and from a student, academic and reputational perspective.

7. Status of Program Approvals

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

8. Other Business

The Committee discussed the potential impacts of a recent letter issued by Alberta Advanced Education regarding research partnerships between the University and any entities with a link to the Chinese government. The Co-Chair noted that, to date, no official information has been passed down from the Office of the Vice-President (Research) on this matter.

9. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the December 16, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:08 p.m.

Susan Belcher
Secretary