UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Susan Detmer, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: May 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Annual Report to Council for 2019-20

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL 2019-2020

The terms of reference for the Academic Programs Committee are as follows:

1) Recommending to Council policies and procedures related to academic programs and sustaining program quality.

2) Recommending to Council on new programs, major program revisions and program deletions, including their budgetary implications.

3) Approving minor program changes, including additions of new courses and revisions to or deletions of existing courses and reporting them to Council.

4) Considering outreach and engagement aspects of programs.

5) Reporting to Council processes and outcomes of academic program review, following consultation with planning and priorities and other Council committees as appropriate.

6) Undertaking the academic and budgetary review of proposals for the establishment, disestablishment or amalgamation of any college, school, department or any unit responsible for the administration of an academic program and forwarding recommendations to the planning and priorities committee.

7) Undertaking the academic and budgetary review of the proposed or continuing affiliation or federation of other institutions with the University and forwarding recommendations to the planning and priorities committee.

8) Reporting to Council on the academic implications of quotas and admission standards.

9) Approving the annual academic schedule and reporting the schedule to Council for information and recommending to Council substantive changes in policy governing dates for the academic sessions.

10) Approving minor changes (such as wording and renumbering) to rules governing examinations and reviewing and recommending to Council substantive changes.
11) Recommending to Council classifications and conventions for instructional programs.

12) Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.

13) Consider the priorities of the University, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new academic programs and policies.

14) Carrying out all the above in the spirit of a philosophy of equitable participation and an appreciation of the contributions of all people, with particular attention to rigorous and supportive programs for Indigenous student success, engagement with Indigenous communities, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and experience in curricular offerings, and intercultural engagement among faculty, staff and students.

**Members of the Academic Programs Committee**

**Council Members**

- Susan Detmer (chair)  Veterinary Pathology  2020
- Ryan Brook  Animal and Poultry Science  2021
- Roy Dobson  Pharmacy and Nutrition  2020
- Matthew Neufeld  History  2021
- Reza Fotouhi  Mechanical Engineering  2022
- Timothy Kelly  Chemistry  2020
- Shelley Spurr  Nursing  2020

**General Academic Assembly Members**

- Michael Cottrell  Educational Administration  2020
- Karen Lawson  Psychology  2022
- Alison Oates  Kinesiology  2022
- Jeremy Rayner  Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy  2021

**Sessional Lecturer**

- Yliana Baron Gavidia  Chemical and Biological Engineering  2020

**Other members**

- Patti McDougall  [Provost designate] Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience *(ex officio)*
- Russell Isinger  University Registrar *(ex officio)*
- Carlos Muñoz Pimentel/Kiefer Roberts  [USSU designate]
- Chiamaka Ezekwesili/Carmen Marquez  [GSA designate]

**Resource members**

- Alison Pickrell  Assistant Vice-Provost, Strategic Enrolment Management
- Dena McMartin  Associate Provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment
- Lucy Vuong/Terry Summers  Designate, VP Finance and Resources
The Academic Programs Committee of Council held 11 meetings this year (compared to 14 last year.) The Committee also met as needed asynchronously as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded. The Committee has dealt with 34 proposals for new programs, program revisions, and policy revisions to date (compared to 36 last year.)

**Curricular Changes**

**Council’s curricular approval process.** As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the Academic Programs Committee has responsibility for oversight of curricular changes at the University of Saskatchewan. Before 1995, the U of S system required that every change, even as much as a course title, had to be approved by a university-level committee. The resulting complexity and gridlock were disincentives for curricular renewal. Approval authority has been devolved so that colleges are now in substantial control of their own curriculum.

University-level approval procedures now focus on major curricular changes or changes that may affect the students or programs in other colleges. Many curricular changes can be approved quickly and, for the most part, automatically through the Course Challenge. This allows the Academic Programs Committee to focus on the major curricular innovations and improvements that colleges propose. The committee also deals with wider academic and curricular policy issues, and acts as a reference and approval body for various academic policies.

**New programs, major program revisions, and program terminations.** The Academic Programs Committee reviews major curricular innovations and improvements and makes recommendations to Council regarding approval. The Academic Programs Committee has also been delegated the authority to approve several types of program changes from colleges, including new Options and Minors in new fields of specialization. This improves Council’s ability to handle these types of program changes more quickly and efficiently, while still maintaining a university-level review of the changes to maintain quality and resolve any conflicts with other colleges.

