

General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #36
October 16, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Leslie Reid, Co-Chair
Joelle Welling, Academic Co-Chair
Peggy Hedges
Shahirose Premji
Angelique Saweczko
U.T. Sundararaj
Antony Ware – arrived after Item 4

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns – arrived during Item 4
Paul Rogers

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Cherie Tutt

Regrets

Jim Brandon
Tina Miller

Guests

Virginia Tumas, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 4

Observers

Heather Smith-Watkins, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 16, 2017 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Co-Chair reported that, in relation to the comments raised at the last Committee meeting regarding the Curriculum Review Process, a review of the Curriculum Review Handbook is being conducted and any updates will be brought forward through the governance process.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of the September 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

In response to a question regarding the accountability of proponents for Committee requests, it was explained that the Provost team staff follows up with the proponents to ensure that requests made by the Committee are addressed before proposals move forward to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC).

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on September 18, 2017 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of a change of name from the BA Communications and Culture (Multidisciplinary) to the BA Multidisciplinary Studies

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Virginia Tumas, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs, Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent introduced the proposal and reported that the Faculty of Arts is seeking a name change for the “Bachelor of Arts Communication and Culture (Multidisciplinary)” to the “Bachelor of Arts Multidisciplinary Studies” to both bring the degree title into alignment with the current Faculty of Arts structure and to ensure that students obtain a credential that is reflective of their program of study as currently students can complete the Bachelor of Arts Communication and Culture (Multidisciplinary) without having taken any Communication and Culture courses
- In response to questions, the proponent explained:
 - That the degree parchment will not specify the areas of study, but the transcript will provide this information
 - The rationale for not consulting with students regarding the name change
 - That students currently enrolled in the program will be given the opportunity to choose to graduate under the current or new degree name
- The Committee discussed:
 - A potential issue with implementing the change of name effective September 2018, as the University’s application system is currently open for intake in Fall 2018 and acceptance letters will be issued using the existing program name. The Committee reviewed the anticipated timeline for government approval of the change of name and suggested that the Registrar, the proponent, and the Office of the Provost consult and determine whether the effective date needs to be changed prior to the proposal moving forward to the APPC.

- The importance of consulting with students and other stakeholder groups for these types of changes and requested that the proponents consult with students regarding the proposed name change for the degree, prior to the proposal moving forward to the APPC for consideration. The Committee also suggested that it may be beneficial to consult with Alumni on this.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) approve the name change of the Bachelor of Arts Communication and Culture (Multidisciplinary) to the Bachelor of Arts Multidisciplinary Studies, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the requested actions of the proponent prior to the proposal moving forward to the APPC.

Carried**5. Curriculum Review Reports: Actuarial Science, Biological Sciences, General Mathematics, Geomatics Engineering, Geoscience, Natural Sciences, New Mathematics Program**

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

- The Committee discussed their role in the Curriculum Review Process, specifically if there is a feedback or support role for the Committee
- It was explained that curriculum reviews are a part of the University's Quality Assurance processes and complement the Unit Review Process
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), through the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), holds administrative responsibility for the Curriculum Review Process
- The concern regarding whether the Curricular Review Process is compliant with the approved guidelines was raised again and the Co-Chair responded that the issue raised will be looked at in the review of the guidelines. It was suggested that an accountability piece be incorporated into the process and that this be addressed when the Curriculum Review Handbook is reviewed.

6. Status of Program Approval Reports

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

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the October 16, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.