

Academic Standards Committee
October 31, 2023 at 3pm – 5pm
University Boardroom A341

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lee Easton	GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR
Karim Dharamsi	Vice-Provost, Academic, VICE-CHAIR
Phil Warsaba	Vice-President, Students
Marc Schroeder	MRFA Academic Policy and Governance Officer
Kelly Williams-Whitt	Dean Representative
Mary-Lee Mulholland	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Anh Nguyen	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)
Joyce Totton	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)
Chris Moxham	Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)
Kalen Keavey	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Tala Abu Hayyaneh	Student Representative
Fiona Chetty	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

Guests

Sarah Banting, Associate Professor, Department of English, Languages, and Cultures
Rob Boschman, Chair, Department of English, Languages, and Cultures
Jennifer Pettit, Dean, Faculty of Arts
Kari Roberts, Chair, Department of Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the October 31, 2023 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from September 26, 2023

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Program Reviews

3.1. Policy Studies

Preliminary feedback and potential questions to ask the Policy Studies program review guests were discussed.

Guests J. Pettit and K. Roberts joined the meeting.

The guests responded to questions to provide additional clarification and information on various areas of the program review (primarily the Advancement Plan, Self-Study report, and External Reviewer's report), including:

- increasing the amount of Indigenous content and increase access to more EDI content in curriculum
- flexibility within the current framework for a student's course load and internship placement (such as POST3030) with the support of Career Services
- future accreditation and certificate program considerations (opportunities and challenges)
- the high-level recommendation to establish a clear vision of the program, with an emphasis on the value proposition for students, and program-level learning outcomes
- reference to higher retention and graduation rates in consideration of how challenging the program is
- the recommendation to transition faculty advising to a staff position housed within the department

J. Pettit and K. Roberts left the meeting.

ASC discussed and agreed to recommend the following modifications to enhance the English program review's Advancement Plan:

- Expand on the program's intention to make space for Indigenous/EDI content and courses throughout the program within its existing framework.
- Revise the specific action focused on a student advising staff position to articulate the program's commitment to advising students and the goals without a particular approach.
- Expand on future accreditation considerations including looking at the benefits and challenges that come with such accreditations.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approves the Bachelor of Arts – Policy Studies program review.

Motion carried

L. Easton left the meeting for the preliminary discussion of the English Program Review to ensure that was no apprehension of bias or potential conflict of interest.

K. Dharamsi, Vice-Chair, chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3.2. English

Preliminary feedback and potential questions to ask the English program review guests were discussed.

L. Easton joined the meeting.

Guests J. Pettit, S. Banting and R. Boschman joined the meeting.

The guests responded to questions to provide additional clarification and information on the Program Review, including the following areas (mainly as referenced in the Advancement Plan):

- how the recommendations from the external reviewers were incorporated into the Advancement Plan
- addressing the gaps in the external reviewers recommendations, given concerns raised about limitations with their understanding of various aspects of the program
- additional context for the challenges created by external factors and structures that were addressed throughout the review
- acknowledging the tensions between formal processes/resourcing and achieving the goals in the plan

Discussion took place on recommendations from ASC members for revising the Advancement Plan and consideration for addendums to other areas of the program review:

- In the advancement plan under the section "Acquire Additional Support for Key Initiatives" where the MRFA is named, it was suggested to remove reference to the MRFA since the action item falls outside the Association's scope.
- With respect to various sections in the Strategic Alignment section of the self-student report (i.e. where the program aligns with strategic priorities in the university's academic plan and resourcing challenges), it was suggested to add in more cohesive alignment among these sections of the self-study report document, the data provided, and the Advancement Plan, possibly addressing it through an addendum to the Response to the External Reviewers report.
- It was suggested to revisit the Advancement Plan to address any elements that the external reviewers may have underdeveloped.

J. Pettit, S. Banting and R. Boschman left the meeting.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approves the Bachelor of Arts – English program review, conditional upon revisions to the Advancement Plan as discussed.

Discussion:

- It was agreed to amend the main motion to make the approval conditional upon revising the Advancement Plan with the suggested revisions as discussed.

Motion carried

It was agreed to carry forward agenda items 4 – 6 to the next meeting due to time constraints.

Adjournment 4:55PM