

**GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL**  
Approved Minutes  
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

May 1, 2023, 2:01 p.m.

Governors Boardroom A167

---

***Voting Members***

Penny Werthner, Co-Chair  
Tara Beattie, Academic Co-Chair  
Kristin Baetz  
Mark Bauer  
Barbara Brown  
Michael Hart  
Dawn Johnston  
Malinda Smith – arrived during Item 5  
Dora Tam\*

***Non-Voting Members***

David Stewart\*  
Melanie Zimmer

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Scribe***

Holly Lywin

***Regrets***

Hannah Ashton  
Marjan Eggermont  
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette  
Kirsten Nepriily

***Resource Personnel***

Jaclyn Carter, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, Consultant – present for Items 4 & 5  
Kelly Hoglund, Partner, Program Innovation Hub – present for Items 4 & 5  
Christine Johns, Senior Director, Program Innovation and Planning  
Elizabeth Pando, Partner, Program Innovation Hub – present for Items 4 & 5  
Karen Quinn, Analyst, Planning and Reviews – present for Items 4 & 5  
Louise Wells, Lead, Graduate Calendar, Policy and Program Development – present for Item 5

***Guests***

Shawna Cunningham, Director, Indigenous Strategy, Office of Indigenous Engagement – present for Item 4\*  
Sheila LeBlanc, Associate Vice President, Continuing Education – present for Item 4  
Mary O'Brien, Senior Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 5  
Asya Touchie, MPA, Program Specialist, Indigenous, Continuing Education – present for Item 4  
Ewa Wasniewski, Director, Domestic Programs, Continuing Education – present for Item 4  
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost Graduate Studies and Co-Chair of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee present for Item 5

\*via Zoom

---

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

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

It was noted that the next meeting date is May 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the May 1, 2023 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair remarked:

- On recent University events, including the Students' Union (SU) Teaching Awards and SU Colour Night, and the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition
- On the incredible effort made by those involved in the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) grant application for a Canada-first research initiative with a vision for all children to be healthy, empowered and thriving. It was highlighted that UCalgary's *One Child Every Child* research program has been awarded a historic \$125 million grant.
- The University of Calgary was awarded a Construction recognition by Dimensions: Equity Diversity and Inclusion Canada in the program's inaugural year. This award recognizes the actions taken by institutions to lay the foundations to address equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in the research environment.

The Academic Co-Chair reported the names of the new student representatives on the Committee, noting that neither were available to attend today's meeting, given they have just taken office.

### 3. Approval of the April 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee meetings held on April 17, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

Barbara Brown abstained.

### 4. Approval of the Creation of the Towards Truth and Reconciliation Certificate (Non-Credit), Continuing Education

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Sheila LeBlanc, Shawna Cunningham, Ewa Wasniewski and Asya Touchie presented this item in person.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters provided an overview of the development of and consultation on the proposed non-credit Towards Truth and Reconciliation Certificate (TTRC), highlighting the partnership between Continuing Education and the Office of Indigenous Engagement and the opportunities the TTRC will create to increase intercultural capacity within the University. The presenters then outlined the structure of the Certificate.
- In response to questions, the presenters explained the rationale for the proposed grading scheme and using letter grades versus pass/fail. The Committee encouraged the presenters to continue to assess the grading system and if there is an actual demand for traditional letter grades from the target audience.
- The Committee thanked the presenters for acknowledging that the addition of this Certificate will increase workload for administrative staff. It was recommended that the presenters refer to the Letter of Understanding in the Alberta Union of Provincial Employee's (AUPE) Collective Agreement, Section 10: *Workload* to ensure they are compliant.
- The Committee discussed:
  - That Continuing Education is not required to follow the same grading regulations as either undergraduate and graduate programs, and that grading is not consistent across campus
  - The budget and revenue sharing model
  - That it may be beneficial for Continuing Education to connect with the Doctor of Medicine (DM) program, to let them know about the creation of this Certificate and for them to add it to the accepted programs/courses to meet Indigenous course requirements for entry to the DM when they present their revised proposal to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in the Fall
  - Within this program, a course will be offered to help assist faculty to develop Indigenous ways of knowing in their current courses

