EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL

Date: 17 March 2021
To: Executive of Council
From: Glenys Sylvestre, Executive Director (University Governance) and University Secretary
Re: Meeting of 24 March 2021

A meeting of Executive of Council is scheduled for 24 March 2021, 2:30-4:30 p.m. via web conferencing (Zoom). As per Section 4.6.2 of the Council Rules and Regulations, meetings shall be closed except to persons invited to attend and members of Council who choose to attend as guests.

AGENDA

1.   **Approval of the Agenda**

2.   **Approval of the Minutes of Meeting 24 February 2021** - *circulated with the Agenda*

3.   **Business Arising from the Minutes**

4.   **Remarks from the Chair**

5.   **Report from the University Secretary**

6.   **Reports from Committees of Council**
      6.1   Council Committee on Budget, Appendix I, p. 2
      6.2   Council Committee on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Appendix II, pp. 3-12
      6.3   Council Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Studies, Appendix III, pp. 13-18
      6.4   Council Committee on Research, Appendix IV, pp. 19-21

7.   **Graduand Lists**
      7.1   Graduand Lists for Approval - Omnibus Motion - *distributed confidentially*
            7.1.1   Faculty of Education
            7.1.2   Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
            7.1.3   Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies
            7.1.4   Faculty of Social Work

8.   **Other Business**

9.   **Adjournment**

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL
FROM THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
12 MARCH 2021

CCB last reported to Executive of Council on its April 2020 meeting. CCB held its last meeting for the Spring 2020 on May 06 to discuss the final budget letter. In addition to its regular meetings in the Fall term, CCB held a special meeting on Sep 08 to discuss the budget challenges during the Covid 19 pandemic. Although we held our regular meetings in January and February, these were not the typical ones of a normal budget cycle.

CCB had a very engaged participation of the membership in these meetings to discuss the new fiscal challenges during the remote operations and the decline of international enrollments. The VP Administration, Interim Provost and VPR have kept CCB apprised of the shifting budget parameters in the Covid 19 reality. In addition, in November CCB supported in principle the request for new positions in the IT department to facilitate the remote teaching and learning.

As you may be aware from other university commutations or budget forums of the executive team, the senior administration did not follow the standard Budget Template this year by calling on managers for budget submissions for new investments. Instead, the focus has been in finding (bridging) funding to meet the overall shortfall of about $13.5M of 2020-21 and beyond.   While detailed minutes provide an account of matters discussed in CCB meetings, the overall sentiment is that University will continue to face considerable budgetary pressures in the future.

Agendas and approved minutes/notes of CCB meetings are available at:
https://www.uregina.ca/president/governance/council/CCB.html

Monika Çule, Chair
Submitted on behalf of CCB

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL
FROM THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
11 MARCH 2021

ITEM(S) FOR APPROVAL

1. FACULTY OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Master of Administration (MAdmin) Preamble Change

MOTION: That the preamble to the Master of Administration (MAdmin) program description in the graduate calendar be removed effective 202130.

Current Master of Administration (MAdmin) Program	Proposed Master of Administration (MAdmin) Program
The Master of Administration is a program that offers graduate-level education in the area of Leadership. This will appeal to those employed in business or non-profit organizations who seek to build on their existing leadership skills. The program is undertaken on a part-time basis, and takes approximately 2½ years to complete.	~~The Master of Administration is a program that offers graduate-level education in the area of Leadership. This will appeal to those employed in business or non-profit organizations who seek to build on their existing leadership skills. The program is undertaken on a part-time basis, and takes approximately 2½ years to complete.~~

Rationale:

No such preamble exists in other business program descriptions and causes unnecessary confusion for students who do chose to complete the program full-time, and time to completion is variable and based on credit hours. The change has no implications for admissions or programming requirements.

(end of Motion)

1.2 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Requirement

MOTION: That the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development Program be a non-credit compulsory requirement for students entering all Levene programs, including certificates effective 202130.

