

1. Purpose

The Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee (APPSC) is responsible to General Faculties Council (“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, 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, research, and graduate studies.

2. Membership

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

- Chair, Provost and Vice President, Academic
- Associate Vice President, Academic Resources
- Associate Vice President, Research
- Registrar
- Deans
- Eight (8) full-time academic faculty members, two (2) elected by each of the Faculty of Business, the Faculty Health Disciplines, the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Science & Technology
- Four (4) program directors, one (1) elected by each of the Faculty of Business, the Faculty of Health Disciplines, the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Science & Technology
- One (1) Indigenous representative, academic staff or non-academic staff as defined by the GFC Rules

Non-Voting Members

- Associate Vice President, Integrated Planning & Assessment
- Director, Learning Assessment, Institutional Data Analysis
- An Associate Registrar
- Coordinator, Quality Assurance, Academic Programs

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.

3.2 Faculties, Centres, and Departments

- 3.2.1 Recommend to Council on the establishment, termination, or merger of faculties, centres, and departments.
- 3.2.2 Receive and discuss recommendations from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic concerning reviews of faculties, centres, 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, and departments.

3.3 Academic Programs

- 3.3.1 Recommend to Council on the establishment of new academic programs at Athabasca University or those administered in collaboration with other post-secondary institutions.
- 3.3.2 Recommend to Council on all proposals for establishment of undergraduate and graduate degree specializations.
- 3.3.3 Recommend to Council on new majors, new degree credentials and substantive degree program changes.
- 3.3.4 Approve proposals for changes to existing undergraduate and graduate programs (e.g., new degree designation, new curriculum, new certificates or diplomas, name change, degree FLE change, new thesis/course route) 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.
- 3.3.5 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, university 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 policies and regulations for awarding credentials.
- 3.3.8 Approve policies and procedures for the evaluation and review of the quality of courses and programs. Report to Council on all matters related to the quality and integrity of the university's programs of study.

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

- 3.4.1 Approve admission criteria of students to the University's programs.
- 3.4.2 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.
- 3.4.3 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
- 3.4.4 Respond to proposals that may affect the admission or transfer of students to Athabasca University.
- 3.4.5 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
- 3.4.6 Approve the Academic Schedule and any changes to the Academic Schedule proposed after the Schedule has been approved.

3.5 Other

- 3.5.1 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.