

CAMPUS ALBERTA QUALITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Eleventh Council Meeting – 15-16 March 2006 Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel (15 March), University of Alberta (16 March)

Council

Present: Doug Owram (Chair), Michael Faulkner, Dianne Kieren, Garry McKinnon, Peter Meekison, Cliff Soper, Lucille Walter, Keith Ward, Mo Watanabe, Andrew Berczi (by teleconference for items #7, #8, #10, and #11)

Absent: Dan Gaynor

Secretariat Marilyn Patton (Director), Guy Germain (Manager), Meg Walker (Research and Policy Analyst)

Guests Honourable David Hancock, Minister of Advanced Education, Betty Ann Hicks (for agenda item 1)

Dr. Indira Samarasekera, Dr. Carl G. Amrhein, Dr. Art Quinney, Dr. Olive Yonge, Dr. John Kennelly, Dr. Daniel Woolf, Marion Haggarty-France, Garry Bodnar, Dr. Chris Langer, Deanna Douglas, Karen Wichuk, Carole Byrne (all for agenda item 14 only)

The Chair welcomed members to the eleventh meeting of the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

1. Meeting with the Minister

Minister Hancock thanked Council for its work which is integral in showing the quality of degree programs offered in the province. He provided an update to Council on the *A Learning Alberta* review and outlined his priorities for the Alberta post-secondary system. A question and answer session followed.

2. Degree recognition initiatives

Members discussed Council's work to increase recognition of Alberta degrees. The Chair noted that several members of Council will be meeting with representatives of the British Columbia Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) to discuss collaboration and degree recognition initiatives. Marilyn Patton updated members on the work of the Council of Ministers of Education Canada's Pan-Canadian Committee on Quality Assurance of Degree Programming.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that Council adopt and adapt the draft Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework and institutional and program assessment standards and processes for its use in reviewing new degree proposals to be offered in Alberta.

CARRIED

It was further **AGREED** that the task of recommending how the draft Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework might be adapted to reflect assessment of degrees offered in Alberta would be assigned to the Nomenclature and Degree Programs Subcommittee.

3. Approval of minutes – 4-5 November 2005

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 4-5 November 2005 minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CAQC Chair and Secretariat report

The Chair briefly reviewed the Chair and Secretariat report and provided updates on several issues including applied degrees, the liability of external reviewers, and DeVry's comprehensive evaluation.

It was AGREED that the Secretariat would begin posting the dates of scheduled comprehensive evaluations on Council's website.

5. DeVry Institute of Technology-Calgary – transition plan for BTech to BSc degrees

At the request of Council, DeVry Institute of Technology–Calgary has provided a proposed transition plan for the approved nomenclature change of the Bachelor of Technology in Computer Information Systems and Bachelor of Technology in Electronics Engineering Technology to Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology, respectively.

Members generally agreed with the proposed transition plan although they asked the Secretariat to seek clarification on two matters.

6. Monitoring

Guy Germain provided an overview of the 2004-2005 annual reports from private institutions offering approved degree programs and data received from their accountability reporting to the Ministry. Members discussed the feedback it would provide to these institutions on their reports. They also discussed the annual reporting requirements for both public and private institutions for the 2005-2006 academic year.

It was AGREED that Council would write to Grant MacEwan College to outline its expectations for the monitoring of the Bachelor of Arts (8 majors) and Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree programs now that they have been approved. As well, the letter was to request a written interim update on the implementation of the BA programs.

7. University of Calgary – consideration of a proposal for a 4-year Bachelor of Arts (East Asian Language Studies)

The University of Calgary is seeking approval for a 4-year Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Language Studies. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept the University of Calgary's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in East Asian Language Studies degree program.

CARRIED

Following discussion of the proposal, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Calgary's East Asian Language Studies major in its 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

CARRIED

8. University of Calgary – consideration of a proposal for a 4-year Bachelor of Arts and a 4-year Bachelor of Science (Transportation Studies)

The University of Calgary is seeking approval for a Transportation Studies major in its approved 4-year Bachelor of Arts and 4-year Bachelor of Science programs. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept the University of Calgary's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in Transportation Studies degree program and a 4-year Bachelor of Science with a major in Transportation Studies degree program.

