



Report of the Senate Education Committee

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Robert Henderson, Chair, Education Committee

Date of Meeting: October 25, 2025

Subject: Education Committee – Report on Activities

Summary of Activities:

Welcome to the new members of the Education Committee Bev Balaski, Audrey Hestand, Julia Paulson (ex-officio), Michael Bradley (ex-officio) and Sharon Jacob and welcome back Jane MacLeod and Robert Henderson for another term.

The Education Committee of Senate last met on May 22, 2025, where members were joined by Dr. Nancy Turner, Interim Associate Provost, Teaching Innovation & Strategic Initiatives who provided an update on the revision of the Academic Courses Policy which will be transitioning into a framework that includes an Assessment Policy and Procedures, as well as a Course Delivery Policy and Procedures.

In her presentation, Dr. Turner provided members with an overview of the purpose of assessment in higher education and how its evolving role is shaping teaching practices. She explained that assessments are used to rank students for scholarships, admissions, and progression, but recent discussions have focused on making assessments more valid and supportive of student learning. Survey results revealed a gap between instructors' beliefs and practices, with only half requiring students to apply course content. Dr. Turner highlighted the role of AI and flexible learning environments in diversifying education and how assessment can support these initiatives. She emphasized the need to develop systems and policies that make assessment relevant and learning-focused, including shifting away from the term "exam" as the sole method of evaluation. The new Policies and Procedures will be going back through the Committee's of Council this academic year.

Changes to Admission Qualifications

The *Senate Bylaws* delegate the Education Committee the authority to confirm changes to admissions qualifications (that have received approval from University Council) (part V, section 8, clause d).

Members present engaged in meaningful discussion with Academic Programs Committee Chair Carolyn Augusta on one set of Admission Qualification Changes. A motion was carried to confirm Council's decision for the Master of Physician Assistant (MPAS) Admission Qualification Changes

Master of Physician Assistant Admission Changes (MPAS)

Summary:

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing updates to the admission requirements for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program, which was first approved in April 2024. These changes, effective for applicants in Fall 2025/Winter 2026, include clarifying prerequisite courses, adding a CV requirement, and moving the Saskatchewan Connectedness Index from selection criteria to formal admission requirements. After review and discussion by the Academic Programs Committee in March and April 2025, the proposal was approved by Council on May 15, 2025. Members emphasized the importance of clear guidance for applicants on how the new requirements will be used in the selection process.

Motion: (Gable/Atanasova) It is recommended that the Senate Education Committee confirm Council's approval of the Master of Physician Assistant admission requirements effective for the 2026-2027 intake.

Forward Planning

The Education Committee is scheduled to meet next on December 8, 2025. This year, the committee will continue its discussions on incorporating CVs into admission requirements, following a thorough review of the topic at their last meeting where members raised concerns about potential bias and subjectivity, noting the need for consistent formatting guidelines to ensure fairness. The committee will also revisit the topic of CASPer situational judgment testing, which was a point of concern last year. Additionally, the Chair and committee coordinator are considering strategies to engage the committee earlier in the Academic Programs Committee's process, enabling more timely input and constructive feedback.