

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

Meeting # 37  
June 4, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Lisa Young, Co-Chair  
Elena Favaro  
Jim Field  
Michael Sideris  
Joelle Welling  
Jaana Woiceshyn

***Regrets***

Shelley Alexander  
Jalel Azaiez  
Angelique Saweczko  
Antony Ware, Academic Co-Chair  
Tanya Zdorenko

***Non-Voting Members***

Christine Johns  
Francine Smith

***Observer***

Kelly Hogle, Program Proposal Support Specialist –  
present for Items 4 - 9  
Cherie Tutt, Director, University Secretariat and Student  
Appeals Office  
Heather Smith-Watkins, Analyst, Planning & Reviews –  
present for Items 4 - 9

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Jyoti Myers

***Guests***

Gopal Achari, Associate Dean Graduate Studies, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 8  
Darren Bender, Graduate Program Director (Interim), Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts – present for  
Item 6  
Charles Chukwukaeme, Graduate Program Specialist, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 8  
Michele Jacobsen, Associate Dean – Graduate Programs, Werklund School of Education – present for Item 4  
David Monteyne, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Design – present for Item 9  
Leda Stawnychko, Program Specialist, Graduate Professional Education, Faculty of Nursing – present for Item  
7  
Lorraine Venturato, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing – present for Item 7

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the June 4, 2018 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

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

The Co-Chair welcomed Elena Favaro, the new representative for the Graduate Students' Association to the Committee and noted that this was the last Committee meeting for Joelle Welling and thanked her for her service.

The Co-Chair applauded the hard work of the Committee and commented that it has been a remarkable year with the innovation in programming and the continuing developments in graduate research at the University.

## **3. Approval of the April 25, 2018 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 25, 2018 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Recommendation of the Termination of the Specialization: Applied Psychology, Master of Counselling**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Michele Jacobsen presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent provided the rationale for the program closure, citing that there are no students presently enrolled in the in Applied Psychology (AP) program and that the termination would ensure that the Ministry of Advanced Education's Provider and Program Registry System (PAPRS) accurately reflects the programs offered at the University
- The proponent reported that there have been no applications into the program since 2011 when AP was renamed as Educational Psychology. It was confirmed that there is student enrolment in the Master of Counselling in Educational Psychology and that this program is the same specialization as the AP, but with a different name.
- There were no questions

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Programs Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the Specialization (area of study) in Applied Psychology within the Master of Counselling program, effective July 1, 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **5. Recommendation of the Suspension of the Master of Counselling**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Michele Jacobsen presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent explained that the Master of Counselling (MC) degree program has an academically robust curriculum but has faced many challenges including; a lack of program accreditation, limited practicum placements available for students, peer institutions offering the same program either wholly online or via blended delivery with fewer requirements and a lower cost, and overall student dissatisfaction with the program
- It was reported that the suspension would be applicable for the 2019-2020 admissions cycle and will allow the Werklund School of Education (WSE) to further its curricular review, complete consultations with students and faculty and determine the best course of action to address the challenges faced by the program
- In response to a question, it was explained that the suspension is only for admissions and that the program will continue to allow for program completion for all enrolled students
- The Committee discussed the suspension process noting that, typically suspensions are followed by closure of the program however, this proposal's temporary suspension allows the WSE to determine if maintaining the program is feasible

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Programs Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the suspension of the Master of Counselling, effective September 1, 2019, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

## **6. Recommendation of the Creation of the Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Technology**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Darren Bender presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent explained that the proposed Geospatial Information Technology (GIT) Certificate will allow graduate students in related academic disciplines and professionals to take a micro-credential to supplement their education with foundational knowledge and skills, enhancing their employability with a skill set that would complement their disciplinary knowledge
- The proponent noted that there is a high demand for geospatial technical skills in Alberta and that the proposed format for the certificate has obtained strong support and is similar to competitive programs in the United States
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The time to completion was set at 4 years to allow for program completion by students registered part-time

- There will be no increase in regular tuition fees for students enrolled in a concurrent program, and students will pay per course
- Program enrolment is directed at students in disciplines outside of Geography and Geomatics. The Department of Geography is currently working on redesigning the Master of Geographic Information Systems to create laddering options.
- The Committee discussed the content and admission requirements of the program, the full load equivalent conversions within the proposed enrolment tables, the naming structure of the certificate, the delivery options for the programming, including online and blended learning, and the challenges with the Information Technology department that need to be overcome before the certificate can be offered online only
- The Committee suggested that a note be added explaining why enrolment is based only on domestic students and that “Post-Baccalaureate Certificate” be replaced with “Graduate Certificate” to reflect the recent credential change within the provincial framework

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Technology, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**7. Recommendation of the Creation of two new Graduate Certificates in Nursing, and the Creation of a Stackable Certificate pathway into the Master of Nursing (course-based) degree program**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Leda Stawnychko and Lorraine Venturato presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents reported that the two new certificates in Advanced Nursing Practice (ANP) I and ANP II will allow students to select between four sub-specializations: Addiction and Mental Health, Aging and Older Adults, Innovation in Teaching and Learning and Nursing Leadership for Health System Transformation. It was explained that the proposed certificates will strengthen nursing professionals’ knowledge and skills and support their career advancement in leadership or management positions.
- The proponents reported on the process for laddering from the certificate pathway into the Master of Nursing (MN) (course-based) degree for students, noting that:
  - Students would be required to complete two different areas of sub-specialization, within each certificate
  - The completion of the ANP I and ANP II certificates would be completed consecutively and the advanced credit would be used to ladder into the MN program
  - The certificate programs would be cohort-based, and offered over a period of one year and on a part-time basis through a blended delivery learning style

- Graduation from the MN degree program would require additional coursework, two research methods courses and the completion of a capstone project
- In response to questions, the proponents discussed the challenges of recruiting students to the MN degree program and noted that the new certificate's design will provide flexibility for nurses to pursue graduate education while working
- The Committee suggested that it be made clear in the proposal that the area of sub-specialization for ANP 1 and ANP II is required to be different and that references to "Post-Baccalaureate Certificate" be replaced with "Graduate Certificate" to reflect the recent credential change within the provincial framework

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Nursing Practice I, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Nursing Practice II, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation a stackable Certificate pathway into the Master of Nursing (course-based) degree program, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****8. Recommendation of the Creation of a Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Gopal Achari and Charles Chukwukaeme presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents outlined the rationale for creating a new specialization in Environmental Engineering (EE) within the Master of Engineering. It was explained that there is currently a sub-specialization in EE within Civil and Petroleum Engineering and that, in order to ensure better alignment between the degree title and parchment and to raise the profile of the discipline, it is being proposed that the EE specialization be created.

- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - An extensive consultation process with internal and external stakeholders was conducted and SSE has received strong support from external industry leaders. The results from the survey circulated to students are expected over the summer.
  - The strong support highlights the increasing importance for engineers to be more environmentally conscious in their work in response to societal concerns over climate change and the impact of technology on the environment
- The Committee discussed the market demand for the specialization and anticipated enrolment, and that keeping the core courses more general will eliminate the need for exemptions for students with engineering backgrounds other than EE. The proponents explained the importance of explicit communication to students about the required course prerequisites for core courses and electives.
- The Committee expressed their concerns about the incomplete student surveys and discussed the importance of including tangible results in the proposal, prior to forwarding it to APPC and to the Ministry for approval. It was noted that an extended review including consultation, would be completed in the summer prior to the final submission.
- The Committee provided some suggestions for drafting the Calendar entry

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of a Specialization (area of study) in Environmental Engineering within the Master of Engineering (course-based) program, set out in the proposal provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

**Carried****9. Recommendation of the Creation of a Doctor of Design**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. David Monteyne presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponent outlined the rationale for creating the new Doctor of Design (DDes), noting that the program is directed at mid-career professionals in design fields and will allow for further development of advanced research skills which are in demand from the government and industry. It was explained that the programming will be structured around two annual symposia and that all aspects of the program including courses, candidacy examinations, and thesis defence will take place during the symposiums.
- The Committee discussed tuition, enrolment and attrition, candidacy requirements, learning outcomes, the independent academic review requirements and the budget
- The Committee noted inconsistencies in the proposal and that there is significant information still pending

- The Committee determined that, given its concerns and the number of requested changes to the proposal, the proposal should be brought back to the Committee for further consideration before being recommended to APPC

*Secretary's Note: The motion to approve the creation of a Doctor of Design was withdrawn.*

#### **10. Approval of Calendar Changes for the Faculty of Science and the Haskayne School of Business**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Lisa Young presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the proposed 2018-19 Calendar changes for the Faculty of Science and the Haskayne School of Business. The changes proposed for the Faculty of Science include the creation of three new courses, and a change to course hours to ensure appropriate timetabling and the changes proposed for the Haskayne School of Business include changes to admission requirements, advanced credit and course descriptions for the Master in Management.
- There were no questions

##### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the graduate courses in the Faculty of Science, as set out in the supporting document provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

##### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the Master in Management program at the Haskayne School of Business, as set out in the Summary provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

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

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Lisa Young presented this item.

The Co-Chair discussed the value and importance of the Committee's work and noted the large volume of proposals and approvals that have been brought forward for consideration this year. The Co-Chair then commented on the support and feedback received from the Decision Support Team and Kelly Hoglund, Program Support Specialist.

The Co-Chair commented on the interplay between the program proposal and Calendar copies and noted that ideally, the proposal and Calendar copies should be brought forward at the same time to the Committee.

There were no comments on the Terms of Reference.

**12. Status of Program Approvals**

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

**13. Types of Degrees and Sub-Degree Nomenclature Calendar Entry**

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

**14. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**15. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the June 4, 2018 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary