

**Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Annual Report for General Faculties Council
2022-2023**

DATE: May 10, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Lee Easton, Chair of ASC

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The Academic Standards Committee met seven times from October 2022 to May 2023 (see below). This year the work on ASC focussed on fulfilling the *MOU to Recognize Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Indigenous Knowledge*. We also approved two program reviews.

I would like to thank the Committee for its hard work which has been done in an open and collaborative way. It has been a great pleasure to work with you all.

Program Reviews Approved

- Bachelor of Science - General Science Major Program
- Bachelor of Media Studies Program

Work to Fulfill the MOU to Acknowledge Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Proposed Changes to the Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria

The ASC Working Group comprised of Lee Easton, ASC Chair, Kelly-Williams Whitt, Dean, Faculty of Business and Communications and dr. linda manyguns, AVP, Indigenization and Decolonization met in early Fall 2022 to finalize proposed changes to the Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria documents including changes to criteria and illustrative examples for teaching and service at each rank; a new Appendix A-Recognizing Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing to be added to the *Tenure and Promotion Handbook*. The Academic Standards Committee reviewed these changes and then moved to consult with Faculty Councils to hear comments on the changes.

Consultations were held with the six Faculty Councils and also with members of the Indigenous Faculty Collective (IFC). At this meeting members of the IFC expressed significant concerns about the proposed changes and about the degree of consultation that had been experienced to date. Based on this feedback, the ASC unanimously agreed to suspend further work on the proposed changes to allow more consultation with Indigenous faculty and those teaching in the Indigenous Studies program. A follow-up meeting was held in April to consider ways to move forward. It was agreed that the IFC would review Appendix A as well as consider how ASC can work with members of the IFC to bring the project to a conclusion in the most timely way. A meeting in May 2023 is currently being planned.

Other Items

- Drawing on feedback from the GFC survey, the ASC reviewed its Criteria for Program Reviews and added questions related to the engagement of students in program review. New or revised questions were created including: *Do you feel the student perspective was adequately represented in the program review process? How did you ensure student perspectives were heard? How is the student perspective represented in the Program Advancement Plan?*

- ASC recommended to the Provost that a number of editorial changes be made to the *Tenure and Promotion Handbook*. Dr. Sabrina Reed has been engaged to make those changes, which will be included in a new version of the Handbook effective September 2023.
- The ASC was asked to offer thoughts on the Grading Policy—Grading System 1.1(a)(iii) related to rounding grades and affirmed the wording used in the policy.

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Academic Standards Committee reiterates its recommendation from May 2021 that the University build on the work of ASC to create a Handbook for Senior Lectures and Full-time Lab Instructors.

The role of ASC in quality assurance processes must be considered as the University moves towards audit status. ASC anticipates it will receive program reviews from English, Policy Studies and possibly General Education. The program review schedule can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Lee Easton, GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR

Gaye Warthe, Designate for Vice-Provost, Academic, VICE-CHAIR

Phil Warsaba, Vice-President, Students

Peter Ryan, MRFA Academic Liaison Officer

Kelly Williams-Whitt, Dean Representative

Mary-Lee Mulholland, GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts) (*February – present*)

Aida Patient, GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts) (September – January)

Sally Haney, GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)

Deepa Upadhyaya, GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community & Education)

Vacant, GFC Academic Staff Member (Science & Technology)

Cynthia Gallop, Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)

Erik Christiansen, Academic Staff Member (University Library)

Tala Abu Hayyaneh, Student Representative

Rusna Mahoon, Student Representative

Resources

Geri Lynn Gouglas, University Registrar

Cheryl Melatdoost, Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator

Sheena Jensen, Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

- Wednesday, October 5, 2022
- Wednesday, November 9, 2022
- Wednesday, December 7, 2022
- Wednesday, February 15, 2023
- Wednesday, March 15, 2023
- Wednesday, April 5, 2023
- Wednesday, May 3, 2023

For additional information and meeting minutes, visit the [ASC](#) webpage.