Current Department Description	Proposed Department Description
https://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/future-students/programs/administration.html#MBA	https://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/future-students/programs/administration.html#MBA
The Faculty of Business Administration currently offers the Levene MBA with Specializations, the Master of Human Resource Management (MHRM), the Master of Administration (major in Leadership) (MAdmin), and the Executive MBA. The Faculty of Business Administration also offers Master's Certificates in Human Resource Management, Business, Organizational Leadership and Project Management. A Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Foundations is also being offered. Courses are offered in the late afternoons, evenings, weekends, in one-week blocks, and online. The transfer credit policy of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research enables transfer credit from other institutions where an academic credential has not been	The Faculty of Business Administration currently offers the Levene MBA with Specializations, the Master of Human Resource Management (MHRM), the Master of Administration (major in Leadership) (MAdmin), and the Executive MBA. The Faculty of Business Administration also offers Master's Certificates in Human Resource Management, Business, Organizational Leadership and Project Management. A Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Foundations is also being offered. Courses are offered in the late afternoons, evenings, weekends, in one-week blocks, and online. The transfer credit policy of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research enables transfer credit from other institutions where an academic credential has not been

awarded, with up to three courses (9 credit hours) to be transferred into the MBA, MHRM, and MAdmin (Leadership) programs, and up to five courses (15 credit hours) to be transferred into the MBA International program.	awarded, with up to three courses (9 credit hours) to be transferred into the MBA, MHRM, and MAdmin (Leadership) programs, and up to five courses (15 credit hours) to be transferred into the MBA International program. *Four Seasons of Reconciliation Professional Development Program* *As an investment in Truth and Reconciliation, the University is providing a no-cost, online reconciliation education program that is compulsory for all incoming Levene students. This program, which can be completed in approximately five hours, is expected to be completed at your own pace by the end of your first semester along with your regular courses during your first registration period. You will be required to submit a certificate of completion to the Levene School as verification.*

Rationale:

This proposal is consistent with our University and Faculty Strategic Plans and recommendations put forward by the Indigenous Pathways working group. The program takes approximately 5 hours to complete.
While what is being proposed is a professional development program rather a formal course, the proposed calendar wording has been designed to mimic the GRST 800AA Academic Integrity course offered through FGSR.

(end of Motion)

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2. FACULTY OF EDUCATION

2.1 Indigenous Education Program Change

MOTION: That the Master of Indigenous Education (MIED) course, thesis and project route program be modified effective 202130.

Current Master of Indigenous Education Course Route	Cr Hrs	Proposed Master of Indigenous Education Course Route	Cr Hrs
ED 817	3	ED 817	3
EC&I 821	3	EC&I 821	3
EC&I 823	3	EC&I 823	3
EFDN 804	3	EFDN 804	3
EFDN 805	3	EFDN 805	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
Total Hrs.	30	Total Hrs.	30

Approved Electives:
~~ED 816, EC&I 804, EDL 821, EC&I 813, EC&I 814, EC&I 820, EC&I 822, EC&I 851, EC&I 856, EC&I 857, EC&I 871AS, EAHR 810, EAHR 812, EFDN 803, EFDN 806, EFDN 807, EPSY 834, EPSY 837.~~

Electives should be selected in consultation with the MIED program Coordinator, Indigenous Education, First Nations University of Canada.

Current Master of Indigenous Education Thesis Route	Cr Hrs	Proposed Master of Indigenous Education Thesis Route	Cr Hrs
ED 817	3	ED 817	3
EC&I 823	3	EC&I 823	3
EFDN 804	3	EFDN 804	3
EFDN 805	3	EFDN 805	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
ED 901 Thesis Research	15	ED 901 Thesis Research	15
Total Hrs.	30	Total Hrs.	30

Approved Electives:

ED 816, ~~EC&I 804,~~ *EDL 821, EC&I 813, EC&I 814,* ~~EC&I 820,~~ EC&I 822, *EC&I 851, EC&I 856, EC&I 857,* ~~EC&I 871AS,~~ *EAHR 810, EAHR 812, EFDN 803, EFDN 806, EFDN 807, EPSY 834, EPSY 837.*

Electives should be selected in consultation with the MIED program Coordinator, Indigenous Education, First Nations University of Canada.

Current Master of Indigenous Education Project Route	Cr Hrs	Proposed Master of Indigenous Education Project Route	Cr Hrs
ED 817	3	ED 817	3
EC&I 821	3	EC&I 821	3
EC&I 823	3	EC&I 823	3
EFDN 804	3	EFDN 804	3
EFDN 805	3	EFDN 805	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
~~Approved~~ elective*	3	*8XX* elective*	3
ED 900	6	ED 900	6
Total Hrs.	30	Total Hrs.	30

Approved Electives:

ED 816, ~~EC&I 804,~~ *EDL 821, EC&I 813, EC&I 814,* ~~EC&I 820,~~ EC&I 822, *EC&I 851, EC&I 856, EC&I 857,* ~~EC&I 871AS,~~ *EAHR 810, EAHR 812, EFDN 803, EFDN 806, EFDN 807, EPSY 834, EPSY 837.*

Electives should be selected in consultation with the MIED program Coordinator, Indigenous Education, First Nations University of Canada.

Rationale:

The deletion of limited number of approved electives provide the flexibility and availability for the students in the MIED program. The new model meets the needs of the programs.

(end of Motion)

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3.   FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

3.1   English Language Proficiency Test - Duolingo

MOTION: That the Duolingo online English test with a minimum score of 110 for all programs except Media Studies & Media Production, and English where 120 is the minimum, be accepted as an approved test of proficiency in English (ELP) for graduate admission, on a temporary basis for the 2021-2022 academic year (July 1 to April 30), effective July 1, 2021.

Rationale:

Challenges due to COVID-19 continue to pose barriers to access English Language test centers for prospective students around the world (such as International English Language Testing System). Many other Canadian universities continue to accept the Duolingo Online English Test. Accepting Duolingo's online English test will allow the U of R to be as accessible as other Canadian universities that are already using Duolingo, and will help students in applying for admission to the U of R. UR International is accepting Duolingo's online English test as a pilot, and upon further research, may add this test to the acceptable test options going forward. UR International presented this motion at CCUAS in February 2021.

Additional information on Duolingo may be found in **Attachment A.**

(end of Motion)

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4.   **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

        4.1   **Master of Science (MSc) in Physics Program Change**

MOTION: That the Master of Science in Physics program be modified effective 202130.

The MSc degree requires 15 credit hours of class work, and the oral presentation of a thesis before the examining committee. ~~All MSc students are required to take Physics 800 and 801, plus 9 credit hours of additional courses chosen in consultation with the thesis supervisor and department head. These additional courses can be chosen from other disciplines (e.g. Math, CS, etc). Up to 3 credit hours of courses may be 400 level~~.

Current MSc Physics	Cr Hrs	Proposed MSc Physics	Cr Hrs
PHYS 800 (Classical Electrodynamics)	3	PHYS 800	3
PHYS 801 (Advanced Quantum Mechanics)	3	PHYS 801	3
~~Physics courses~~	6-9	***PHYS 4XX-8XX***	6-9
PHYS 900 (Seminar)	0-3	PHYS 900	0-*1*
PHYS 901 (Thesis Research)	15	PHYS 901	***14-17***
TOTAL	30	TOTAL	30

*Physics courses chosen in consultation with thesis supervisor and Department Head. These additional courses can be chosen from other disciplines (e.g. Math, CS, etc). Up to 3 credit hours from this series may be at the 400 level.

Rationale:

The Physics Department has approved changes to how the Seminar Class (PHYS 900) is administered, making it more similar to how it is handled in other Science Departments. As at present, some students may take PHYS 900 and others may choose to not take it and instead make up for it with more thesis research (PHYS 901) credits. The only change is the maximum number of seminar credits that may be obtained. The reduction in PHYS 900 course requirements necessitates a corresponding change to the degree requirements of the M.Sc. in Physics.

We have given ranges to both the class and research requirements, to allow extra flexibility. For example, we recently created PHYS 885 (Approved Summer School) with 1-3 variable credit, so it is possible for class credits to not be an integer multiple of 3, even without the change to the seminar class. Other Science Departments also indicate ranges in their graduate degree requirements.

