Consultation on Program Approval Processes

Presentation to General Faculties Council
October 21st, 2019
Background

• Ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority – April, 2017
  ○ “The approval pathways...can be convoluted and burdensome for those proposing them.”
  ○ “The current standing committee structure does not appear to provide a cohesive approach...”
  ○ “...portions of proposals can follow different approval pathways; this results in the appearance of a confusing, slow and cumbersome pathway for approval of new programs, programs changes and course changes.”
  ○ Eleven recommendations made regarding program approvals
Background

• Transition Committee reported to GFC in January, 2019
  – Some of the program recommendations were realized in the change to standing committee ToR but further work was needed to achieve outcomes envisioned by the ad hoc committee
• GFC Executive established the ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways
Ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

Mandate

To review the current approval processes and propose revised pathways that will be transparent, straightforward and incorporate the recommendations of the report of the ad hoc committee on Academic Governance including Delegated Authority, and other issues that have arisen since the report was endorsed by GFC
Ad hoc Committee on Program Approval Pathways

• Committee met over 1.5 days in May, 2019
• Membership consisted of:
  – Vice-Provost (Programs) and Chair, ASC, ASC-SOS
  – Member APC
  – Member ASC
  – Student Member
  – RO Representative
  – FGSR Representative
  – Resource Members: University Governance, Office of the Provost
New process and structure

1. Establishment of new GFC Standing Committee – the GFC Programs Committee
   – Mandate would consolidate work currently under the responsibilities of APC, ASC, GFC Executive Committee and the process of GFC Policy Manual Section 37
   – Clear governance focus; matters of an administrative nature would reside in the Provost’s or Registrar’s offices as appropriate
New process and structure

2. Components of program approval would be removed from Terms of Reference for APC and GFC Executive
3. GFC Policy Manual Section 37 would be rescinded
4. Academic Standards Committee would be disbanded (along with Subcommittee on Standards)
Questions for discussion

• What are your thoughts on establishing a Programs Committee to consolidate all program approval functions in one place?

• What challenges do you see with this proposal?

• What benefits do you see?