

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of May 28, 2024
2:30 – 3:15 p.m. [videoconference](#)

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Aamir, Asifa
Aquanno, Scott
Arcand, JoAnne
Bailey, Robert
Barber, Wendy
Beligan, Mihai
Christou, Ted
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine

Duff, Ana
Eklund, Mike
Fernando, Shanti
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Livingston, Lori
MacMillan, Patricia

Naumkin, Fedor
Nokleby, Scott
Rastpour, Amir
Rodgers, Carol
Simmons, Denina
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe
Thompson, Dwight

Regrets:

Azad, Nader
Barari, Ahmad
Bluehardt, Mary
Brown, Samantha
Bryant, Toba
Felder, Ruth
Frazer, M

Gorgees, Ifrodet
Hosseini, Sayyed Ali
Jones, Ferdinand
McAlpin, Breanne
McGregor, Carolyn
Partosoedarso, Elita
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn

Liscano, Ramiro
Serote, MaryCae
Ubor, Tega
Vettor, Shannon
Watterworth, Michael

Staff & Guests:

Ayotte, Kirstie
Bauer, Chelsea
Callahan, Stephanie
Gottlieb, Sara
Hamilton, Barbara
Hester, Krista
Hussain, Zainab

Kassar, Andrea
Levy, Melissa
Maclsaac, Brad
McLaughlin, Christine
Neil, Amy
Nickle, Joanne
O'Halloran, Niall

O' Malley, Grace
Papke, Darryl
Thrush, Sarah
Townsend, Lisa
Wingate, Adam

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. A. Duff read aloud the land acknowledgement.

2. Agenda

A member requested that item 11(a) be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the regular meeting agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Bailey and seconded by H. Kishawy, the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed attendees and began by reflecting on learning experiences gained from the encampment at the university. He reaffirmed his priorities, focusing on the well-being of the community and noting that the university is dedicated to respectful and mutual engagement honoring diverse perspectives. He acknowledged the importance of giving all community members a voice and plans to collaborate with the community to implement agreements.

4. Inquiries and Communications

The Chair noted that the COU Report will be presented at the June meeting.

5. Provost's Remarks

a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

L. Livingston provided the following updates:

- The Dean of Science search is nearly complete and it is anticipated that a public announcement will be released by the end of June.
- The Mitch and Leslie Frazer Dean of Education search is progressing well with the finalist candidates expected to visit campus by mid-June. Their public presentations will be available in-person and hybrid format.
- The Deputy Provost Search Advisory Committee has been formed and will start work in late August or early September.
- Dr. Hossam Kishawy has expressed interest in seeking a second term as the Dean for the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. The President's Office will be releasing a call for expressions of interest for the Renewal Advisory Committee shortly.

In response to a question regarding the use of an external consultant for the Deputy Provost search, L. Livingston reiterated that the decision has not been made. She also clarified that the current interim Deputy Provost position has an end date of September 30, 2024, but there is a provision within the appointment to remain until a replacement is hired.

Regarding a question about the status of the open University Secretariat position, the Chair advised it would be provided during other business.

6. Academic Programs Update

L. Livingston invited S. Thrush to present the 2023-2024 Quality Assurance Process Report.

a) 2023-24 Quality Assurance Process & Program Annual Report

S. Thrush highlighted a busy year with significant work on curricular changes, program adjustments, and new program approvals. She noted that the University has upheld the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) requirements related to ongoing program evaluation and cyclical program reviews and noted that the Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainability has received quality council approval and is now with the ministry.

In response to a question about improving the workflow between the Centre for Institutional Quality Enhancement (CIQE) staff during the program approval process, S. Thrush acknowledged the suggestion and emphasized her commitment to improvement. She recognized the internal learning from handling interdisciplinary programs and assured that they are examining ways and working with the quality council to streamline and enhance the process.

b) 2023-24 Continuous Learning Annual Report

L. Livingston presented the 2023-2024 Continuous Learning Report highlighting the summary of current continuous learning initiatives and introductions for new programs of interest.

