

**Academic Standards Committee  
February 15, 2023 at 3pm – 5pm  
University Boardroom A341**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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)  
Deep Upadhyaya, GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community & Education)  
Erik Christiansen, Academic Staff Member (University Library)  
Rusna Mahoon, Student Representative

Resources

Geri Lynn Gouglas, University Registrar  
Cheryl Melatdoost, Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator  
Sheena Jensen, Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

Guests

Jonathan Withey, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology  
Melanie Rathburn, Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Science and Technology

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tala Abu Hayyaneh, Student Representative  
Cynthia Gallop, Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)  
Sally Haney, GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03pm

**1. Approval of Agenda (*motion*)**

***Moved and seconded:***

THAT the Agenda for the February 15, 2023 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

***Motion carried***

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2.1. Minutes from December 7, 2022 (*motion*)

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the December 7, 2022 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

***Motion carried***

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1. Committee Chair Report

A copy of the Committee Chair Report to GFC for January 2023 was provided for information. A status update was shared on the Faculty Council consultations that are in progress on the proposed changes to the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria* to recognize Indigenous Peoples ways of knowing and doing, and about upcoming sessions with Indigenous faculty. A preliminary discussion took place on the feedback that has been heard at the first four consultation sessions. Written feedback via a Google Form is being collected until the end of March 2023.

#### 3.2. Report from the Senior Administrator to the Committee

No report.

#### 3.3. Update on Cyclical Reviews

A written update was shared with members and highlighted at the meeting on current, upcoming and in progress reviews. Information sessions are being planned for March 2023 to provide an overview of the program review process by Faculty for programs with upcoming reviews.

### 4. Bachelor of Science – General Science Major Program Review (*motion*)

A preliminary discussion took place about the General Science Major program review to identify questions to ask the guests.

*The guests, J. Withey and M. Rathburn, joined the meeting.*

The guests responded to questions regarding the following aspects of the program review and the advancement plan:

- Expanding upon the plans for incorporating 4000-level courses and providing students more options within the concentrations, as part of responding to student perceptions of the program as addressed within the review
- Utilization of the eCareer Portfolios under development with student reflections to assist with meeting the timelines for re-evaluating the learning objectives to be measurable
- General thoughts on working with the external reviewers, noting that their recommendations were considered based on the long-term outlook and feasibility of the recommendations
- Addressing the recommendation for a program name change and consideration of the implications to better reflect the program and its outcomes, which had support within the program and members of ASC

*The guests left the meeting.*

#### ***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Academic Standards Committee approves the Bachelor of Science – General Science Major program review.

Discussion:

- There was consensus that the responses to the Committee's questions were sufficient and no amendments to the Advancement Required, with the understanding that the plan to re-evaluate learning objectives is underway and on track
- In response to a question, it was explained that midterm check-ins with ASC will be taken into considered as part of the move to audit status

***Motion carried***

**5. Discussion of Grades Policy section – *Grading System 1.1(a)(iii)***

There was a grade review submitted this term that had raised some questions with regards to the interpretation of the Grades policy, specifically in regards to the reference to percentage grades. Background information and context provided in the meeting package was reviewed, and discussion ensued that considered the following:

- How to apply the policy to other grades, as the policy does apply to the final grade
- How best to ensure students are informed with regards to rounding practices within the class
- Examples of scenarios where rounding may have a greater impact
- Student impact and pedagogical considerations

ASC's interpretation is aligned with that of the Office of the Registrar where all course assignments, tests and final exams are calculated to two decimal places and only the final grade is rounded to the nearest whole number to determine the corresponding letter grade. ASC recommended that this clarification of the policy is transferred to the course outline templates within Faculties/Departments to communicate to their students.

The input provided by ASC will be taken into consideration by the Office of the Registrar. Were a revision to the policy necessary, that process will be followed accordingly.

**6. New Business**

There was no new business.

**7. Adjournment 4:47PM**