The following proposals and policies were dealt with by APC this year and forwarded to Council for decision or for information:

**October 2019**

*Requests for Decision*

- Program name change - Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Aboriginal Lands Governance (to Indigenous Lands Governance) and Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Diploma in Aboriginal Resource Management (to Indigenous Resource Management)
- Admissions Qualification Change - Master of Science (MSc) in Marketing

**November 2019**

*Request for Decision:*

- Admissions Qualifications Change – Bachelor of Commerce (BComm) programs
- Degree-level Early Childhood Education Certificate
Items for Information:
- Changes to the Biomedical Science programs in the College of Arts and Science
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geoscience program
- Engineering Co-op Internship Program

December 2019
Request for Decision:
- Curriculum Revision for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program
- Change to Admissions Qualifications – Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program

Item for Information
- Change to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program – addition of NURS 206.1

January 2020
Request for Decision
- Admissions Qualifications change – Master of Water Security (MWS) Program

Items for Information
- Changes to graduate programs in the Biomedical Science programs
- Change to the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BE) program in Engineering Physics – credit unit reduction

February 2020
Request for Decision
- Admissions Qualifications change – Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology graduate programs
- Admissions Qualifications change – Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program
- Admissions Qualifications change – Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program – pilot
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Precision Oral and Systemic Health
- Master of International Public Management and Administration (MIPMA)

Item for Information
- Deletion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Biochemistry

March 2020
Request for Decision
- Language Teacher Education Program (LTEP) for the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Program
- Admissions Qualifications change - Doctor of Medicine (MD) program
- Admissions Qualifications change – Master of Arts (MA) in Applied Social Psychology

Items for Information
- Degree-level certificate in Medical Language
- Academic Calendar 2020-21
April 2020
Request for Decision

- Arts and Science Program Template – Bachelor of Science [Biomedical Science]

Item for Information

- Change to the 2019-20 Academic Calendar

May 2020
Request for Input

- Academic Courses Policy
- Nomenclature Report

Item for Information:

- Admissions Templates 2020-21
- Annual Report from Academic Programs Committee

June 2020 (anticipated)
Request for Decision

- Academic Courses Policy
- Nomenclature Report
- Curriculum revision – Bachelor of Science in Engineering first year curriculum

Item for Information

- Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences

University Course Challenge. The University Course Challenge is a process mandated by University Council that allows for efficient collegial review and approval of curricular revisions. University Course Challenge documents are posted on the UCC website at http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governing-bodies/council/committee/academic_programs/index.php

During the 2019-20 year, a total of 11 Course Challenge documents will have been posted (August 2019-June 2020). These included new courses, prerequisite changes, course deletions, and program revisions for programs in Agriculture & Bioresources, Arts & Science, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Kinesiology, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the School of Environment and Sustainability.

The University Course Challenge is posted on a regular schedule, so that items posted on approximately the 15th of each month are considered to be approved by the end of the month.

There were no challenges raised through the Course Challenge process this year.

Other curricular changes, Council has delegated authority for approval of many other curricular changes, such as course titles and descriptions, to colleges. In some cases, such as changes of course labels, this should be done in consultation with Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (TLSE) Portfolio. Changes of this type, which affect the Catalogue listings of other colleges, can be posted for information in a course challenge posting.
Under the approval authority delegated by Council, the appropriate Dean and/or the Provost can approve changes to non-university-level programs, such as non-degree and community level certificates. There were no non-degree level certificates or community-level certificates approved.

**Policies and Procedures**
Several areas of Council policy and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis by the Academic Programs Committee. These include issues around implementation of the enrolment plan, exam regulations, admission policies and procedures, and other areas of interest to students and faculty. This year, the Academic Programs Committee dealt with the following:

- Enrolment management
- Changes to APC terms of reference in response to the dissolution of the International Activities Committee and changes to committee members
- Committee’s role with regard to assessing Indigenous Content
- Input into disestablishment of the School of Public Health
- Update to the University Course Challenge and Moribund Course Archive Policy

**Student Enrolment and Services Division**
The following item was presented to Council for information, as shown above:

- 2020-21 Admissions Templates

**Academic calendar**
The APC reviewed and approved the 2020-21 Academic Calendar. This was reported at the March 2020 meeting of Council.

APC also approved immediate changes to the 2019-20 Academic Calendar to change the deadline for withdrawal from classes in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the move to remote teaching and learning.

I wish to thank committee members for their willingness to undertake detailed and comprehensive reviews of program proposals. I also want to thank every member for their flexibility and responsiveness as we transitioned to different meeting formats as a result of the pandemic. Their commitment to excellence and high standards resulted in improved programs for the University of Saskatchewan.

I wish also to thank the many proponents and their administrative support who appeared at meetings of APC over the last year to present proposals and to answer questions of committee members. I offer thanks to Ryan Brook for serving as vice chair and on behalf of the whole committee, I offer thanks to Amanda Storey for her administrative support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Susan Detmer, Chair