

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

PRESENTED BY: Alison Oates, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 16, 2022

SUBJECT: **Annual Report to Council for 2021-22**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
2021-22**

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) Evaluating the fit of academic program proposals with University priorities; reviewing financial sustainability of proposals for new academic programs and program deletions; and 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) Consulting with PPC on processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with planning and priorities and other Council committees as appropriate.
- 6) Consulting with PPC on proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program.
- 7) Consulting with PPC on proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University.
- 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

Alison Oates (chair)	Kinesiology	2023
Carolyn Augusta	Finance and Management Science	2024
Jing Xiao	Educational Administration	2024
Yansun Yao	Physics	2024
Ralph Deters	Computer Science	2023

General Academic Assembly Members

Reza Fotouhi	Mechanical Engineering	2022
Petros Papagerakis	Dentistry	2023
Ebrahim Samei	Mathematics and Statistics	2024
Karen Lawson	Psychology	2022
Maruti Chandra Uppalapati	Pathology	2024
Carin Holroyd	Political Studies	2023

Sessional Lecturer

Pearson Ahiahonu	Chemistry	2022
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Other members

Jay Wilson	[Provost designate] Interim Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (<i>ex officio</i>)
Russell Isinger	University Registrar (<i>ex officio</i>)
Tauqeer Iftikhar/Sharon Jacob	[USSU designate]
Mostofa Kamal/Sristy Sumana Nath	[GSA designate]

Resource members

Vince Bruni-Bossio	Interim Associate Provost, Strategic Priorities
Jason Doell	Manager and Associate Registrar (Academic)
Alison Pickrell	Assistant Vice-Provost, Strategic Enrolment management
Terry Summers/Trevor Batters	Designate, VP Finance and Operations

Administrative Support:

Amanda Storey, Governance Office

The Academic Programs Committee of Council held 16 meetings this year and handled dozens of proposals for new programs, program revisions, academic policy changes, and adjustments to the academic calendar.

In Fall 2021 the terms of reference for the committee were adjusted to provide APC with the responsibility for assessing new programs' budgetary appropriateness and fit with institutional priorities as part of the larger project to enhance academic approval processes.

APC also reviewed and provided feedback on the first two microcredential offerings under the microcredentials pilot.

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 2021

Report for Information

- Changes to Academic Calendar 2021-22
- Academic Courses Policy Clause 1.2 –Changes to Syllabi

October 2021

Requests for Decision

- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Environmental Planning
- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Indigenous Nation Building
- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Leadership
- Changes to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Business Administration program
- Changes to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Arts in Psychology – Clinical Stream
- Termination – Master of Northern Governance and Development program

Item for Information

- Certificate in Geomatics

November 2021

Request for Decision:

- Master of Indigenous Land-based Education
- Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition Science

Items for Information:

- Degree-level Certificates in the College of Arts and Science
 - Certificate in Formal Reasoning
 - Certificate in Mathematical Modeling
 - Certificate in Applied Gender Justice
 - Certificate in Queer Theory, Gender Diversity, and Sexualities Studies
 - Certificate in French-English Translation
 - Certificate in Religious Literacy
 - Certificate in Peace Studies
 - Certificate in Ukrainian Studies and Deletion of minor in Ukrainian Studies

December 2021

Request for Decision:

- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Hydrology
- Graduate Degree-level Certificate in Science and Innovation Policy
- Program Name Change– Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics and Master of Arts in Linguistics
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Nursing Thesis-based program

Items for information

- Change to Academic Calendar 2022-23
- Academic Courses Policy Clause 1.2 –Changes to Syllabi
- Senate Delegation of Confirmation Authority of Admissions Qualification Changes to the Senate Education Committee

January 2022

Request for Decision

- Termination of the Engineering Professional Internship Program
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Public Health thesis-based option
- New Certificate Template – College of Arts and Science

- Degree-level Certificate in Intermediate Studio Art
- Degree-level Certificate in Advanced Studio Art
- Graduate Degree-level certificate in Social Economy, Cooperatives, and Non-Profit Sector and termination of graduate degree-level certificate in Social Economy and Cooperatives and graduate degree-level certificate in Non-Profit Management
- Suite of degree-level certificates in Professional Communication in College of Engineering
 - Leadership and Negotiation
 - Persuasive Communication
 - Technical and Professional Writing
- Termination of the Certificate in Professional Communication
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Arts in Linguistics programs
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Doctor of Dental Medicine program

Items for information

- Change to Technological Innovation Certificate
- Change to the Mining Option in Mechanical Engineering Program
- Change to upper-year requirements for Bachelor of Science in Engineering programs
- Degree-level certificate in Astronomy
- Degree-level certificate in Statistical Methods
- Degree-level certificate in Foundations of Studio Art

March 2021

Request for Decision

- Admissions Qualification Change – Doctor of Medicine Program
- Admissions Qualification Change – Master of Education in School and Counselling Psychology
- Admissions Qualification Change – Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Indigenous Resource Management and Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Indigenous Lands Governance
- Academic and Curricular Nomenclature

Items for Information

- Change to Academic Calendar 2022-23

April 2021

Request for Decision

- Bachelor of Science on Food Industry Management
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Master of Physical Therapy Program

Items for Information

- Bioprocessing Option for the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Chemical Engineering program and termination of the Biochemical Option
- Academic Courses Policy Clause 1.2 – Changes to Syllabi
- Report for Information: Degree-level Certificates in the College of Arts and Science
 - Intermediate Certificate in French Language and Culture
 - Advanced Certificate in French Language and Culture
 - Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture

- Certificate in Japanese Language and Culture

May 2021

Request for Decision

- Admissions Qualification Change – Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Items for Information:

- Change to Academic Calendar 2022-23

June 2021 (anticipated)

Request for Decision

- Degree-level Certificate in Precision Agriculture
- Academic Courses Policy
- Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy

Items for Information:

- Year-end Report to Council
- Termination of the Master of Veterinary Science program in Small Animal Clinical Sciences

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 2021-22 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2021-June 2022). 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.

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
- Changes to the Nomenclature Report

Academic calendar

The APC reviewed and approved the 2022-23 Academic Calendar. This was reported at the December 2021 meeting of Council.

APC also approved changes to the 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 Carin Holroyd for serving as vice chair, as well as Russ Isinger and Jay Wilson for their support of the APC Executive. Importantly, on behalf of the whole committee, I offer thanks to Amanda Storey for her administrative support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
Alison Oates, Chair