

Academic Programs Committee (APC) Annual Report for Information

Presented by: Paul Jones
Date of meeting: June 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Academic Programs Committee (APC) serves as the primary decision-making body of Council, responsible for reviewing and approving curriculum changes, new programs, program terminations 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. The committee also finished a two-year project on refining submission documentation which drastically decreased the amount of materials for review.

APC met on 13 occasions throughout 2025-26. The Chair of APC also served on the Governance and Executive Committees of Council.

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 GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE GSA, ONE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTED BY THE USSU.

Council Members:

Paul Jones (Chair)	School of Environment and Sustainability	2024-2027
Carolyn Augusta	Edwards School of Business	2024-2027
Helen Vandenberg	Nursing	2024-2027
Janet Luimes	Nursing	2024-2027
Roy Dobson	Pharmacy and Nutrition	2025-2028

General Academic Assembly Members:

Jennifer Lang	Arts & Science	2025-2028
Jan Gelech	Arts & Science	2025-2026
Lori McKee	Education	2024-2027
Yannick Tremblay	Medicine	2025-2028
Regina Taylor-Gjevre	Medicine	2024-2027
Valerie Caron	School of Rehabilitation Science	2025-2028

Sessional:

Pearson Ahiahonu

2025

Student Members:

Sunny Bui

GSA (VP Academic & Student Affairs)

Norah Jacob

USSU (VP Academic Affairs)

Ex-Officio:

Salome Ries	Acting Associate Vice-Provost & Registrar
Marjorie Delbaere	Interim Vice-Provost, Students & Learning

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.

Shaping USask's Academic Future

The Academic Programs Committee handled several proposals for new programs, program revisions, academic policy changes, program terminations and adjustments to the academic calendar. The revised workflow processes, including a sign-up sheet for colleges immensely improved the approval process for all stakeholders. Below are all the items brought forward:

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Terminations

- Graduate Pathways Certificate
- Graduate Certificate in Improving Teaching and Learning
- Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice
- Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate

Admission Changes and Pathways

- Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene
- Bachelor of Science Dental Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) and Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) Programs
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Indigenous Language Certificate
- Master of Business Administration
- MSc Pathway for Doctor of Dental Medicine Program (D.M.D)
- MSc Admission Pathway for Mechanical Engineering
- PhD in Nursing
- PhD in Public Policy

New Certificates

- Graduate Certificate in Large Animal Veterinary Specialty Internship
- Graduate Certificate in Improvement Science

- Certificate in Accounting for Decision Making
- Certificate in Foundational Pathways in Arts and Science
- Forest Resources Certificate

Curricular Revisions

- Certificate in Geomatics Revisions
- Geological Engineering Program Revisions
- Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development Certificate Name Changes
- Graduate Certificate in Quality Teaching changing to Graduate Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education Name Change

New Programs

- Diploma in Educational Studies
- Master of Science in Periodontology Program

Policies

- New Assessment and Course Delivery Policy

Items for Information

- New Direct Entry PhD Pathway for Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
- 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

In addition to the items noted above, the Academic Programs Committee discussed:

Certificate in Dental Assisting Program Changes, Authorized Leave Placeholder Class, CGPS Main Admission Qualification Changes for PhD Direct Entry Programs, Revisions to Course Challenge Procedures, Revisions to Moribund Course Deletion Procedures, Academic Programs Committee Terms of Reference, Enrolment Strategy Planning, TOEFL Changes- Graduate and Undergraduate, USask Academic Program Review and CASPer situational judgment testing discussions and response back 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 <https://governance.usask.ca/proposals/course-challenge.php>

During the 2025-2026 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2025-June 2026). 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 facilitated four challenges during the 2025-2026 academic cycle, all of which were resolved at the college level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As Chair of APC I express my sincere gratitude to all members of the committee for their dedication to the work of this 'heavy lifting' committee this year. I would also express my gratitude to the members of the Governance Office who have done such a stellar job at supporting the committee in its work.

Respectfully,
Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee