

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

PRESENTED BY: Kevin Flynn, Chair

DATE OF MEETING: May 18, 2017

SUBJECT: Annual Report to Council for 2016-17

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
2016-17**

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 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 in this regard.
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. 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 Aboriginal student success, engagement with Aboriginal

communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, and experience in curricular offerings, as well as intercultural engagement among faculty, staff, and students.

The Academic Programs Committee of Council held 14 meetings this year (compared to 11 last year.) The Committee has dealt with 30 proposals for new programs, program revisions, and policy revisions to date (compared to 22 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 so 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 and policy exemptions for the Student and Enrolment Services Division.

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:

October 2016

Request for Decision: Changes to Admissions Qualifications for the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Program

Item for Information: Program Revision: Revision of Bachelor of Music (B. Mus) in Music Education Programs in the College of Arts and Science

November 2016

Item for Information: 2017-18 Admissions Templates

Nunavut Offering of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program

Recent Approvals by the Academic Programs Committee

- Project-Option in the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Large Animal Clinical Science program
- Changes to the Nurse Practitioner Graduate Programs – Master of Nursing (M.N.) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate (PGDSC)
- Deletion of the Soil Science field of study for the Master of Agriculture (M.Ag.) and Postgraduate Diploma (P.G.D.)

December 2016

Items for Information: 2017-18 Academic Calendar

Curricular changes – Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) direct-entry program

January 2017

Request for Decision: Retroactive approval of changes to the approved grading system in the College of Dentistry

College of Medicine – changes to approved grading system

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Indigenous Studies

February 2017

Item for Information: Terminations in the College of Arts and Science

-Northern Studies field of study

-Public Administration

Second Degree Option of the Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Kinesiology (Exercise and Sport Studies)

Credit Reduction of the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Sociology, project-based program

Changes to the Master of Nursing (M.N.) course-based program in Educational Leadership

March 2017

Request for Decision: Changes to the Admissions Qualifications of the College of Education ITEP and SUNTEP programs

Changes to the Admissions Qualifications of the College of Medicine

Changes to College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Dual Degree policy to include cotutelle agreements

Direct-entry Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Kinesiology with 85% admissions average

Item for Information: Project-option in the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Small Animal Clinical Science program

May 2016

Item for Input: Changes to the Academic Courses Policy

Changes to the Nomenclature Report

Item for Information: Graduate Programs Review 2014/15 and 2015/16 (*anticipated*)

Deletion of the Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics Field of Study for the Master of Arts (M.A.) program

Annual Report from Academic Program Committee

June 2016

Request for Decision: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Applied Economics (*anticipated*)
Changes to the Academic Courses Policy (*anticipated*)
Changes to the Nomenclature Report (*anticipated*)

Item for Information: Admissions Templates 2018-19 (*anticipated*)
Recommendations on Certificates (*anticipated*)

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 2016-17 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted. These included new courses, prerequisite changes, course deletions, and program revisions for programs in Agriculture & Bioresources, Arts & Science, Education, Edwards School of Business, Engineering, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

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. No proposed curricular changes were challenged this year.

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 SESD. 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 certificates of successful completion and certificates of attendance. There were no new certificates of successful completion or certificates of attendance this year. There were also no new certificates of proficiency in 2016/17.

Policies and Procedures

There are a number of areas of Council policy and procedures that 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:

- Academic Courses Policy
- Nomenclature Report

Student Enrolment and Services Division

The following item was presented to Council for information, as shown above:

- 2017-18 Admissions Templates
- 2018-19 Admissions Templates (anticipated)

Academic calendar

The APC reviewed and approved the 2017-18 Academic Calendar. This was reported at the December 2016 meeting of Council.

Members of the Academic Programs Committee

I am grateful to Committee members for their willingness to undertake detailed and comprehensive reviews of program proposals. Their commitment to excellence and high standards resulted in improved programs for the University of Saskatchewan.

Council Members

Kevin Flynn (Chair)	English	2018
Nathaniel Osgood	Computer Science	2017
Tammy Marche	Psychology, STM	2018
Darrell Mousseau	Psychiatry	2017
Kathleen Solose	Music	2019

General Academic Assembly Members

Longhai Li	Mathematics and Statistics	2019
Sina Adl	Soil Science	2018
Jeff Park	Curriculum Studies	2018
Susan Shantz	Art and Art History	2017
Som Niyogi	Biology	2017
Matthew Paige	Chemistry	2017
Ganesh Vaidyanathan (Vice-Chair)	Accounting	2017

Sessional Lecturer

Clayton Beish	Linguistics and Religious Studies	2017
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Other members

Patti McDougall	[Provost designate] Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning (<i>ex officio</i>)
Russ Isinger	University Registrar and Director of Student Services (<i>ex officio</i>)
Lucy Vuong	[VP Finance designate]
Brooke Malinoski	USSU designate
Nafisa Absher	GSA designate

Resource members

Alison Pickrell	Director of Enrolment and Student Affairs
John Rigby	Interim Associate Provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment
CeCe Baptiste	Director, Resource Allocation and Planning

Secretary: Amanda Storey, Committee Coordinator, Office of the University Secretary

I extend additional heartfelt thanks to the many proponents (and their administrative support) who appeared at meetings of APC over the past academic year. Special thanks in this regard are due to Kelly Clement, John Farthing, Martha Smith-Norris, Doug Surtees, and Barry Ziola.

Finally, much gratitude to the committee secretary, Amanda Storey, who has been a wonderful teammate to the committee, program proponents, and of course myself. She is an indispensable resource for APC, as have been other members of the secretary's office when called upon to assist in our work.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Kevin Flynn, Chair