

**Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Annual Report for General Faculties Council
2024-2025**

DATE: April 30, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Lee Easton, ASC Chair

I am pleased to provide this annual report to GFC detailing the work of the Academic Standards Committee. As the report shows, the Academic Standards Committee has been very active in its role as the final step in the University's quality assurance process. I can say with confidence that the Committee members take its role seriously and diligently consider each program review ensuring that the program review has been comprehensive and rigorous. The good news is that the reviews the ASC receives are high calibre and the external reviewers are often deeply impressed by the quality of programs they are asked to review. I want to thank the members of ASC who read the reviews and who come to meetings with astute questions and observations about the reviews. As an audit status university, we understand and take seriously the approval responsibility that GFC has delegated to the Committee.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The ASC has continued its work to refine its processes and to support Committee members in developing the tools and knowledge to engage in this work. This year, for example, the members of ASC had an expanded orientation to the Committee's work and the review process:  [ASC Overview of a Program Review](#) . In refining its approach to program reviews, ASC developed templates to ensure a consistent format for communicating decisions to review teams—clearly distinguishing between required changes and recommendations. We also clarified how revisions, once made, are communicated back to the Committee so members are informed when updates are accepted. A special thanks to Cheryl Meladoost for her outstanding work with the Committee on these processes, and to Sheena Dyer for her valuable contributions to these improvements.

ASC reviewed and approved the following Program Reviews:

1. Bachelor of Education
2. Bachelor of Communication Studies – Information Design major and minor
3. Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
4. Bachelor of Communication Studies Journalism and Digital Media major and minor
5. Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology
6. Bachelor of Science - Geology
7. Bachelor of Computer Information Systems
8. Bachelor of Business Administration - Human Resources
9. Advanced Studies in Critical Care Nursing

Other Work

- We heard from the Office of the Registrar about the English Proficiency scores that are used to accept students whose first language is other than English into studies at MRU. The Committee heard that the scores are set to ensure that students have the skills to be successful in their program.

- We heard from the Working Group on Experiential Learning and considered the proposed Framework for Experiential Learning and offered some feedback.
- The ASC also has been asked to review a proposal to amend the *Tenure and Promotion Handbook*, Appendix D, to add a provision to required academic credentials for tenure to recognize individuals who have a graduate degree along with relevant expertise including affirmed Indigenous knowledge.
- The ASC has recommended changes to the scholarship criteria in the Faculty of Business, Communications and Aviation which, if accepted by GFC, will move forward to the Board of Governors for its approval.

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

This year, the Committee managed the program review workload and managed to thoroughly consider two reviews per meeting. We have also in the past assigned a review to particular committee members to lead the consideration of a review. These approaches have worked well in the past; however, looking ahead to the scheduled number of program reviews over the upcoming year and beyond suggests that the ASC will need to look closely at its processes to ensure that ASC's workload remains reasonable. This will be a focus for next year. Finally, the requests to review the *Tenure and Promotion Handbook* and recommend changes to a Faculty's tenure and promotion criteria for scholarship this year highlighted again the need to create and/or document the process for these changes. The Provost, Vice-Provost and the ASC Chair are meeting in late May to consider this challenge.

Final Thanks

I want to thank all the members of ASC for their diligent and thoughtful work, especially those committee members who will be leaving us this year. Thanks to Dr. Dharamsi for being a wonderful Vice-Chair. Let me again thank Cheryl Melatdoost who has shaped the quality assurance processes in so many ways. Finally, a big shoutout to Sheena Dyer whose support to the Committee and to the Chair are truly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Easton

Chair, Academic Standards Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Lee Easton	GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR
Karim Dharamsi	Vice-Provost, Academic, VICE-CHAIR
Phil Warsaba	Vice-President, Students
Pearl Herscovitch	MRFA Academic Policy and Governance Officer
Kelly Williams-Whitt	Dean Representative
Mary-Lee Mulholland	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Brooks DeCillia	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)
Joyce Totton	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community & Education)
Jon Mee	GFC Academic Staff Member (Science & Technology)
Kalen Keavey	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Christina Lovestone	Continuing Education Representative
Fiona Chetty	Student Representative
Jelena Stojic	Student Representative

Resources

Geri Lynn Gouglas	University Registrar & Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Management
Cheryl Melatdoost	Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

1. September 24, 2024
2. October 29, 2024
3. December 3, 2024
4. January 28, 2025
5. March 11, 2025
6. April 9, 2025 (*Special Meeting*)
7. April 29, 2025

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