

Academic Standards Committee
December 3, 2024 at 3pm – 5pm
University Boardroom A341

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lee Easton	GFC Academic Staff Member, CHAIR
Phil Warsaba	Vice-President, Students
Pearl Herscovitch	MRFA Academic Policy and Governance Officer
Kelly Williams-Whitt	Dean Representative
Mary-Lee Mulholland	GFC Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Brooks DeCillia	GFC Academic Staff Member (Business & Communication Studies)
Joyce Totton	GFC Academic Staff Member (Health, Community & Education)
Jon Mee	GFC Academic Staff Member (Science & Technology)
Kalen Keavey	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Christina Lovestone	Continuing Education Representative
Fiona Chetty	Student Representative
Jelena Stojsic	Student Representative
<u>Resources</u>	
Gerl Lynn Gouglas	University Registrar & Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Management
Cheryl Melatdoost	Academic Quality Assurance Coordinator
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY
<u>Guests</u>	
Sally Haney	Professor and Co-Chair, School of Communication Studies
Amy Nixon	General Counsel and University Secretary
Jennifer Pettit	Dean, Faculty of Arts
Kari Roberts	Department Chair (Criminal Justice)
Tanya Trussler	Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, and Degree Coordinator
Meg Wilcox	Associate Professor (School of Communication Studies)

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Karim Dharamsi	Vice-Provost, Academic, VICE-CHAIR
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The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Agenda for the December 3, 2024 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1. Minutes from October 29, 2024

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the October 29, 2024 Academic Standards Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

- 2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Program Review: B.A. and Honours B.A. in Criminal Justice

The Chair gave a summary of the member feedback provided in the pre-collection of feedback form for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Program Review. A preliminary discussion of the review focused on identifying potential questions to ask the program review guests on various aspects of the review, including:

- External Reviewers' Report – weighting of credits to the Honours program, tension between theory and practice
- Reference to the development of a student survey in a previous draft advancement plan
- General comments about the external reviewer's understanding of the program

Tanya Trussler, Kari Roberts, and Jennifer Pettit joined the meeting.

The guests gave a summary of their experience with the program review process and learnings about the program. In response to questions, additional information was provided on the following aspects of the review:

- External reviewer's comments on their perceived tension between theory and practice and how the Advancement Plan addresses this – captured in the area of the Advancement Plan regarding the Curriculum Committee
- Provided clarification on the weighting of the Honours program and the practicum option
- Explained the program is already looking at how to address the External Reviewer's comments about grade distribution patterns
- Regarding the draft advancement plan's suggestion about a student survey, it was explained this was an idea that had previously been raised before this review commenced and did not come up again during the review, though it has been discussed

Tanya Trussler, Kari Roberts, and Jennifer Pettit left the meeting.

The Chair summarized the suggested revisions by the Committee based on the discussions:

- Response to the External Reviewers' – address the tension between theory and practice in courses that needs more clarification
- Advancement Plan – include weighting of the Honours program and explore other curricular opportunities related to any changes made
- Advancement Plan – include the idea of the student survey from the previous draft

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approves the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice program review, as amended.

Motion carried

4. Program Review: BCMM Journalism and Digital Media

K. Williams-Whitt and B. DeCillia were recused from the preliminary discussion.

The Chair gave a summary of the member feedback provided in the pre-collection of feedback form for the Bachelor of Communication Studies Journalism and Digital Media Major & Minor Program Review. A preliminary discussion of the review focused on identifying potential questions/request for more information to ask the program review guests, including:

- More information about the response to the External Reviewer's comments that were not responded to or may need more elaboration (rural-urban divide, and merging Broadcast Media Studies and Journalism and Digital Media, consolidating communications content)
- More information about student retention activities and its value proposition, beyond the focus on admissions and recruitment
- What can the program do internally to address various issues raised in the review, as it appears the Advancement Plan is more externally focused Responding to other recommendations from the external reviewers'
- Why the program does not seem to focus on moving away from unpaid internships in the Advancement Plan that was noted by the external reviewers', given the negative impacts to students who require an internship for graduation
- Concerns with the vagueness of the Advancement Plan; why areas of the self study were not reflected in the Advancement Plan
- More information about the consolidation of the Communications courses

Sally Haney, Meg Wilcox, Kelly Williams-Whitt, and Brooks DeCillia joined the meeting.

The guests gave a summary of their experience with the program review process and learnings about the program. In response to questions, additional information was provided on the following aspects of the review:

- Context for why the the external reviewers' recommendations with respect to the rural-urban divide was rejected
- How the program was surprised by the external reviewer's recommendation to merge Broadcast Media Studies and Digital Media
 - It was suggested that the program review expand on this more
- Retention strategy and value proposition – the Dean explained that funding has been committed to try to better understand what the challenges have been to be able to address it
- How the program is reviewing their courses and course content with respect to Indigenization
- Responded to concerns about unpaid internships, and the suggestion for giving credits instead; it was explained that the program is actively trying to address that (e.g. not posting the unpaid internships) and that it will not be sticking with that model so they are looking at ways to change that.
 - It was suggested the Advancement Plan be revised to indicate more commitment to addressing the issue of unpaid internships.

Sally Haney, Meg Wilcox, Kelly Williams-Whitt, and Amy Nixon left the meeting. K. Williams-Whitt and B. DeCillia were recused from the motion/discussion.

The Chair summarized the suggested revisions by the Committee based on the discussions:

- Response to External Program Review Report – expanding upon the recommendations that the program decided to not accept (rural-urban divide and merging roadcast Media Studies and Digital Media)
- Advancement Plan
 - Adding information about understanding and addressing the issue of student retention with funding commitments and refining the value proposition for the program
 - Commitment to finding an alternative model for students where the internships are paid or given credit

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Academic Standards Committee approves the Bachelor of Communication Studies Journalism and Digital Media Major & Minor program review, as amended.

Motion carried

K. Williams-Whitt and B. DeCillia rejoined the meeting.

5. Reports

5.1. Update on Academic Program Reviews

A written update was provided on current, upcoming and in progress program reviews.

5.2. Report from the Senior Administrator to the Committee

No report submitted.

5.3. Committee Chair Report

5.3.1. ASC Approval Letter Template for Program Reviews (draft)

The Chair asked members to submit their feedback on the ASC Approval Letter template directly to him.

It was agreed that the pre-collection of feedback forms for program reviews should not be shared with programs.

5.3.2. Copy of the previous Committee Chair's Report to GFC

Provided for information.

6. For Information:

The following items were provided for information:

6.1. For the January ASC Meeting – English Language Proficiency Requirements

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment 5:07PM