UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Susan Detmer, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 17, 2021

SUBJECT: **Annual Report to Council for 2020-21**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
2020-21

The terms of reference for the Academic Programs Committee are as follows:

1)   Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality.

2)   Recommending to Council on new programs, major program revisions and program deletions, including their budgetary implications.

3)   Approving minor program changes, including additions of new courses and revisions to or deletions of existing courses and reporting them to Council.

4)   Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs.

5)   Reporting to Council processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with planning and priorities and other Council committees as appropriate.

6)   Undertaking the academic and budgetary review of proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program and forwarding recommendations to the planning and priorities committee.

7)   Undertaking the academic and budgetary review of the proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University and forwarding recommendations to the planning and priorities committee.

8)   Reporting to Council on the academic implications of quotas and admission standards.

9)   Approving the annual academic schedule and reporting the schedule to Council for information and recommending to Council substantive changes in policy governing dates for the academic sessions.

10)   Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes.

11)   Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs.

12)   Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.

13)   Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.

14)   Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

Members of the Academic Programs Committee

Council Members

Susan Detmer (chair)	Veterinary Pathology	2023
Ryan Brook	Animal and Poultry Science	To January 2021
Jing Xiao	Educational Administration	From January 2021 to June 2021
Kevin Flynn	English	2023
Matthew Neufeld	History	2021
Reza Fotouhi	Mechanical Engineering	2022
Petros Papagerakis	Dentistry	2023
Ralph Deters	Computer Science	2023

General Academic Assembly Members

Carin Holroyd	Political Studies	2023
Karen Lawson	Psychology	2022
Alison Oates	Kinesiology	2022
Jeremy Rayner	Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	2021

Sessional Lecturer

| Steven Seiferling | Law | 2021 |

Other members

Patti McDougall	[Provost designate] Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience *(ex officio)*
Russell Isinger	University Registrar *(ex officio)*
Kiefer Roberts/ Tauqeer Iftikhar	[USSU designate]
Carmen Marquez/ Olusola Akintola	[GSA designate]

Resource members

| Alison Pickrell | Assistant Vice-Provost, Strategic Enrolment Management |
| Dena McMartin | Associate Provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment |

Terry Summers   Designate, VP Finance and Operations
Secretary: Amanda Storey, Governance Office

The Academic Programs Committee of Council held 10 meetings this year (compared to 14 last year.) The Committee has dealt with 28 proposals for new programs, program revisions, and policy revisions to date (compared to 36 last year.)

Curricular Changes

Council's curricular approval process. As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the Academic Programs Committee has responsibility for oversight of curricular changes at the University of Saskatchewan. Before 1995, the U of S system required that every change, even as much as a course title, had to be approved by a university-level committee. The resulting complexity and gridlock were disincentives for curricular renewal. Approval authority has been devolved so that colleges are now in substantial control of their own curriculum.

University-level approval procedures now focus on major curricular changes or changes that may affect the students or programs in other colleges. Many curricular changes can be approved quickly and, for the most part, automatically through the Course Challenge. This allows the Academic Programs Committee to focus on the major curricular innovations and improvements that colleges propose. The committee also deals with wider academic and curricular policy issues, and acts as a reference and approval body for various academic policies.

New programs, major program revisions, and program terminations. The Academic Programs Committee reviews major curricular innovations and improvements and makes recommendations to Council regarding approval. The Academic Programs Committee has also been delegated the authority to approve several types of program changes from colleges, including new Options and Minors in new fields of specialization. This improves Council's ability to handle these types of program changes more quickly and efficiently, while still maintaining a university-level review of the changes to maintain quality and resolve any conflicts with other colleges.

The following proposals and policies were dealt with by APC this year and forwarded to Council for decision or for information:

September 2020
Request for Decision
- Academic Courses Policy and Syllabi Changes

October 2020
Requests for Decision
- Minor in International Business for the Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm) program

Item for Information
- Name change for the Operations Management field of study to Supply Chain Management