S. Thrush added that the Report reflects a variety of expansion activities and includes breakdowns related to programs launched under various categories such as corporate training, micro credentials, and enrollment camps.

Committee Reports:

7. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

L. Livingston noted M. Bluechardts' regrets and advised that there were no updates to report.

8. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

T. Christou began by congratulating graduate students, and expressed gratitude to the faculty, staff and the community for their support facilitating the students' achievements. He announced the winners of the 2024 Outstanding Thesis Awards and congratulated all nominees.

9. Governance & Nominations Committee

a) 2024-25 Academic Council – Expressions of Interest

L. Livingston presented the report on the 2024 Academic Council expressions of interest calls, seeking approval for appointed teaching staff, administrative staff, and student candidates. The process began in April 2024, with nominations reviewed and recommended by the Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC) in May. While there are vacancies remaining, they do not affect quorum. These vacancies include one position for the Academic Appeals Committee Vice-Chair, one teaching staff member from the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities for the Governance and Nominations Committee, and two elected members from Academic Council for the Steering Committee.

A member noted that the term for the Council of Ontario Universities position should begin on July 1, 2024, to accommodate the first meeting in August.

One member raised concerns regarding GNC not pursuing a second call for nominations to fill vacant positions on Academic Council. In response, K. Hester clarified that second-round elections are not standard practice; however, efforts have been made to boost participation in filling vacancies, including extending the nomination and election period. The focus has been on encouraging greater involvement to effectively fill these positions. Expressions of interest on AC committees is encouraged, and interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat. Further, if there is substantial interest for election, the matter could be brought forward to GNC for consideration.

Upon a motion duly made by A. King and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the following amended appointments:

Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague for the term of July 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025 – renewable term length up to 3 years:

- *Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen*

Academic Council Dean Position on the Governance and Nominations Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027:

- *Carolyn McGregor*

Academic Council Teaching Staff Position on the Governance and Nominations Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

- *Mehdi Hossein Nejad (FBIT)*

Academic Council Student Position on the Governance and Nominations Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025:

- *Jemma Tam*

Academic Council Graduate Student Position (PhD) on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

- *Krystina Clarke*

Academic Council Teaching Staff Position on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025:

- *Robert Bailey*

Academic Council Teaching Staff Position on the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027:

- *Brenda Jacobs*

Academic Council Steering Committee Members for the term of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025:

- *Jemma Tam*

- *Brenda Jacobs*
- *Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen*

Academic Council Teaching Staff Position on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2026:

- *Ana Duff*

Board of Governors Liaison for the term of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025; Non-renewable:

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor*

10. Research Committee

L. Jacobs began by acknowledging faculty members supervising Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) undergraduate research assistants, highlighting the impact on nearly sixty students. He expressed gratitude for the faculty's summer commitment and encouraged attendance at the mid-August celebration event. He then presented record-breaking grant competition results, emphasizing a 62% success rate for Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grants across five Faculties, and a high success rate for SSHRC Insight grants, well above the national average. He noted the absence of a New Frontiers Exploration Grant for the first time in four years and suggested repeat applications to improve future outcomes. The CIHR Project Grant success rate was lower than previous years due to fewer applications, partly because of past funding successes. In closing, he addressed the Research Committee's efforts to better coordinate multi-Faculty research centers and manage overlap.

The request to remove item 11a) from the Consent Agenda has been retracted as it was addressed earlier in the discussion. The Agenda will proceed as initially presented, with item 11a) included on the Consent Agenda.

11. Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of the Meeting of April 23, 2024* (M)
- b) Course Nomenclature Directives (USC and GSC)* (I)

Upon a motion duly made by R. Bailey and seconded by H. Kishway, the Consent Agenda was approved as amended.

12. Other Business

(a) Land acknowledgement for June Academic Council meeting

R. Bailey volunteered to provide the land acknowledgement for June.

In response to a question regarding the location for Convocation, S. Murphy confirmed that it will be held in the gym, and further correspondence will follow. S. Murphy also confirmed that the search for the University Secretary position is underway, the job has been posted and hoping to conduct interviews shortly.

14. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by S. Nokleby, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Krista Hester, Interim University Secretary

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