(end of Motion)

4.2   Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physics Program Change

MOTION: That the PhD in Physics be modified effective 202130.

The goal of the PhD program is to teach the skills necessary to produce high quality, original physics research. The PhD degree requires the successful completion of a PhD comprehensive examination, and the presentation of a substantial thesis in an oral defense before an external examiner and the supervisory committee. The credit hour requirements are given as follows:

Current PhD (after BSc)	Cr Hrs	Proposed PhD (after BSc)	Cr Hrs
PHYS 8XX	21-24	PHYS 8XX*****	21-2**7**
PHYS 900 (Seminar)	0-3	PHYS 900	0-**2**
PHYS 901 (Thesis Research)	66	PHYS 901	**63-67**
		PHYS 902	**0**
TOTAL	90	TOTAL	90

*Physics courses chosen in consultation with thesis supervisor and Department Head

Current PhD (after MSc)	Cr Hrs	Proposed PhD (after BMc)	Cr Hrs
PHYS 8XX	12-15	PHYS 8XX*****	12-1**8**
PHYS 900 (Seminar)	0-3	PHYS 900	0-**2**
PHYS 901 (Thesis Research)	45	PHYS 901	**42-46**
		PHYS 902	**0**
TOTAL	60	TOTAL	60

*Physics courses chosen in consultation with thesis supervisor and Department Head

Rationale:

The Physics Department has approved changes to how the Seminar Class (PHYS 900) is administered, making it more similar to how it is handled in other Science Departments. As at present, some students may take PHYS 900 and others may choose to not take it and instead make up for it with more thesis research (PHYS 901) credits. The only change is the maximum number of seminar credits that may be obtained. The reduction in PHYS 900 course requirements necessitates a corresponding change to the degree requirements of the PhD in physics.

We have given ranges to both the class and research requirements, to allow extra flexibility. For example, we recently created PHYS 885 (Approved Summer School) with 1-3 variable credit, so it is possible for class

credits to not be an integer multiple of 3, even without the change to the seminar class. Other Science Departments also indicate ranges in their graduate degree requirements.

In addition, we have added the new 0-credit class, PhD Comprehensive Exam, as a formal requirement of the PhD program, so it is easily tracked whether students have passed this exam or not. The proposal to create this class (PHYS 902) is concurrent with this proposal.

(end of Motion)

ITEM(S) FOR INFORMATION

1.   NEW COURSES

Faculty of Science

PHYS 902 PhD Comprehensive Exam (0)
PhD students must pass the Physics Departmental Comprehensive Exam. Grading is Pass/Fail.

Pre-requisite: Permission of the Department Head.

2.   COURSE CHANGES

Faculty of Science

Current PHYS 900	Proposed PHYS 900
Graduate students ~~are required to participate in each semester that they are in attendance.~~	Graduate students ***enrolled in this course will present a 50 minute seminar to the Department of Physics. The subject of the seminar will be decided in consultation with student's supervisor.***

ATTACHMENT A

Why has a score of 110/120 been selected for Duolingo?

We are recommending to continue with the score of 110/120 as this aligns with the scores of our competitor institutions such as the University of Saskatchewan as well as the minimum scores for these area's with other test options.

Are IELTS and other English language proficiency test centers still closed globally?

While testing centers are re-opening and modernizing online options, there are still many areas around the world where these tests are suspended.

What is the average score we are seeing for incoming students and what percentage of students are using Duolingo for admission?

Total Applicants that used Duolingo to date	534
Of the 534: Applicants that did not pass	21
Of the 534: Applicants that scored 110	73
Average Score	118.8095

What is Duolingo?