November 2020
Request for Decision:
- Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.) degree and certificate programs
  - M.Ss. in Regenerative Sustainability
  - M.S. in Energy Security
  - Graduate degree-level Certificate in Sustainability Solutions
  - Graduate degree-level Certificate in Governance Foundations for Sustainability
  - Graduate degree-level Certificate in Community Energy Finance and Planning
  - Graduate degree-level Certificate in Energy Transitions
- Graduate degree-level certificates – Water Security program
  - Graduate degree-level certificate in Water Resources
  - Graduate degree-level certificate in Water Science
  - Graduate degree-level certificate in Sustainable Water Management
- Graduate programs - Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
  - Master of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (MSoTL)
  - Certificate in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Termination of the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM) program

Items for Information:
- Degree-level Certificate in Water Science
- Degree-level Certificate in Catholic Studies
- Degree-level Certification in Urban Design

December 2020
Request for Decision:
- Changes to Academic Courses Policy
- Admissions Qualification Change – Post-degree certificate in English as an Additional Language (PDCEAL) program

Items for information
- Change to Academic Calendar 2020-21
- Program Changes – Postgraduate Diploma in Food and Bioproduct Science

January 2021
Request for Decision
- Graduate degree-level certificate in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology

Items for information
- Changes to Academic Calendar 2020-21
- Academic Calendar 2021-22
- Second Degree Option Policy for the College of Engineering

March 2021
Request for Decision
- Master of Music (M.Mus) in Music Education

Items for Information

- Degree-level certificate in Medical Language
- Academic Calendar 2020-21

April 2021
Request for Decision
- Admissions Qualification Change – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Applied Economics
- Admissions Qualification Change - Graduate programs in Agricultural Economics
- Admissions Qualification Change – Graduate programs in Music

May 2021
Request for Decision
- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Action

Items for Information:
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing
- Deletion of minor in Digital Culture and New Media
- Annual Report from Academic Programs Committee

June 2021
Request for Decision
- M.Sc and Ph.D. programs in Applied Computing
- Admissions Qualification Change – Undergraduate Nursing programs

Items for Information:
- Change to Academic Calendar 2021-11
- Year-end Report to Council.

University Course Challenge. The University Course Challenge is a process mandated by University Council that allows for efficient collegial review and approval of curricular revisions. University Course Challenge documents are posted on the UCC website at http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/committee/academic_programs/index.php

During the 2020-21 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2020-June 2021). These included new courses, prerequisite changes, course deletions, and program revisions for programs in Agriculture & Bioresources, Arts & Science, Dentistry Education, Engineering, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Kinesiology, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the School of Environment and Sustainability

The University Course Challenge is posted on a regular schedule, so that items posted on approximately the 15th of each month are considered to be approved by the end of the month.

There was one challenge raised through the Course Challenge process this year related to a change in the Edwards School of Business. The challenge could not be resolved through

discussion and so the Academic Programs Committee considered the challenge and ruled on the matter.

Other curricular changes, Council has delegated authority for approval of many other curricular changes, such as course titles and descriptions, to colleges. In some cases, such as changes of course labels, this should be done in consultation with Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (TLSE) Portfolio. Changes of this type, which affect the Catalogue listings of other colleges, can be posted for information in a course challenge posting.

Under the approval authority delegated by Council, the appropriate Dean and/or the Provost can approve changes to non-university-level programs, such as non-degree and community level certificates. There were no non-degree level certificates or community-level certificates approved.

Policies and Procedures
Several areas of Council policy and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis by the Academic Programs Committee. These include issues around implementation of the enrolment plan, exam regulations, admission policies and procedures, and other areas of interest to students and faculty. This year, the Academic Programs Committee dealt with the following:

- Changes to the Academic Courses Policy in response to the ongoing global health crisis
- Consultation on changes to the Centres Policy

Academic calendar
The APC reviewed and approved the 2021-22 Academic Calendar. This was reported at the March 2020 meeting of Council.

APC also approved changes to the 2020-21 Academic Calendar to respond to the changing needs of the university community related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I wish to thank committee members for their willingness to undertake detailed and comprehensive reviews of program proposals. I also want to thank every member for their flexibility and responsiveness as we transitioned to different meeting formats as a result of the pandemic. Their commitment to excellence and high standards resulted in improved programs for the University of Saskatchewan.

I wish also to thank the many proponents and their administrative support who appeared at meetings of APC over the last year to present proposals and to answer questions of committee members. I offer thanks to Alison Oates for serving as vice chair and on behalf of the whole committee, I offer thanks to Amanda Storey for her administrative support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Susan E Detmer

Susan Detmer, Chair