

1. Purpose

The Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee (APPSC) serves as General Faculties Council's ("Council") primary advisory group on academic planning and affairs, and on the quality and sustainability of academic programming. APPSC is responsible to Council for the specific matters itemized below but may also be asked to consider or recommend to Council on any academic issue, including 1) those issues under the purview of other Council committees, or 2) issues linked to academic service units where those issues have a significant academic impact. In like manner, the President, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Deputy Provost, or other Vice-Presidents may refer any matter to APPSC for consideration or recommendation to Council. APPSC is also responsible to Council for promoting an optimal learning environment for students and excellence in teaching.

2. Membership

The membership of the Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee shall be:

- Chair, Provost and Vice President, Academic
- Deputy Provost
- Associate Vice President, Student and Faculty Relations
- Associate Vice President, Learner Experience
- Registrar
- Deans
- Sixteen (16) full-time academic faculty members, four (4) elected by the full-time academic faculty members from each of the Faculty of Business, the Faculty Health Disciplines, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Science and Technology
- One (1) member from Nukskahtowin
- One (1) undergraduate student representative chosen by the council of the students association
- One (1) graduate student representative chosen by the council of the graduate students association
- One (1) tutor/academic expert appointed by the tutors/academic experts

Non-Voting Members

- An Associate Registrar
- Manager, Programs and Planning

3. Responsibilities

The Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee has the following powers and duties:

3.1 Planning, Policies, and Priorities

- 3.1.1 Recommend to Council on planning, policies, and priorities with respect to the University's longer term academic development within the Council's purview.

3.2 Faculties, Centres, and Departments

- 3.2.1 Recommend to Council on the establishment, termination, or merger of faculties, centres, schools, and departments.
- 3.2.2 Receive and discuss recommendations from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic concerning reviews of faculties, centres, schools, or departments and to consider and recommend appropriate action.
- 3.2.3 Recommend to Council and the Board on proposals to change the names of faculties, centres, schools, and departments.

3.3 Academic Programs

- 3.3.1 Provide advisory feedback on proposed new academic programs to the Provost and Vice-President Academic (as requested).
- 3.3.2 Recommend to Council on the establishment of new academic programs, including new degree credentials, new degree specializations, new stand-alone certificates and diplomas, at Athabasca University or those administered in collaboration with other post-secondary institutions.
- 3.3.3 Approve proposals for changes to existing undergraduate and graduate programs (e.g., new curriculum, new certificates or diplomas associated with an existing degree program and using a majority of existing courses, name change, program load change, new thesis/course route, new undergraduate minor or graduate focus area) unless, the changes are to be applied retrospectively, or in the opinion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, the committee should recommend to Council concerning the proposal.
- 3.3.4 Review, monitor, and approve the cyclical reviews of academic programs and program- and institutional-level learning outcomes assessment reports.
- 3.3.5 Recommend to Council on the termination of academic programs at Athabasca University or those administered in collaboration with other post-secondary institutions.
- 3.3.6 Approve changes affecting broad academic and access aspects of all degrees, certificates, diplomas, concentrations, or programs unless, the changes are to be applied retrospectively, or in the opinion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, the committee should recommend to Council concerning the proposal. These changes include any change in the core courses, cross-listing of courses, and changes in other course and program requirements.
- 3.3.7 Recommend approval of regulations for awarding credentials.

- 3.3.8 Annual report to Council on all matters related to the quality and integrity of the university's programs and courses.

3.4 Policy

- 3.4.1 Review and make recommendations to Council on policies within the Council's purview.
- 3.4.2 Approve policies for the evaluation and review of the quality of courses and programs.

3.5 Admission and Transfer, Academic Standing, Marking and Grading, Examinations

- 3.5.1 Approve admission criteria of students to the University's programs.
- 3.5.2 Approve all proposals from the faculties or the administration related to admission and transfer, to the academic standing of students, and to institutional marking and grading policies.
- 3.5.3 Approve routine and/or editorial changes to both admission/transfer policies and academic standing regulations, and act for Council in approving all proposals for
- i. changes to examination regulations, and
 - ii. changes to the University calendar schedule
- 3.5.4 Respond to proposals that may affect the admission or transfer of students to Athabasca University.
- 3.5.5 Approve either of the following kinds of proposed changes to courses recommended or required for admission:
- i. a course previously recommended for admission is now required for admission; or
 - ii. a course previously required for admission is now only recommended for admission
- 3.5.6 Approve the Academic Schedule and any changes to the Academic Schedule proposed after the Schedule has been approved.

3.6 Other

- 3.6.1 Where the Chair of the Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee deems it necessary, a special meeting of the Committee shall be called to deal with urgent matters.

History

Date	Action
November 8, 2011	GFC approved
July 9, 2015	GFC approved amendments
May 9, 2018	GFC approved amendments
May 2, 2024	GFC approved amendments