CARRIED

Following discussion of the proposals, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Calgary's Transportation Studies major in its 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

CARRIED

Subsequently, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Calgary's Transportation Studies major in its 4-year Bachelor of Science degree program.

CARRIED

Members directed the chair to seek clarification of the rationale for such a major within a Bachelor of Science program and, if satisfied, to forward the recommendation to the Minister.

Members AGREED that it would ask the University for an update on the program prior to implementation with respect to specific issues.

9. Academic freedom/scholarly activity

Given that Council is reviewing degree proposals from different kinds of institutions for different degree levels and types, it is appropriate to clarify its expectations with respect to academic freedom and scholarly activity.

The Chair provided an overview of the issue. Following discussion, a consensus was reached as to the desired contents for Council's Academic Freedom and Scholarship Statement. Members decided that a first draft would initially be circulated and discussed with the Senior Academic Officers of the public colleges and technical institutes.

10. Athabasca University – continued consideration of a proposal for a Doctorate in Distance Education (DDE)

Athabasca University is seeking approval for a Doctorate in Distance Education. At its 6 October 2005 meeting, Council had agreed to the institution's request for a blended and expedited review of the proposal should it be referred to Council. The referral has now been received and potential reviewers recruited.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the names proposed for the external review team be accepted and ratified as the Program Evaluation Team for Athabasca University's proposed Doctor of Distance Education.

CARRIED

Since members agreed that it would be beneficial to both CAQC's review and to Athabasca University given its international audience, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recruit an international reviewer to conduct a desk review of the proposed Doctorate in Distance Education program.

CARRIED

It was further AGREED that the international reviewer's report would be provided to Council's team of reviewers to be used as a resource.

11. Athabasca University - consideration of a proposal for a 3-year and 4-year Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)

Athabasca University is seeking approval for a 3-year Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Political Science and a 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept Athabasca University's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed 3-year Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Political Science degree program and a 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science degree program.

CARRIED

Following discussion of the proposals, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve Athabasca University's Political Science concentration in its 3-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

CARRIED

Subsequently, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve Athabasca University's Political Science major in its 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

CARRIED

12. Nomenclature and Degree Programs Subcommittee report

The Chair provided a brief overview of the work of the subcommittee, which has held seven meetings to date.

13. Presentation by the University of Alberta

Officials from the University of Alberta, led by Dr. Indira Samarasekera, University of Alberta's President, provided an informative presentation on the University's vision for the future, and its internal program approval and periodic unit review processes. A question and answer session followed.

14. University of Alberta – consideration of a proposal for a MSc in Rehabilitation Science

The University of Alberta is seeking approval for a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept the University of Alberta's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science degree program.

CARRIED

Following discussion of the proposal, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Alberta's Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science degree program.

CARRIED

Council had also been asked by the Deputy Minister for its advice with respect to a proposed name change for two existing clinical, course-based masters programs. Council AGREED to advise the Minister that it supports renaming the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) and Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) to Master of Science-Physical Therapy (MSc-PT) and Master of Science-Speech-Language Pathology (MSc-SLP), respectively.

15. Council member responsibilities and position description

In anticipation of changes in membership in June 2006, members discussed and proposed changes to the draft member responsibilities and position description document.

16. Distance Education guidelines/standards

At the November 2005 Council meeting, members had discussed whether additional assessment standards or guidelines needed to be developed for assessment of degrees delivered on-line or by other distance methods. Members had reviewed several documents outlining standards and best practices pertaining to distance education, and began developing guidelines/standards for online degrees.

Council discussed its draft standards on distance education and agreed to consult with stakeholders in order to fine tune the document.

18. University of Calgary – consideration of a proposal for a 4-year Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics and Language)

The University of Calgary is seeking approval for a 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in Linguistics and Language. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept the University of Calgary's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed 4-year Bachelor of Arts with a major in Linguistics and Language degree program.

CARRIED

Following discussion of the proposal, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Calgary's Linguistics and Language major in its 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree program.

CARRIED

As the degree program is to be offered jointly by the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Council further AGREED that it would note in the letter to the institution that the University should ensure appropriate bridging mechanisms with respect to student appeals and ongoing curriculum development.

The next scheduled meeting of Council is set for 15-16 June (rescheduled from 8-9 June).