

General Faculties Council  
**GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #29  
May 31, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Rob Kremer, Academic Co-Chair  
Jalel Azaiez  
Lawrence Harder  
David Nordstokke  
Quentin Pittman  
Angelique Saweczko

***Non-Voting Members***

Christine Johns  
Liza McCoy  
Tanya Zdorenko

***Secretary and Scribe***

Cherie Tutt

***Regrets***

Cheryl Dueck  
Negar Mohammadi  
Joelle Welling  
Lisa Young

***Guests***

Gregory Hagen, Associate Dean (Research) and Graduate Program Director, Faculty of Law – present for Item 4  
Emily Laidlaw, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law – present for Item 4

***Observers***

Lindsay Penner, Program Support Specialist – present for Item 4

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The Academic 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 May 31, 2017 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Academic Co-Chair acknowledged members whose service on the Committee is ending, and expressed appreciation to all members for their contributions this year.

### **3. Approval of the April 26, 2017 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 26, 2017 be approved.

**Carried**

### **4. Recommendation of the Creation of a Thesis-Based Master of Laws Program (General)**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Gregory Hagen, Associate Dean (Research) and Graduate Program Director, Faculty of Law, and Emily Laidlaw, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents explained that the Master of Laws program (LLM) was created in 1988, but that there are currently only two specializations; Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law and Energy and Environmental Systems, and that the Faculty of Law would like to expand the program by offering a general LLM. The expansion of the LLM program will better utilize faculty research interests and expertise, and may stimulate faculty to apply for research grants.
- It was confirmed that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee is the final approval authority for the creation of a General LLM
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The current proposal contemplates that only one student per year will be admitted to the General LLM, but up to five students could be admitted. The low enrolment number is due to the expectation that students will be self-funded.
  - There are approximately ten students admitted to the LLM specializations each year, with around three or four students admitted to the thesis-based program
  - For the general LLM a specific specialization will not be listed on the transcript, but students will choose to focus on a specific area of law, which will be evident from their supervisor and thesis topic choices
- The Committee discussed:
  - The rationale for introducing a General LLM at this time
  - The sequencing of courses in the Faculty of Law, the use of 600 level courses in both the Juris Doctor (JD) and LLM levels, and the steps necessary to reduce confusion by students, faculty and administration
  - Cross-listing of JD courses with LLM courses, and the importance of having a distinction between graduate and undergraduate courses
  - The role of the supervisor and the graduate program director in regards to course selection

- The communication plan for recruiting students to the general LLM
- Funding for students and the potential for the Faculty of Law to create scholarships for prospective students
- The Committee suggested that, in the Calendar entry:
  - It be explained how students will determine which 600 level courses are intended for JD students and which are for LLM students
  - It be clarified what the transfer requirements are from a course-based LLM to a thesis-based LLM

*Secretary's Note: The Committee requested that the motion to approve the Calendar wording for the thesis-based General LLM be postponed, and that the Calendar wording be reviewed by the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) Calendar working group prior to being brought back to the GAPS.*

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a thesis-based General Master of Laws program, in the Faculty of Law, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the Calendar language for the thesis-based General Master of Laws program, contingent upon approval of its creation, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.

**Postponed**

### **5. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the GAPS Terms of Reference**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Kremer, Academic Co-Chair of the GAPS, presented this item.

The Committee suggested that it would be informative to include specific numbers for program suspensions, creations, and revisions recommended by the Committee in the Committee's annual report to APPC.

### **6. Calendar Change: Faculty of Environmental Design**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Tanya Zdorenko, Graduate Calendar Editor, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the application deadline for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Built and Landscape Heritage has been moved from March 1 to December 1. It was explained that the application deadline was modified as a result of the approval of the Post-Baccalaureate

Certificate in Built and Landscape Heritage by the Ministry of Advanced Education

- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Faculty of Environmental Design intend to keep the December 1 application deadline going forward

**7. Curriculum Review Report: Werklund School of Education**

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

**8. Status of Program Approvals**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only. It was reported that the Doctor of Business Administration has now gone forward to the Campus Alberta Quality Council for review.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment**

The May 31, 2017 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary