

MINUTES
Meeting of the GC Policy Committee
Wednesday, March 11, 2024, 12.30-2pm
Location: Zoom

Present: Laura Sly (Chair), Michael Hunt (Dean), Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Shannon Hagerman, Thomas Chang, Curtis Suttle, Sumeet Gulati, Davide Elmo, Ayomide Akande, Jie Cheng, Julian Dierkes (Associate Dean, G+PS) Jenny Phelps (guest), Luanne Sinnamon (guest)

Regrets: Teresa Dobson

Staff: Max Read, Jennifer Fletcher

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** were given
2. **Introductions**
- Dr. Luanne Sinnamon from the iSchool and Dr. Jenny Phelps from G+PS were introduced as guests speaking to specific topics for discussion and considerations for policy changes to consider for approval

3. **Adoption of the agenda**

All } That the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. **Motion to Approve the Minutes**

All } That the minutes be approved.

Carried

Items for Business

5. **Removal of program-specific requirements for M.A.S. and M.L.I.S.**

Dr. Luanne Sinnamon provided an overview of the proposed changes to existing policies around the Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies programs. Instead of carrying on with the program-specific regulations, they want adopt the 'general academic regulations' of the University and of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies'. This change is needed because the regulations currently in place are old and, in some cases, quite outdated.

Dr. Chang asked if the policy around one-time fee at the start of the program (for materials and services) would also be changed? Dr. Sinnamon replied that the programs will continue

to charge one-time fee but that information will be part of the general information available on their website and will be taken out of the calendar.

Michael pointed out that a growing number of programs (in the Faculty of Medicine at least) are trying to include this point (one-time fee) in the calendar instead of putting it on their websites.

Michael also noted that the regulations stipulated by points 1, 2, and 3 in the previous policy exceed the G+PS requirements but that he has no objection to the proposed change to policy as long as the program is not concerned about reducing the standards. Dr. Sinnamon reported that most student exceed program requirements as they have an approximately 25% acceptance rate and that the program has reviewed it with their grad advisors.

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| <i>All</i> } <i>That the motion be approved.</i> |
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Carried

Discussion

6. Certificate Programs and Transfer Credits

Jenny Phelps led the discussion of whether ladder credits and transferred credits are the same thing or should they be considered separately/differently?

Jenny brought up a question about the potential difference between the credits that are ladder credits from a graduate certificate program into an affiliated program and the normal policy around transfer credits. The general policy is that a student may transfer up to 12 credits or up to 40% of the total number of credits needed for completion of their current program (whichever is higher).

An exception to the general policy for the ladder credits (credits taken as part of a graduate certificate program that officially ladder into an affiliated program) – all of the credits taken under a certificate can be transferred into a specifically affiliated program.

A question has arisen from a nascent graduate certificate program – whether or not in their program there could be up to 15 ladder credits, in addition to the credits eligible for transfer under the current policy.

Jenny asked the committee if the Graduate Certificate credits that are ‘ladder’ to a Master’s degree should be considered as “transfer credits”, and therefore be counted towards the 12 or 40% of required credits that are allowed to transfer? Alternatively, should the ladder credits be considered as different from ‘transfer credits’, therefore

allowing additional credits (beyond those laddered) to be transferred into a Master's? If so, any limitations?

Tom shared his reservations with the 'extreme' case example Jenny had mentioned earlier. Christiane added that she would have less reservations if a student had taken 15 credits from UBC but she would be concerned if the students ends up taking just 3 courses at UBC.

Laura asked if these laddering cases are restricted only to the course-based programs – Jennifer points out there are some master's programs in Education that accept laddering.

Jenny asks if the committee members are more comfortable with the idea of allowing additional credits? Jolanta suggested that she was nt. Miriam said she would like to see some data from other institutions and also suggested introducing a limit to the number of credits that could be transferred so that students would have to take some courses with their cohort.

Tom asked if upon the completion of their program, the student would get both the graduate certificate credentials and the Master's credentials. Jenny said yes, double dipping is permitted under the current policy.

Laura asked if the students in a Master's program, who have not taken the laddering route would be able to transfer their credits. Jenny said yes, if the program allows this arrangement. Laura said it will leave very little difference between a laddered and a regular candidate. Jenny acknowledged that despite taking the same courses, one of the candidates would end up getting a certificate and a Master's degree whereas the other candidate would only be awarded a Master's degree, but pointed out that the long-standing policy allows for this.

Jenny concluded the discussion by saying that she will look into the relevant practices at other programs in other institutions get back to the committee for further discussion.

Michael suggested creating a laddering policy separate from transfer credits that would aim to set rules around a combination of laddered and transfer credits which could then be applied to Master's programs. Jenny responds positively to that.

Other Business

Michael made two announcements:

- 1. Upcoming Graduation Ceremonies** – With the Spring graduation coming up in May, Arafat will reach out to the Committee members to see if they would be interested in reading at these ceremonies.

- 2. Associate Deans' Roundtable** – There is not enough time to discuss non-policy issues at the Academic Policy meetings, so a non-agenda meeting will be scheduled once a term/quarter. Arafat will reach out to the group to schedule this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2024, 12:30PM on zoom.