



Date: October 16, 2019
To: Senate
From: Senate Committee on Academic Standards
Re: **2018/19 Annual Report**

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Academic Standards define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Each fall term the committee presents an annual report to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Academic Standards met eight times in 2018/19: September 17, 2018, October 17, 2018, November 16, 2018, January 7, 2019, February 4, 2019, March 15, 2019, April 8, 2019 and May 23, 2019. During the course of the year, the committee approved the convocation lists of faculties, approved a posthumous degree, made recommendations to Senate, initiated projects in areas of the committee's concern, and received proposals for input from other Senate committees and campus constituencies. Within these areas, the committee considered a number of issues over the course of the year, including:

- Approval of the convocation lists of the faculties
- Approval of posthumous degrees
- Recommendations to Senate:
 - Revisions to the Posthumous Degree Guidelines
 - Revisions to various program requirements
- Continued Projects in 2018/19
 - Academic Concession Regulation
 - annual review grading patterns report
 - report and recommendations regarding grading patterns
 - report on editorial changes to the academic calendars
 - revisions to the undergraduate grading scale
 - Exam Cancellation Policy and Guidelines
- Proposals from other Senate committees

Approval of the convocation lists of the faculties:

The committee approves, on behalf of Senate, the granting of degrees. At its October 2018 and May 2019 meetings, the committee approved the fall and spring convocation lists respectively. The deans of the faculties or a designate were in attendance.

At the September 2018 and May 2019 meetings, the committee considered requests for posthumous degrees.



Recommendations to Senate:

To approve Revisions to Posthumous Degree Guidelines

At the September meeting, the committee considered a proposal outlining revisions to the Posthumous Degree Guidelines. The proposal was approved by Senate at its October 2018 meeting.

To approve the revisions to the Academic Calendars on the English Deficiency Clause

At the October meeting, the committee considered a request from the Faculty of Humanities to revise the English Deficiency Clause in the Academic Calendars. The proposal was approved by Senate at its November 2018 meeting.

To approve the proposed Leave with Permission of the Dean to the Graduate Academic Calendar

At the October meeting, the committee considered a proposal from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to revise to the Graduate Academic Calendar under the section "Leave of Absence with Permission and Withdrawal from Graduate Programs." The proposal was approved by Senate at its November 2018 meeting.

To approve the revisions to the grade point average in Theatre courses within the Theatre Major

At the November meeting, the committee considered a proposal outlining revisions to the grade point average calculation to Theatre courses within the Theatre Major programs. The proposal was approved by Senate at its December meeting.

To approve the minimum grade point average for students to remain in the Bachelor of Social Work program

To approve changes to the grade point average for admission to the Psychology Honours program

At the January meeting, the committee considered proposals outlining revisions to progression in both the Bachelor of Social Work and Psychology Honours program. Both proposals were approved by Senate at its February meeting.

To approve the proposed changes Undergraduate Grading Scale

At the April meeting, the committee considered the proposal to remove the B-range statement from the grading scale but leave the A-range statement. The proposal was approved by Senate at its May meeting.

Continued Projects in 2018/19

Review of Academic Concession Regulations

At the January meeting, the committee was provided with an update on the work done by the VPAC on academic concessions regulations. It was proposed at the meeting that a sub-committee be formed to operationalize the principles developed.

At the May meeting, the committee was provided an update on the sub-committee's work and terms of reference. The committee members provided further feedback. It is anticipated that recommendations will be presented to the committee for its consideration in 2019/2020.

Annual Review of Grading Patterns Report

The committee received the annual Grading Patterns Report at its November meeting. The report was provided to Senate at its December 2018 meeting.

Exam Cancellation Policy and Guidelines

At the February meeting, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on the work accomplished by the Exam Cancellation Policy and Guidelines sub-committee.

At the April meeting, the committee was updated on the continued work on the guidelines to support the implementation of the policy. It is anticipated that recommendations will be presented to the committee for its consideration in 2019/2020.

