

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy Committee** held on Thursday, March 28th, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. virtually.

Present: C. Buddle (Vice-Chair), I. Cossette, J-P, Ferguson, M. Fronda, A. Hundemer, K. Joseph, C. Lyons, L. Khoury, B. Low, M. Manikis, J. Nalbantoglu, G. Nycum, N. Pastrana Mankovitz, S, Philips, P. Pondicherry, D. Thomas, C. Weil, L. Winer, V. Wright, E. Zimmermann, K. Tiitson (Secretary)

Regrets: C. Manfredi (Chair), L. Bornstein, F. Labeau, V. Parey, M. Vennat

Guest: B. Champagne

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Planning), Vice-Chair of APC.

1. **Agenda**
Members in attendance approved the agenda.
2. **Minutes**
Members in attendance approved the minutes for the meeting of January 25th, 2024.
3. **New Business**
 - i. **Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) (DPSLL)**
Office of International Education
 - **Student Exchange Agreement (SEA) Portfolio – Summary of developments in academic year 2022/2023**
 - APC discussed the SEA Portfolio, which is an annual report produced by the DPSLL to provide APC with a high-level overview of the SEA renewals, new partnerships, and terminations in the 2022/2023 academic year. As Vice-Chair Buddle explained, this report is intended to act as a point of governance as these items are reported to APC for information purposes to provide greater transparency and visibility on the student exchange agreement process.
 - APC had specific queries pertaining to how new partnerships are established and terminated and what is the renewal process with various global institutions. As there was no representative in attendance to provide additional context, Vice-Chair Buddle recommended to table this item and rediscuss it at the April meeting with a representative from the DPSLL on hand to field questions.
 - ii. **Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)**
 - The SCTP report #5 for on the meeting of January 11th, 2024.
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Faculty of Engineering
M.Eng. in Electrical Engineering; Non-Thesis – Applied Artificial Intelligence (45 cr.)
 - APC reviewed and approved a proposal to create a new M.Eng. in Electrical Engineering; Non-Thesis – Applied Artificial Intelligence (45 cr.). The proposal was presented by Professor Benoit Champagne from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Prof. Champagne explained that the new concentration/option is intended

to equip students with artificial intelligence (AI) techniques and hands-on experience in various fields. During the discussion, some primary concerns were raised:

- The importance of an ethics component: APC agreed there should be an ethics component included in the program given the societal impacts of AI. Prof. Champagne recognised the importance of this matter but clarified that an ethics course could be added pending additional faculty recourses.
 - The use of cross-faculty collaboration: APC discussed the prospect of cross-faculty collaboration on the topics of AI and ethics, particularly within the fields of arts, sciences, and digital humanities as these are some fields undergoing large changes due to the emergence of AI.
 - Challenges of cross-faculty collaboration: APC discussed the challenges on the implementation of cross-faculty collaboration, such as different teaching and graduation requirements, levels of study, and departmental autonomy as there would be different mindsets based on the program offering these courses, their methods of instruction, and so forth.
- Vice-Chair Buddle indicated that further discussions and assessments would need to be conducted University-wide on this topic as there are various internal structural barriers and constraints in place concerning cross-faculty collaboration.

APC approved the creation of the proposed M.Eng. in Electrical Engineering; Non-Thesis – Applied Artificial Intelligence (45 cr.) concentration/option. It will be submitted to Senate for information in APC's 525th Report to Senate for its meeting of April 18th, 2024.

- The SCTP report #6 for on the meeting of February 1st, 2024.

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Faculty of Arts

Ph.D. in Russian and Slavic Studies (0 cr.)

M.A. in Russian and Slavic Studies (45 cr.)

APC reviewed and approved the major program revisions for the renaming of the Ph.D. in Russian (0 cr.) to the Ph.D. in Russian and Slavic Studies (0 cr.) and the renaming of the M.A. in Russian (45 cr.) to the M.A. in Russian and Slavic Studies (45 cr.). The title and scope of both programs are being revised to reflect a major shift in the field and display the more contemporary framing of the program.

APC approved the major program revisions for the renaming of the Ph.D. in Russian (0 cr.) to the Ph.D. in Russian and Slavic Studies (0 cr.) and the M.A. in Russian (45 cr.) to the M.A. in Russian and Slavic Studies (45 cr.). It will be submitted to Senate for information in APC's 525th Report to Senate for its meeting of April 18th, 2024.

iii. **Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic)**

Online/Blended Courses and Programs: Definitions and Approvals

- Vice-Chair Buddle explained that this item was first presented to APC for approval at its March 20th, 2023, meeting via APC's Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP). The University needed clear terminologies for online/blended courses and programs, especially if instructors wanted to switch course offering modality. The new definitions and approvals were part of the New Models of Academic Program Delivery created by the Working Group chaired by Associate Provost C. Buddle. The final report wasn't completed by the April 2023 Senate meeting, but terminologies were brought to Senate for approval at its April 2023 meeting. On April 19th, 2023, Senate approved the motion on the understanding that such approval is subject to review by Senate in one year (April 2024).
- Vice-Chair Buddle explained that the end goal of these terminologies is to have them fully approved without a time limit set on them. Once approved, the definitions, terminology and approval pathways would be applicable and recognizable University-wide. During the discussion, some concerns were raised:
 - "Online learning" vs. "online course": APC had concerns over the differences between "online learning" and an "online course" as both terms have different definitions, but in the document they are grouped together under one definition [i.e., it's written as "Online learning or (online course)"]. APC believed it may be beneficial to have separate definitions for these terms and any other terms written in a similar format.
- Vice-Chair Buddle explained that within the institution, terminology is often used interchangeably. Any term that is enclosed in parenthesis beside a definition is deemed to be an acceptable alternative term to use, and it was deemed appropriate through various levels of governance within the institution. The Committee decided that the terminology was sufficient at present.

APC approved the Online/Blended Courses and Programs: Definitions and Approvals. It will be submitted to Senate for approval in APC's 525th Report to Senate for its meeting of April 18th, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.