

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

PRESENTED BY: Carolyn Augusta, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Annual Report to Council 2024-2025

COUNCIL ACTION: For Information Only

The Academic Programs Committee serves as the primary decision-making body of Council, responsible for reviewing and approving curriculum changes from all colleges and making recommendations to Council. It also oversees policies related to students and academic programs. The committee engaged in collaborative dialogue and offered constructive feedback to proponents, often leading to improvements in program submissions.

The Academic Programs Committee met on 14 occasions throughout 2024-25 and reviewed nearly 3,000 pages of material. The Chair of APC also served on the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Eleven members of the General Academic Assembly, at least five of whom will be elected members of Council, normally one of whom will be chair. One Sessional Lecturer, one undergraduate student appointed by the USSU, one graduate student appointed by the GSA.

Council Members:

Carolyn Augusta (Chair)	Edwards	2027
Helen Vandenberg	Nursing	2027
Paul Jones	SENS	2027
Janet Luimes	Nursing	2026
Janet Okoko	Education	2025

General Academic Assembly Members:

Brent Bobick (Vice-Chair)	WCVM	2025
Jan Gelech	Arts and Science	2025
Lori McKee	Education	2027
Cari McIllduff	Medicine	2026
Stella Spriet	Arts and Science	2025
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine	2027

Sessional:

Palash Sanyal	2025
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Student Members:

Nickson Joseph	GSA (VP Academic Affaris)
Elisabeth Bauman	USSU (VP Academic & Student Affairs)

Ex-Officio:

Jerome Cranston	Vice-Provost, Students & Learning
Russ Isinger	Associate Vice-Provost & University Registrar

Non-Voting Members:

Trevor Batters	Controller
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TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

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 Planning and Priorities Committee on processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with the Planning and Priorities Committee and other Council committees as appropriate.
6. Consulting with Planning and Priorities Committee 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 Planning and Priorities Committee on proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University.
8. Reporting to Council on the academic implications of enrolment plans, changes, 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.

COUNCIL ITEMS

The Academic Programs Committee handled several proposals for new programs, program revisions, academic policy changes, program terminations and adjustments to the academic calendar. Below are all the items brought forward to Council:

Terminations:

- Termination of Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies
- Termination of M.Vet.Sc. in Veterinary Pathology
- Johnson Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy Certificate Terminations
- Johnson Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy: Termination of the Public Policy Transfer from Master's to PhD Program
- Johnson Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy: Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Science and Innovation Policy
- Termination of Course Based Master of Mathematics

Admission Qualification Changes:

- Admissions Qualification Changes- Graduate Nursing Programs
- Admission Qualification Changes- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

- Admission Qualification Changes- Master of Physical Therapy Admission
- Admission Qualification Changes- Master of Physician Assistant Studies

New Certificates:

- Certificate in Human Nutrition
- Certificate in Internationally Trained Dietitians
- Graduate Certificate in Financial Management
- Johnson Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy: New Graduate Certificates
- Certificate in Introductory Agriculture

Curricular Revisions:

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) Major Curricular Revisions
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Major Curricular Revisions
- Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) Curricular Revisions
- CHEM 801.6 and CHEM 802.3 Increase to Minimum Passing Grade

New Programs:

- M.Sc. Project in Veterinary Pathology
- Master of Physical Therapy Replacement Program
- Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner Replacement Program
- Master of Public Health Nursing
- Master of Speech-Language Pathology
- Master of Occupational Therapy

Items presented for information:

- Certificate in Curation Studies
- 2025-2026 Academic Calendar
- 2025-2026 Academic Calendar Changes (College of Dentistry)
- College of Engineering- First Year Program Changes
- College of Engineering- Civil Engineering Upper Year Program Changes
- College of Engineering Credit Unit Change
- College of Arts and Science/College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies WGST Field of Study Change to GENS
- Minor Editorial Changes to Academic Courses Policy
- Micro-credential Updates
- Academic and Curricular Approval Chart Revisions

In addition to the items noted above, the Academic Programs Committee approved two new certificates in Chemistry, which followed an approved template and therefore only required APC approval. The committee was also informed of changes to Duolingo requirements in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, as well as the termination of the English Language Certificate Program. Members were kept up to date on the ongoing revisions to the Academic Courses Policy and the development of a new Assessment Policy. Finally, APC had a detailed discussion on the use of situational judgement tests such as CASPer and CV submissions for admissions decisions, and is looking to carry this discussion forward to the next academic year.

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 <https://governance.usask.ca/proposals/course-challenge.php>

During the 2024-25 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2024-June 2025). These included new courses, prerequisite changes, course deletions, and program revisions for programs in several colleges and schools.

The University Course Challenge is posted on a regular schedule. Items are posted on approximately the 15th of each month and are considered to be approved by the end of the month if no challenges come forward. The Governance Office is currently working on one challenge from the May posting.

I want to thank committee members for their willingness to undertake detailed and comprehensive reviews of these items and the thoughtful discussions that took place. I would also like to thank Danielle Rudulier for her immense work on behalf of APC and for her unwavering support as our point person for governance matters and general committee support.

I also want to thank the many proponents and their administrative support who attended APC over the last year to present proposals and answer questions of committee members.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Augusta, Chair of Academic Programs Committee