Revisions to the Undergraduate Grading Scale

At the September meeting, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on proposed revisions to the Undergraduate grading scale.

At the October and January meeting, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on the grading toolkit in relation to the proposed undergraduate grading scale revisions.

At the February and April meetings, the committee discussed proposed revisions. A decision was made to remove the B-range statement from the grading scale but leave the A-range statement.

Report on Editorial Changes to Academic Calendars

At the September meeting, the committee was provided a report from the Office of the Registrar on substantive editorial changes to the January 2019 Academic Calendars. It was agreed that one of the changes proposed was not editorial and would need the approval of Senate.

At the January and April meetings, the committee was provided a report on the editorial changes to the May and September 2019 Academic Calendars with minor comments.

Provided Feedback on Proposals from Other Senate Committees:

At the September meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer on the K-12 Curriculum Modernizations Working Group Recommendations.

At the January meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer on the minimum admission requirements for Secondary School Mathematics for the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business and grade point average admission requirements to the Bachelor of Social Work program in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

At both the January and February meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance on the proposed revision to the 10-year sessional calendar.

At the March meeting, the committee reviewed two proposals from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer on the removal of the Graduate Admissions Qualifying Year option and to create a first year admission requirement for the combined program in Visual Arts and Computer Science.

At the April meeting, the committee reviewed three proposals from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer on changes to the admission requirements for the BEng/BSEng programs in the Faculty of Engineering, and the first and second year admission requirements to the BSc Kinesiology program.

Respectfully submitted,

2019/2020 Senate Committee on Academic Standards

Neil Burford, Chair, Faculty of Science
Janni Aragon, Faculty of Social Sciences
Laurie Barnas, Associate Registrar
Gillian Calder, Faculty of Law
Alexandra D'Arcy, Faculty of Humanities
Sarina de Havelyn, Student Senator
Stephen Evans, Faculty of Graduate Studies (VPAC's designate)
Kathy Gaul, Faculty of Education
Andrea Giles, Acting Executive Director, Coop Education & Career Services
Sima Hajiaghahi Shanjani, GSS representative
Robert Hancock, Convocation Senator
Cindy Holder, Associate Dean, Academic Advising (Faculties of SCIE, SOSC and HUM)
Sabrina Jackson, Acting Director, Graduate Administration and Records
Yasmine Kandil, Faculty of Fine Arts
Caoimhe Laird, Student Senator
Susan Lewis, Acting Associate Vice-President Academic Planning (President's nominee)
Michele Martin, Division of Medical Sciences
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Tanya Muir, Division of Continuing Studies

Esther Sangster-Gormley, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Henning Struchtrup, Faculty of Engineering
Wendy Taylor, Acting Registrar
Ken Thornicroft, Peter B Gustavson School of Business
Dalal Tubeishat, UVSS representative
Ada Saab, Associate University Secretary

2018/2019 Senate Committee on Academic Standards

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Neil Burford, Faculty of Science
Gillian Calder, Faculty of Law
Nathan Daisley, Student Senator
Kathy Gaul, Faculty of Education
Andrea Giles, Acting Executive Director, Coop Education and Career Services
Jordan Gilson, Student Senator
Robert Hancock, Convocation Senator
Catherine Harding, Faculty of Fine Arts
Cindy Holder, Associate Dean, Academic Advising (Faculties of HUMS, SCIE, and SOSC)
Sabrina Jackson, Acting Director, Graduate Administration and Records
Susan Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts
Michele Martin, Division of Medical Sciences
Jo Roy, GSS Representative
Richard Rush, Division of Continuing Studies
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Henning Struchtrup, Faculty of Engineering
Wendy Taylor, Acting Registrar
Kenneth Thornicroft, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Nancy Wright, Associate Vice-President Academic Planning
Claire Wood, UVSS Representative
Ada Saab, Secretary, Acting Associate University Secretary