Alberta University of the Arts

General Faculties Council

2020-2021
General Faculties Council Standing Committee Report
Academic Policy Committee

1. **Meeting Dates in 2020-2021**

   The Academic Policy Committee met 11 times in 2020 – 2021.

   2020: September 14, October 5, October 19 (working meeting) November 2, November 23, December 7
   2021: January 11, March 1, April 12, May 3, May 18

2. **Composition and Membership**

Composition
   a. Voting Members
      i) Registrar, Chair
      ii) 2 School Chairs
      iii) 2 Faculty members, appointed by the School Council Chairs
      iv) Associate Vice President, Research and Academic

   b. Non-Voting Members
      i) Secretary to General Faculties Council
      ii) 1 Student Association member, appointed by the Student Association

Membership
   - Susie Kennedy, Committee Chair and Registrar
   - Dr. Ben Fullalove, SCCS Chair
   - Paul Robert, SCEM Chair
   - Charles Bell, SCD Associate Chair
   - Chris Willard, Associate Professor
   - Dr. Alex Link, Interim Dean, Academic Programs
   - Andrea Power, Secretary to General Faculties Council
   - Kayla Gale, Student's Association Representative (until May 14, 2021)
   - Portia Scabar, Student's Association Representative (from May 15, 2021)

Meeting Resource:
   - Kim Neutens, Dean of Students
   - Laura Cochrane, Assistant Registrar
   - Terry Bean, Assistant Registrar

3. **Items Approved with Delegated Authority from GFC**

- THAT the General Faculties Council Academic Policy Committee approve the draft updated Academic Schedule Dates & Deadlines 2020-21 as presented, effective September 1, 2020. Comments: It was clarified that this proposal is for the current academic year only. It was noted that GFC will be advised of the change to the academic schedule dates and deadlines.
- THAT the Academic Policy Committee approve the updated Academic Date Setting Procedure, on behalf of GFC, to be effective September 1, 2020 to support the development of the Academic Schedules for 2021-22 and onwards.
- THAT the Academic Policy Committee approve the Revised Academic Schedule and Dates & Deadlines 2020- 2021.
- To have the Academic Calendar approved now for the next academic year.

4. **Items Recommended to GFC for Approval**

- THAT the Academic Policy committee recommend to the General Faculties Council to approve the revisions to Consolidated Graduate Studies Procedure to accept Duolingo as an English Language Proficiency test option beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- That the Academic Policy Committee recommend the updated Undergraduate Final Grading Procedure to GFC for approval with an effective date of September 1, 2021 in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, as presented.
- That the Academic Policy Committee recommend the updated Registration Procedure to GFC for approval with an effective date of September 1, 2021 in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, as presented.
- That the Academic Policy Committee recommend the updated Transfer Credit Procedure to GFC for approval with an effective date of September 1, 2021 in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, as presented.
- That the Academic Policy Committee approve and recommend to GFC the wording pertaining to the Academic Calendar Year in the academic regulations section of the Academic Calendars presented, effective September 1, 2021. Noted that the item will go to the January GFC meeting.
- That the Academic Policy committee recommend to GFC the revised Academic Date Setting Procedure to be effective September 1, 2020 to support the development of the Academic Schedules for 2021-22 and onwards.
- THAT the Academic Policy Committee recommend the Revised Undergraduate Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Procedure for approval by the General Faculties Council, as amended. Friendly Amendments: 1. Add a reference to the Residency Requirements listed in the Academic Calendar 2. Add a statement to address a combination of PLAR 1 and PLAR 2.
- THAT the Academic Policy Committee recommend the Draft Student Conduct Work Group Terms of Reference to the General Faculties Council for approval, as presented.

5. **Items Discussed**
    - Review: Academic & Student Affairs Policies and Procedures
    - Review – 2021-2022 Academic Schedule
    - Review – Revised PLAR Procedure
    - Review – Academic Regulations Section – Academic Calendar: Degree Program Regulations
    - Review – Updated Academic Policy Committee Work Plan
    - Undergraduate Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Procedure
    - Potential Fall Term Break
    - Discussion of Academic Date Setting Procedure. Topics:
    - Discussion of the Fall Break Week Work Plan
    - Discussion of Grade Appeal Procedure.
    - Review of GFC Policy Documents Topics

6. **Items for Information**
    - Discussion of the Academic Policies and Procedures – Workplan for 2021: The January version of the APC workplan was reviewed and it was noted that the grade appeal policy is still pending.
    - Discussion of GFC Policy Documents: Note that policy updates will be sent to the University community at end of each semester.
    - The chart for the Academic Policies and Procedures was provided for information.

7. **Fall Break Sub-Group**
    The Academic Policy Committee formed a sub-group of members of the APC to review a potential Fall Break for AUArts. The Sub-Group met three times in 2021 and conducted an open consultation session for faculty, students and staff on March 22, 2021. It then followed up with two surveys – one for faculty and one for students. The APC will review the data and submit a report and recommendation to GFC in Fall 2021. If the recommendation is approved, the academic schedule will be amended, and a Fall Break would be implemented as of Fall 2022.

8. **Unfinished Business**
    - Review: Admission and Registration Policies and Procedures: Not discussed: - Registration Policy/Procedure - Transfer Credit Procedure.

9. **Annual APC Feedback**
- Members were very pleased with the work of the committee, which was both engaging and beneficial to the academic community.

Terms of reference for this committee can be found at:
https://www.auarts.ca/sites/default/files/Documents/2020057_Approved_TOR_APC.pdf

Submitted by: Susie Kennedy, Chair, Academic Policy Committee
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