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the non-credit Towards Truth and Reconciliation Certificate, Continuing Education as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**5. Approval of the Creation of the PhD in Transdisciplinary Research and the Master of Transdisciplinary Research (thesis-based) Degrees, Faculty of Graduate Studies**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robin Yates and Mary O'Brien presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters commented on the development of the transdisciplinary programs, which align with the University's strategic direction to enhance transdisciplinary education and scholarship. Noting that students enrolled in a transdisciplinary thesis-based master's and PhD will be focused on building knowledge between, across, and beyond traditional disciplines to address problems in new ways and generating solutions for various stakeholders. It was emphasized that these programs will ensure community members are involved from the start and throughout the research to enhance real and positive impacts on society.
- The presenters reviewed the structure of the programs, including the various pathways for students, noting that the administration of the programs will be well resourced to support faculty and students. How these programs will integrate the University's Indigenous Strategy and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility commitments into course content, instruction, and knowledge engagement was also reviewed.
- Additionally, the program will offer a formal mechanism for Co-supervision across Faculties, a more cohesive cohort experience, allow non-academic units to offer academic programming. Lastly, with the proposed structured degree shells, new specializations can be approved expediently.
- In response to questions, it was explained:
  - It is expected that supervisors will have external research dollars to support their graduate students and that it may be more challenging to secure program funding, as it is not the goal for units to take funding away from its programs to dedicate to transdisciplinary programs. It was reported alternative funding may come from the transdisciplinary research institutes when they are established or from philanthropic donations, scholarships, or through Graduate Assistant (Teaching and Non-Teaching) appointments (GAT and GANT), and Graduate Assistant (Research) appointment opportunities.
  - In the event of a disagreement between a non-voting/advisory community member and an academic member on a student's supervisory committee, a decision will be deferred to the supervisory academic. The community member serves in an advisory role only.
  - Community member involvement is critical as they play an important role in increasing community engagement with the University and contribute to solving grassroots problems. If a supervisory committee is having a difficult time finding a non-academic community member the Knowledge Engagement Office on campus can assist with linking research partnerships. If community members are listed as optional, fewer committees will put the work in to find one, however, there will be flexibility for individual committee curation for each student.
- The Committee discussed:
  - The rationale for the selected nomenclature
  - Anticipated enrolment
  - The different sub-specializations and how future sub-specializations will be established
  - The role of the community in driving transdisciplinary research

- The requirement for there to be a non-academic committee member on supervisory committees. It was noted that there are regulations in the Graduate Section of the Calendar pertaining to the role of advisory members.
- That Indigenous students may not have community connections, given that many students are first-generation scholars, and this may be limiting if proper supports for making community connections are not in place
- The need to ensure, in alignment with current practices, that an honorarium can be provided to Indigenous community members who serve as advisory members on supervisory committees
- The Committee suggested that the proposal would benefit from:
  - More concrete examples of how the program will do its best to support students from equity-deserving groups
  - Further detail on the governance structure for transdisciplinary programs, for example, who governs hiring, how new courses will be proposed/developed, and how individual instructors/supervisors will be recognized for their work. A member of the Committee emphasized the importance of hiring and secondments being done in compliance with the Collective Agreement between the Faculty Association and the Board of Governors.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Transdisciplinary Research and the Master of Transdisciplinary Research (thesis-based) degrees, as set out in the proposals provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee.

**Carried****6. Subcommittee Reports: Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee March and April**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**7. Status of Program Approvals Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. Questions can be directed to the Program Innovation and Planning office.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee adjourn the May 1, 2023 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

---

Courtney McVie  
University Secretary