The Duolingo English Test is an English proficiency test that can be taken online, on-demand, in under one hour for $49 USD. Certified results are available within 48 hours of the test session and applicants can request Duolingo to send results directly to our admission office. For more information about the Duolingo online English test, please visit https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants

IELTS Equivalencies to the Duolingo Scale:

IELTS	Duolingo
7.0	115-120
6.5	105-110
6.0	95-100

University Comparisons (Graduate)

	Duolingo	IELTS Comparison	TOEFL iBT, in person or special at home edition	
University of Alberta	University of Alberta are as follows: 115 for English Language Proficiency, with no subscore below 95. Graduate programs in which proficiency in spoken English is especially important may have a higher than minimum English language proficiency requirement. For these programs, the following minimum Duolingo English Test scores are required: 125 for Spoken English Proficiency, with no subscore below 105. Notwithstanding the above, graduate programs reserve the right to require a further demonstration of English language proficiency.	6.5, with at least 6.0 on each test band	Total score 90 with a score of at least 21 on each of the individual skill areas (internet-based) or equivalent	Special Note: Duolingo English Test as an ELP alternative. If you are in a region impacted by Pearson, IELTS, or TOEFL test centre closures due to COVID-19, the university will temporarily accept the Duolingo English Test (taken after February 1, 2020) as one f the ways to meet our ELP.
University of Saskatchewan	Score of 110 or better	Fully qualified: Overall score of 6.5 with no score below 6.0 in each area	Fully qualified: Overall score of 86 with minimum scores of 19 in each area (Institutionsl TOEFL (ITP) not accepted).	
Concordia University	Scores varied between programs. Most were at the 120.	Scores varied between programs. Most were at 6.5 with at least a score of 6.5 in each of the four components.	Scores varied between programs. Most were at 90 or higher and no part under 20 in each of the four components.	

University of Calgary	125 (no subscore below 105). Level 1 130 (no subscore below 110), Level 2 135 (no subscore below 115).	6.5 (min. 6.0 in each section), Level 1 7.0, Level 2 7.5.	86 (min. 20 in each section), Level 1 97, Level 2 105).	On a temporary basis, the University of Calgary will accept both the Duolingo English Test and the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition specifically for admission to graduate programs with start dates through Summer 2022. NOTE: the Duolingo score requirements increased from the 2020-2021 period.
University of British Columbia				Not accepting IELTS Indicator or Duolingo

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL
FROM THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND STUDIES
10 FEBRUARY 2021

ITEM(S) FOR APPROVAL

1. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

1.1 Revisions to the Graduation Section of the Undergraduate Calendar

MOTION: To approve the revisions to the Graduation section (p. 50) of the Undergraduate Calendar, effective 202220.

University Minimum GPAs and Institutional Honours, page 50, **Graduation section of the undergraduate calendar**

Minimum Grade Point Averages to Graduate

A minimum undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) of 60.00% is required for graduation ~~from~~for all undergraduate degree, diploma, and certificate ~~degree~~programs. In addition, all undergraduate students must also meet their program grade point average (PGPA) required for graduation. The PGPA will be calculated only on those courses which form part of the degree, diploma, or certificate program (failed courses and extra courses are not included). Students should check with their faculty advisor regarding these standards. Each faculty may set its own standards for graduation provided that they are not less than the University minimum. ~~Students should check with their faculty advisor regarding these standards~~

Rationale:

A survey was undertaken and the results were that 82% of Canadian institutions have a minimum graduation grade point average and program specific graduation requirements.

The rationale is to align all credentials with the 60.00% UGPA which is the Minimum Academic Performance Standard (see above) and this clarification affords students the ability to successfully progress in further studies. If passed, the Registrar's Office will communicate with all faculties and academic units such that wherever this appears in the calendar, it will be changed.

(end of Motion)

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2. FACULTY OF NURSING

2.1 Revision to the Faculty of Nursing Admission Requirements

MOTION: That the admissions section of the Undergraduate Calendar "Admissions from Universities and Colleges" Faculty of Nursing requirements be revised, effective 202210.

Applicants who have attempted 15 or more credit hours of approved post-secondary education will be considered for admission based on the following criteria:
- Completion of the required high school admission subjects or a post-secondary equivalent
- A minimum 65.00% ~~UGPA~~ Admissions Grade Point Average (AGPA) on ~~all~~ the most recent 30 credit hours of approved postsecondary courses presented; and

- If currently attending another Nursing program, a minimum UGPA of 65.00% and a positive recommendation on a clinical placement reference form.

