

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 6, 2021**

**VIRTUAL**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lee Easton	CHAIR, GFC Academic Staff Member
Michael Quinn	VICE-CHAIR, Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic
Phil Warsaba	Vice-Provost and AVP, Students
Peter Ryan	MRFA Academic Liaison Officer
Kelly Williams-Whitt	Dean Representative
Elaine Mullen	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Sally Haney	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business and Communication Studies)
Yasmin Dean	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)
Bill Scott	GFC Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)
Cynthia Gallop	Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)
Erik Christiansen	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Haroon Chehade	Student Representative
Rusna Mahoon	Student Representative

Resources

Geri Lynn Gouglas	University Registrar
Sheena Jensen	RECORDING SECRETARY, Assistant University Secretary, GFC

L. Easton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01pm and confirmed quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Agenda for the October 6, 2021 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

***Motion carried.***

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

***Moved and seconded:***

**THAT** the Minutes of the May 6, 2021 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

***Motion carried.***

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### Review Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was reviewed. Meetings will be virtual for the Fall 2021 semester and the location for the Winter 2022 semester meetings will be confirmed at the December 8 meeting.

### ASC Orientation Information

The following items were reviewed:

- Process for Program Reviews at ASC Meetings, including an update on MRU moving to audit status for programs with CAQC and how it will impact ASC's program review process.
- Criteria and Questions for ASC Review of Cyclical Program Reviews
- Cyclical Review of Academic Programs Policy and Procedures
- Tenure and Promotion Handbook and Criteria

### Discuss Annual Plan and Working Groups

Program reviews that are on track to come forward to ASC this year are: Athletic Therapy Certificate, Environmental Science, and Interior Design. The Committee may also receive the General Education review depending on timelines.

A main focus for ASC this year will be moving forward ASC's recommendations related to the acknowledgement of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Indigenous Knowledge in the Institutional Tenure and Promotion. ASC will seek further direction from GFC about what these next steps should be. This work may require a working group of ASC to be formed.

A suggestion was made to create a working group focused on reviewing the cyclical program review process and policies, as part of MRU's move to audit status. This working group would not be established until that work is ready to commence, anticipated for Winter 2022.

Another piece of work considered for the year was related to making revisions to the Tenure and Promotion Handbook in consideration of the planned move from the current Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) to a new one in September 2022. It was advised that a formal proposal for a different tool for dossiers will be brought forward to ASC. It was noted that the Committee is still interested in finding ways to make the handbook more user-friendly.

An update was provided on ASC's recommendation from the previous year for a handbook for Senior Lecturers and Permanent Lab Instructors. This was forwarded to the Interim Provost for consideration, and the Chair will continue to provide ASC with updates.

General discussions took place on the following:

- ASC's role/stewardship in updating the Tenure and Promotion Handbook. Recommended revisions would go to GFC for approval.
- Declaring a conflict of interest for program reviews at ASC meetings. Members may recuse themselves from conversation, unless they were part of the program review team, and will not be part of the final

approval.

- Importance of Advancement Plans – expectations, role of ASC, interim reporting. These areas are currently being addressed by the new Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator who will attend future ASC meetings.

## **REPORTS**

### **Committee Chair Report**

The Chair reported on his meeting with Dr. Michael Quinn, Vice- Chair of ASC and Dr. Linda Manyuns, AVP Indigenization and Decolonization regarding ASC's recommendations related to the acknowledgement of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Indigenous Knowledge.

### **Report from the Senior Administrator to the Committee**

M. Quinn gave additional information about the timing of program reviews coming forward to ASC this year, including the General Education review.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The following items were received for information:

- ASC Charter
- ASC Membership
- ASC Annual Report 2020-21

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**4:07pm**