

**Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Annual Report for General Faculties Council
2023-2024**

DATE: May 7, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Lee Easton, ASC Chair

Colleagues

I am happy to provide the annual report of the Academic Standards Committee for 2023-2024. The ASC met 6 times to review and approved 7 program reviews. Now that MRU has been given audit status by CAQC, Academic Standards gives final approval in the quality assurance process, with the Executive Summary provided to General Faculties Council for information.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Academic Standards Committee reviewed and approved the following Program Reviews:

- Bachelor of English(ENGL)
- Bachelor of PolicyStudies(POST)
- Bachelor of Sociology(SLGY)
- Bachelor of Accounting(ACCT)+AdvancedAccountingCertificate
- Bachelor of Midwifery
- Bachelor of Marketing(MKTG)

Other Work

The ASC also reviewed and, where appropriate, recommended the following to GFC:

- The *Comprehensive Institutional Plan* to understand what role, if any, the ASC might have in relation to the *Plan*
- The *Tenure and Promotion Handbook* required updating and Dr. Sabrina Reed, Professor, Department of English was commissioned to make a number of editorial changes to update the *Handbook*. With agreement from both the Association and the University, a new section was added to provide guidance for senior lecturers and lab instructors to achieve permanency. The ASC recommended the updated document, now entitled *The Tenure, Permanency and Promotion Handbook, v3* to GFC in January. GFC approved the new Handbook and it is now in use.
- The *Academic Program Review Policy and Procedures*. The Policy does require programs to provide an update midway through its advancement plan and that update is provided to ASC for information.
- A revised *Admissions Policy* (with a provision that English proficiency scores required for admission be reported to ASC annually)
- Addition of a representative from the Faculty of Continuing Education to the Committee

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Perspectives in the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria*

- The ASC Working Group continued its work consulting with Indigenous faculty, including the Indigenous Faculty Collective, Provost Council and Faculty Councils to arrive a final text for Appendix D- Acknowledging Indigenous Perspectives in the *Institutional Tenure and Promotion Criteria*, which ASC has recommended to General Faculties Council. Once the Board of Governors approves *Appendix D*, the *MOU on Acknowledging Indigenous Ways of Knowing* will be complete.

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Looking ahead, the Academic Standards Committee notes:

- The coming academic year looks to be very busy with 10 program reviews anticipated to be examined (subject to change):
- BComm Information Design
- B.Education + B. Ed. MHC collaborative degree
- B. Criminal Justice
- BComm Journalism and Digital Media Studies
- BA Anthropology
- BBA Human Resources + Adv. HR Certificate,
- BSc Geology (moved from F23 to W24), with site visit dates: Oct 7 & 8
- B. Computer Information Systems, with site visit dates: Oct 31 & Nov 1
- BA Psychology
- Adv. Studies in Critical Care Nursing Certificate

Other Work Ahead

- The ASC began to consider a recommendation from the MRFA that the number of peer evaluations for tenurable faculty be changed. This request has led to ASC to consider arriving at a process to amend the *Tenure and Promotion Handbook* going forward.
- Given the importance of maintaining academic standards with the challenges of artificial intelligence, the ASC looks forward to addressing any recommendations from the AI and Teaching and Learning Working Group.
- We will continue to refine the review approval process as required.

Notes of Appreciation

A big shout out to the members of the Academic Standards Committee who are so careful, diligent and thoughtful in their work. The quality assurance process is better for considered assessments. A big thanks to Tala Abu Hayyaneh, SAMRU, VP Academic for her three years of service on the Committee. Also the program reviews would not arrive at ASC without Cheryl Meladost, Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator, who ensures program reviews arrive at ASC in a timely fashion—thank you!

Finally, thanks to Sheena Dyer who keeps the Academic Standards Committee running smoothly no matter the challenge!

Respectfully submitted

Lee Easton (he/him)

Chair, Academic Standards Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Lee Easton	GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR
Karim Dharamsi	Vice-Provost, Academic, VICE-CHAIR
Phil Warsaba	Vice-President, Students
Marc Schroeder	MRFA Academic Policy and Governance Officer
Kelly Williams-Whitt	Dean Representative
Mary-Lee Mulholland	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Anh Nguyen	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)

Joyce Totton	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community & Education) (<i>Deepa Upadhyaya for Sept.</i>)
Jon Mee	GFC Academic Staff Member (Science & Technology) (<i>joined in November</i>)
Chris Moxham	Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)
Kalen Keavey	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Tala Abu Hayyaneh	Student Representative
Fiona Chetty	Student Representative

Resources

Geri Lynn Gouglas	University Registrar & Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Management
Cheryl Melatdoost	Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

1. September 26, 2023
2. October 31, 2023
3. December 5, 2023
4. January 30, 2024
5. March 12, 2024
6. April 30, 2024

For additional information and meeting minutes, visit the [ASC](#) webpage.