Rationale:

This motion has been developed in consultation with Enrolment Services. Many applicants have attended multiple post-secondary institutions. We do not want to punish students for their past academic difficulties, if in the meantime they have been performing well. We currently look at all approved previous post-secondary work when calculating admission averages. Other universities only look at transferable courses or a certain number of credit hours. For example, University of Calgary uses the past 30 credit hours, University of Alberta uses the past two terms if they contain at least 24 credit hours, and University of Toronto uses the most recent annual average.

(end of Motion)

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3.   **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

3.1   **Chemistry and Biochemistry Co-operative Education Program Change**

> **MOTION:** To include CHEM 140 as a required course for admission to the Co-operative Education Program in Chemistry and Biochemistry, effective 202130.

Chart found on page 56 of the Undergraduate Calendar

Co-operative Education Program Entrance Requirements

Area of Study	PGPA	Minimum credit hours*	Maximum credit hours	Number of work terms	Required courses
Chemistry/ Biochemistry	72.5%	21	60	3 (optional 4th)	Completed 21 BSc credit hours including CHEM 104 and CHEM 140 ~~one additional course in Chemistry or BIOCHEM~~; enrolled in 3 CHEM/BIOC courses beyond CHEM 104 prior to commencement of the first work term

Page 254 of the Undergraduate Calendar

Co-operative Education Program in Chemistry and Biochemistry

Entrance Criteria

At the time of application for admission to the placement cycle, a student:

- must have completed at least 21 credit hours toward a BSc degree, including CHEM 104 and ~~one additional course in chemistry~~ CHEM 140;
- must have completed no more than 60 credit hours toward the BSc;
- must have achieved a minimum GPA of 72.50% in courses required for the major and overall;

- must be enrolled in a program to complete at least three (3) biochemistry/chemistry courses beyond CHEM 104, prior to commencement of the first work term.

Successful completion of three work terms is required for the Co-op designation, with a fourth work term being optional. Students follow a schedule of work/academic terms similar to that shown for Computer Science. To continue in the Co-op option, students must maintain a GPA of 72.50% and must enroll in at least 12 credit hours in academic terms between work terms. One of the first two work terms must be in a fall or winter term (i.e. both may not be in summer terms).

For further details, contact the Co-operative Education Office or the head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Rationale:

The Faculty of Science is moving to align the Co-op requirements between departments and in light of that, we are adding pre-requisites for the Chemistry and Biochemistry Co-op programs.

(end of Motion)

3.2 Physics Program Changes

MOTION: To include ASTR 300-level courses in the Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honours in Physics, Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of science (BSc) Honours in Applied Physics, and the Minor in Physics, effective 202220.

B.Sc. Physics

Credit Hrs	Required Courses
3.0	~~THREE OF: PHYS 319, 322, 352, 362, 392, 421, 432~~ Three OF: PHYS 300-level, 401, 421, 432, or ASTR 300-level
3.0	
3.0	

B.Sc. in Applied Physics

Credit Hrs	Required Courses
3.0	~~THREE OF: PHYS 319, 322, 352, 362, 392, 421, 432~~ Three of: PHYS 300-level, 401, 421, 432, or ASTR 300-level
3.0	
3.0	

B.Sc. Physics Honours

Credit Hrs	Required Courses
3.0	GEOL 460, PHYS 300- or 400-level, or ASTR 300-level
3.0	GEOL 460, PHYS 300-or 400-level, or ASTR 300-level
3.0	GEOL 460, PHYS 300- or 400-level, or ASTR 300-level

Minor in Physics

Credit Hrs	Required Courses
3.0	PHYS 300- or 400-level or ASTR 300-level

Rationale:

ASTR 300 and 390 are intended primarily for Physics majors. However, they cannot take these classes for degree credit unless the above changes are made to the program templates. Also, as part of this review, we noticed that PHYS 401 was inadvertently missing from the B.Sc. Physics and B.Sc. Applied Physics templates, and this correction has been made.

(end of Motion)

4.   **ENROLMENT SERVICES AND UR INTERNATIONAL**

4.1   **English Language Proficiency Test - Duolingo**

MOTION: That the Duolingo Online English Test with a minimum score of 110 be accepted as an approved test of proficiency in English for undergraduate admissions, on a temporary basis for the 2021-2022 academic year (July 1 to April 30), effective July 1, 2021.

What is Duolingo?
The Duolingo English Test is an English proficiency test that can be taken online, on-demand, in under one hour for $49 USD. Certified results are available within 48 hours of the test session and applicants can request Duolingo to send results directly to our admission office. For more information about the Duolingo online English test, please visit
https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants

IELTS Equivalencies to the Duolingo Scale:

IELTS	Duolingo
7.0	115-120
6.5	105-110
6.0	95-100

Canadian Universities that Accept the Duolingo Online English Test:

University of Alberta https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/international/admission/admission-requirements/language-requirements
University of Saskatchewan https://admissions.usask.ca/requirements/english-language-proficiency.php#ProofofEnglishproficiency
University of Winnipeg https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/future-student/international/lang-req.html
Lakehead University https://www.lakeheadu.ca/studentcentral/applying/english-language-proficiency-requirements
Concordia University https://www.concordia.ca/admissions/undergraduate/requirements/english-language-proficiency.html

University Comparisons:

	Duolingo	IELTS Comparison
University of Alberta	Score of 115 or better	6.5, no band less than 5.5
University of Saskatchewan	Score of 110 or better	6.5, no band less than 6.0
University of Winnipeg	Score of 115 or better	6.5 overall
Concordia University	Score of 120	7.0, no band less than 5.5
Lakehead University	Score of 110 or better	6.5, with no band below 6.0

Rationale:

Challenges due to COVID-19 continue to pose barriers to access English Language test centers for prospective students around the world (such as International English Language Testing System). Many other Canadian universities continue to accept the Duolingo Online English Test. Accepting Duolingo's online English test will allow the U of R to be as accessible as other Canadian universities that are already using Duolingo, and will help students in applying for admission to the U of R. Currently, UR International is accepting Duolingo's online English test as a pilot, and upon further research, may add this test to the acceptable test options going forward. This motion is also supported by FGSR and will be presented at the FGSR Council.

Additional information on Duolingo may be found in **Attachment A.**

(end of Motion)

ATTACHMENT A

UR International:
Additional Information for Duolingo Online English Test for Executive of Council

Why a score of 110 has been selected?
A Duolingo score of 105 -110 is equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.5. Students seeking admission to the U of R must present an IELTS (an English Language Proficiency test) score of 6.5. A score of 110 is also consistent with a range of other universities within Canada:

University of Saskatchewan - 110
Lakehead University - 110
University of Guelph - 110
University of Lethbridge - 105
Queen's University - 110
Nipissing University - 110
Thompson Rivers University - 110
University of Northern British Columbia - 105
Vancouver Island University - 100
Capilano University - 110
University of Fraser Valley - 100-109
St. Mary's University - 105
Mt. Allison University - 110

Are IELTS and other English proficiency test centres still closed, globally?
Some test centres remain closed.

What is the average score we are seeing from incoming students?
Since Spring/Summer 2020, nine registered international undergraduate students have been admitted with Duolingo. We have tracked their performance in their first semester of studies, and compared them to the performance of students admitted based on other ELP scores in their first semester for the spring/summer and fall 2020 semesters. Duolingo students performed at a similar rate.

Duolingo students have an overall UGPA of approximately 65%.

What percentage of students are using Duolingo for admission?
Duolingo applicants represent approximately 7-10% of our total applicants.

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL
FROM THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

ITEM(S) FOR APPROVAL

1.   RESEARCH CHAIR - CANADA CIFAR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) CHAIR

> **MOTION:** That Dr. Sandra Zilles be approved as the Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence Chair in the Faculty of Science.

Rationale:

The Canada CIFAR AI Chairs program is the cornerstone of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research's Pan-Canadian AI Strategy with a goal to recruit and retain the world's leading AI researchers to Canada. The program provides long-term, dedicated research funding to support their research programs and help them train the next generation of AI leaders. They are based at Canada's three AI Institutes: Amii in Edmonton, Mila in Montreal, and Vector Institute in Toronto. This prestigious program includes 109 Canadian CIFAR AI Chairs advancing research in a range of fundamental and applied AI topics from drug discovery and machine learning for health, autonomous vehicles, materials discovery, human-AI interaction, natural language prediction, and more.

The University of Regina (UofR) and Faculty of Science provide an excellent institutional home for the CIFAR AI Affiliate Chair. The Department of Computer Science has faculty working in complementary areas of data mining, knowledge discovery and representation, and related topics. The opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration within the UofR are also excellent, cutting across biology, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, and others. Artificial Intelligence research fits very with the University's strategic research plan, which identifies central research topics related to a Digital Futures theme. Further, it affords an opportunity to retain a high impact female professor in computer science which is of utmost importance to our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Proposal for Research Chair

Title of Chair	Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chair
Department	Computer Science
Faculty	Science
Research Area	Artificial Intelligence
Funding Source	Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), held at the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii)
Competitive Grant or Donation?	Competitive Grant
Proposed Start Date	January 1, 2021
Proposed End Date	December 31, 2025
Renewal Details	Single term

Rationale for Chair (e.g. potential impact, description of research environment, fit with Strategic Plan, growth area)

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Chair Profile (e.g. eligibility and selection) Dr. Sandra Zilles was nominated by Amii to submit a proposal to CIFAR for assessment. Since 2009 Dr. Zilles has held a tenured, full-time, permanent academic appointment as a Professor and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Computational Learning Theory.

The Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chair provides a timely transition opportunity when Dr. Zilles' final term as a Canada Research Chair ends in March 2022.

Budget and Funding
CIFAR provides $400,000 over 5 years to support research activities and salary stipend.

Support provided by the Faculty of Science follows. It does not represent new resources, but leverages existing commitments to Dr. Zilles' Canada Research Chair activities:

- ***Student/Research Staff Funding Support - $191,000 over 5 years.*** The very fundamental work of Dr. Zilles' research program on computational learning theory requires support mainly in terms of manpower. Committed funding will support one postdoctoral fellow, two doctoral and two master's students in Year 1; and one postdoctoral fellow, one doctoral and one master's student in Year 2. In Years 3-5, Dr. Zilles will have access to allocated graduate student support for approximately $12,000 per year to supplement support from her grant funding.

- ***Collaboration and Travel Funding Support - $27,300 over 5 years.*** Because of the collaborative nature of the research program and need to sustain Dr. Zilles' research network, funding to support visitors, travel, and dissemination of research findings is of particular importance.

- ***Facilities Infrastructure*** – Dr. Zilles has a Computational Learning Theory Lab, which is 578 sq.ft, dedicated to research on the theoretical aspects of machine learning. It has ample space to provide bench space for trainees, room for group discussion and presentations, and quiet work areas. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and Innovation Saskatchewan supported its equipment purchase and upgrades. This is in addition to office space allocated in the Department of Computer Science.

- ***Support from Existing Research Institutes –*** Dr. Zilles' proposed research is multidisciplinary and will benefit from support from facilities on campus. She has access to the Laboratory for Computational Discovery (local), the Regina Integrative Cognitive Experimentation Laboratory (local), and WestGrid (national).

- ***Protected Research Time - $63,525*** – Recognizing the need for the CIFAR AI Chair to focus on research and graduate student training, Dr. Zilles will be provided with a 50% reduction in teaching load, resulting in a teaching commitment of 1.5 classes on average per year.

- ***Administrative Support*** – The University and Faculty will provide the necessary accounting, administrative support, library services, and office supplies needed to support Dr. Zilles and trainees.

Chair responsibilities and reporting
The Chair reports to the Dean of Science and provides annual reporting on activities to CIFAR and Amii. She has proposed a 5-year program of research that has been reviewed and accepted by CIFAR.

Process to date (e.g. discussions within department, Faculty, grant application process)

The application submitted to CIFAR in March 2020 was approved for this prestigious research award on January 28, 2021. The related award agreement with Amii is under review.

Submitted by:

Douglas Farenick Dean of
Science
Date: 25 February 2021