

General Faculties Council (GFC) Snapshot – October 21, 2010

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Reports from Senior Administration

- Discussions continue with Advanced Education around the possible implementation of the Bachelor of Education degree next fall.
- The Campus Alberta Quality Council will be on campus in November for the site visit for the midwifery degree.
- Two of the four Dean's Council searches that will take place this academic year are underway. Interviews will likely take place just before and just after the holiday break. Candidates will be making public presentations.
- Individuals or groups are encouraged to make submissions to the Academic Planning Committee.
- A proposal to implement a cap on the number of students in the psychology major beginning in Fall 2010 was brought forward from Dean's Council to GFC for information. A significant number of the total students admitted to the Bachelor of Arts program have selected psychology as their major. In 2010/11, 220 out of the 677 students admitted into the Bachelor of Arts program chose psychology. There are not enough faculty members to deliver courses to meet this demand. Admission into the Bachelor of Arts program is also GPA based, and the large number of students choosing psychology affects other arts majors. A cap of 170 students in the psychology major is proposed. The cap would apply to students admitted Fall 2011 onward. In response to a question from the floor, the Dean of Arts indicated that current students who are undeclared would still have the opportunity to choose psychology as their major without being subjected to the cap. The full proposal is available in the [GFC agenda package](#).
- A standing committee on undergraduate research is being created out of the research office, and a call for membership will be going out shortly
- There will be a keynote presentation on November 15 entitled "Toward a Pedagogy of Discovery for All Students: Undergraduate Research as a High-Impact Practice." Dr. Susan Elrod will be speaking from 10-12 in Lincoln Park. Registration is available through the [ADC website](#).

Report from Academic Program and Policy Committee

- The Chair of APPC indicated that a number of course submissions have been received that do not adequately address issues around student impact or cross impact with existing programs. Some proposals have included statements that don't satisfy the question being asked and/or do not address how the course developer arrived at his/her conclusions about the impact of the course on other programs or students (i.e. who was consulted during the development process).
- A member of GFC asked how evidence for student impact could be obtained. It was suggested that a statement that the course was discussed at faculty council, and that there was support from the student representatives on that body could be one strategy. In terms of cross impact, emails from possible departments/programs affected could be included as evidence that the proposed offering would not conflict with existing programs.

- The Chair of APPC also reminded councillors that it is not the committee's mandate to address financial issues around the delivery of a course.

Report from Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee

- The Chair of APTC encouraged departments or faculties to share any draft documents relating to evidence and standards for tenure and promotion with APTC for information purposes. Documents can be sent via email to mschroeder@mtroyal.ca

Report from the Library Advisory Standing Committee

- The business case for the new Library and Learning Centre is now with the government for consideration.

Report from the Learning Outcomes Standing Committee

- LOSC will be approaching department and program chairs shortly for feedback on the learning outcomes and how they are being used.

Questions from the floor

- Congratulations were extended to the members of the Mount Royal community that ran for office during the recent municipal election - Olga Knight, Wayne Stewart, and Mayor-Elect Naheed Nenshi
- A question was raised around the consultation process for the planning of the fall open house. The ensuing discussion highlighted issues around difficulties in finding volunteers because of the proximity to the statutory holiday, having Faculty rather than program specific booths, the size of the venue (Ross Glenn vs. the gym or walking track), and the lack of chairs for booth volunteers. Robin Fisher will share this feedback with the Acting Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services.