

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
Approved Minutes
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

October 17, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

via Zoom

Voting Members

Penny Werthner, Co-Chair
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair
Kristin Baetz
Mark Bauer – left after Item 4
Barbara Brown
Marjan Eggermont
Michael Hart
Dawn Johnston
Nicole Schmidt
Malinda Smith – joined during Item 3
Dora Tam

Non-Voting Members

Hannah Ashton – joined during Item 3
David Stewart
Melanie Zimmer

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

Regrets

Saaka Sulemana Saaka

Guests

Ian Holloway, Dean, Faculty of Law – present for Item 5
Jim Stallard Professor (Teaching), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and Co-director, Professional Graduate Programs in Data Science – present for Item 4
Anatoliy Swishchuk, Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics – present for Item 4
Tony Ware, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics – present for Item 4
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) and Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee – present for Item 4

Observers

Kelly Kay Spurlock, Analyst, Planning and Reviews, Office of the Provost
Elizabeth Pando, Partner, Program Innovation

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 October 17, 2022 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair remarked on the sunsetting of *Eyes High 2017-2022* and updated the Committee that the process is underway to start planning for its successor and she is looking forward to engaging with the internal and external community on this.

The Academic Co-Chair thanked the Committee members for their service and acknowledged the time and commitment associated with being a member of the Committee. The Academic Co-Chair reminded members of the UFlourish activities happening next week and encouraged members to partake. Members were also reminded to reach out to the Co-Chairs with questions or concerns relating to the Committee at any time.

3. Approval of the September 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded Barb/Michael

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting held on September 19, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Creation of a new Specialization in Financial and Energy Markets Data Modelling within the Graduate Diploma and Master of Data Science and Analytics

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Tony Ware, Anatoliy Swishchuk, and Robin Yates presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal, highlighting key drivers for the creation of the Specialization, including the evolution of trading in financial and energy markets and the demand for energy market data modelling specialists. The presenters then reviewed how the proposed Specialization aligns with other program offerings, current and new course content, tuition and scholarships, and implementation timelines.
- In response to questions, the presenters reported that:
 - The Department has established relationships with a large pool of companies at which students may intern, such as WestJet, JP Morgan, and Cenovus
 - The Integrated Topics course DATA 691 is one of the ways used to embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into the Specialization curriculum. DATA 603 also addresses issues and dangers in machine learning, such as bias within data sets. The instructor for DATA 603 is currently participating in the [WISE Planet](#) program, which trains women and other individuals from equity-deserving groups in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to address the major shared challenges our societies face and it is anticipated she will provide further suggestions for curricular changes based on her learnings.

- Sessional instructors will be utilized until the Specialization reaches steady state/maturity when the Department will have more full-time, continuing term, academic staff
- Current hiring is underway for a full-time academic staff member with expertise in machine learning, and the Faculty of Science has made a commitment to further hiring in the near future in response to the broader data science expansion
- The Committee discussed:
 - That the proposal is to add a Specialization to an existing program and how the Committee's feedback should be focused. The Committee agreed that its feedback related to the broader program is important to include for the proponents, so that the department/unit can model these efforts and further develop a culture of continuous improvement, as well as support those involved with the Specialization.
 - That when the ii' taa'poh'to'p and Indigenous Engagement – Recommendations for Program Proposal Development (RPPD) and the Equity Diversity Inclusion and Accessibility - RPPD were brought forward that the Committee was supportive of not all consultation or work related to these areas occurring prior to proposals being brought forward, in recognition of the different places different disciplines are in, and to continue to encourage program innovation and development as this work continues
- The Committee requested the following amendments to strengthen the proposal, that:
 - In Section 1.2 *Learning Outcomes* stronger language and a greater variety of terms be used when describing student learning outcomes, leveraging resources available through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning
 - Examples of companies or organizations where students may intern be added
 - The broader program considers how to incorporate the commitments expressed in the proposal relating to Indigenous Engagement, including encouraging instructors to participate in education, such as through courses offered by the Office of Indigenous Engagement, incorporating Indigenous examples into the curriculum, and ensuring consultations go beyond one or two faculty with expertise in this area to promote the walking of parallel paths
 - In the third paragraph on page 14, that 'diversity we see in the Calgary community' be changed to 'diversity we see in the city of Calgary'
 - An example of how the Specialization will enhance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Experiential Learning be added
 - Specific examples of how the Specialization will address Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility be added, for example in terms of recruitment how does the program intend to increase diversity and how will the curriculum consider bias inherent in machine learning and big data analytics
 - In Section 4 *Budget*, it is clarified that sessional instructors will be used while the program is building and at steady state the Department will have more full-time, continuing term, academic staff, and that hiring is underway to support this Specialization
- The Co-Chairs agreed to review the proposal once the updates have been made to ensure the Committee's feedback is incorporated

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Specialization in Financial and Energy Markets Data Modelling within the Graduate Diploma in Data Science and Analytics and the Master of Data Science and Analytics, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee with the requested amendments.

Carried**5. Quality Assurance Unit Review Report Faculty of Law**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner and Ian Holloway presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Dean of the Faculty of Law provided an overview of the Quality Assurance Unit Review process, reporting that the review was conducted virtually, there was an excellent quality review team, and that overall, the recommendations were considered fair by the Faculty
- In response to questions:
 - It was noted that one area the Faculty has seen significant progress, is in improving its demographics and that proportionally the Faculty is one of the most diverse in Canada reflecting the work of the Faculty's appointment and admissions committees. The Dean acknowledged that some areas are less diverse than others and that there is still further work to do in this area.
 - Regarding *Recommendation 9*, the Dean explained that the Calgary curriculum was overhauled within the last 10 years and was designed so that it can be easily adapted to ensure currency, and the Faculty did not get a clear sense of what the reviewers' recommendation was getting at
 - In relation to *Recommendation 5*, the Dean provided further explanation for the rationale for the Faculty's approach to market supplements. It was clarified that market supplements are funded through a Faculty's budget.
- The Committee commended the Faculty of Law for the great strides they have made in advancing Indigenous Engagement and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and that it is looking forward to seeing how the Faculty moves forward with the recommendations

6. Subcommittee Reports for the: Academic Program Subcommittee, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee and Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee September Meetings

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

7. Status of Program Approvals Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the October 17, 2022 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary