

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #26
February 29, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Lynn Taylor, Co-Chair
Lorraine Doepel, Academic Co-Chair
Heather Addy
Mary O'Brien
Kyle O'Keefe
Angelique Saweczko

Non-Voting Members

Kent Donlevy

Regrets

Stephan Guscott
Christine Johns
Abu Sesay
Joelle Welling

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Cherie Tutt, Governance Coordinator

Guests

Cindy Graham, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science – present for Items 4, 5 & 6

Observers

Heather Smith-Watkins, Analyst (Planning & Reviews)

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the February 29, 2016 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair made the following remarks:

- The Decision Support Team has been reviewing a number of proposals, and it is expected that

these will be coming to the Academic Program Subcommittee (APS) in the near future

- The Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approved the Bachelor Physician Assistant program, as recommended by the APS, and the proposal is currently under the review of the Ministry of Advanced Education
- The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance has been approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education

The Academic Co-Chair had no remarks.

3. Approval of the November 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on November 23, 2015 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Suspension and Closure of the BSc General Science

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Cindy Graham, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science, presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that the Provost Office provides a list of low enrolment programs to the Faculties annually, and that the Faculty of Science is working to properly suspend and terminate programs that have no students enrolled or have steady patterns of low enrolment
- The proponent explained that the General Science program in the Bachelor of Science was originally part of the Faculty of General Studies, and has not been offered since 1977, but it was never officially terminated with the Ministry of Advance Education
- The Committee requested that the response to question one in the proposal template be adjusted to clarify that there is no record of an official suspension and termination

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the immediate suspension and closure of the General Science program in the Bachelor of Science, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Recommendation of the Suspension and Closure of the BSc Applied Physics

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Cindy Graham, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reported that the Applied Physics program in the Bachelor of Science was removed from the Calendar in 2005, and that the last student graduated in 2011. In 2005, the Faculty of Science Council approved the suspension and eventual termination, but the proposal never moved to the next step in the governance process.
- In response to a question, it was explained that this program was created as a mechanism to allow students to complete an internship or co-op with a Physics degree. The Faculty of Science is currently working to revise its internship and co-op regulations so that these opportunities are available across different degree programs, and do not require specific programs to be created to integrate co-op or internship learning experiences.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the immediate suspension and closure of the Applied Physics program in the Bachelor of Science, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

Carried

6. Recommendation of the Suspension and Closure of the BSc Honours Chemical Physics

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Cindy Graham, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent explained that the Honours Chemical Physics program in the Bachelor of Science is a low enrolment program, and reviewed the reasons for this including:
 - The program is overly difficult and there are too many required courses for a student to be able to complete the degree in four years
 - Chemical Physics is only offered as an honours program, and students who do not meet the honours grade point average requirements cannot graduate. Because of the structure of the program, students also do not end up with enough required courses to gain a degree in either Chemistry or Physics as an alternative without further course work.
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that:
 - The main reason so few students have completed this program is because of the complicated nature of the prerequisite sequence, and the number of required courses
 - All of the courses offered in the program will still be available to students in other streams
 - There are administrative costs associated with the program, and also potential cost issues for students who have to extend their period of study beyond four years
- The potential risks for suspending and closing this program were considered by the Committee

- The Committee discussed the alternative options available to students who would be interested in this type of program. The Committee requested that the proposal be revised to clearly demonstrate which alternative program combinations are available to students, depending on their particular learning and career goals.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the immediate suspension and eventual closure of the Honours Chemical Physics program in the Bachelor of Science, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, and with the requested amendments to the proposal document.

Carried**7. Status of Program Approvals**

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

8. GFC Schedule

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

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the February 29, 2016 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.