



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

**Present:**

T. McTiernan  
B. MacIsaac  
N Ammar  
T. Sidhu  
O. Sanchez  
R. Ali  
N. Charewicz  
C. Collins  
G. Crawford  
M. Eklund  
S. Fernando  
F. Gaspari  
M. Green  
C. Bishop

M. Kaye  
H. Kishawy  
B. Lewis  
S. McGovern  
L. Nacke  
K. Nugent  
D. Petrarca  
O. Petrie  
N. Saniei  
O. Sanchez  
T. Sidhu  
M. Owen  
C. Foy  
M. Gerrits

**Guests:**

K. McCartney-Young  
K. Boujos  
R. Van Oostveen

**Regrets:**

D. Saucier  
B. Muirhead  
S. de Castell  
C. Cesaroni  
N. Arafa  
P. Beatty  
G. Crawford  
P. Ritchie  
P. Drayson  
S. Coffey  
T. Dhar

T. Dhar  
E. Waller  
M. Vargas Martin  
C. Elliott

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

T. McTiernan extended regrets on behalf of the D. Saucier who could not attend the rescheduled Academic Council meeting.

T. McTiernan reported that the system as a whole was down in applications, however, UOIT is positioned well relative to other GTA institutions. Application levels are exceeding those of last year.

T. McTiernan advised that work is on pace with the Ministry as it intensifies its oversight over general operations. The Ministry has requested a meeting with UOIT executives to discuss funding formula revisions. Due to increased enrollment in cost intensive programs (science and engineering), UOIT has an active interest in participating in such discussions to ensure our interests are reflected.

In anticipation of the provincial budget, T. McTiernan indicated that more than half of the operating budget will be allocated to Health & Long Term Care and to services debt cost, leaving less than 50% for all other ministry and agency funding.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2015**

The minutes were approved as presented.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was none.

#### **6. INQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **6.1 Summary of the November 28, 2014 meeting of the Board of Governors**

T. McTiernan highlighted a number of items that were canvassed at the recent Board of Governors meeting. The Board received an annual update concerning Student Life which outlined significant advancements in the areas of ethnic/cultural diversity, mental health and wellness, retention and engagement and IT supporting learning. T. McTiernan reported that both Bachelor of Engineering Programs in Mechatronics recommended by Academic Council were well received by the Board and received approval. Further, the Audit and Finance Committee reported that they were on track to have a balanced budget this year and continued to work on the 2015-2016 budget in the context of a five year plan. From Advancement, there has been substantial work done in preparation for the upcoming fundraising campaign.

#### **7. PROVOST'S REMARKS**

N/A

#### **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **8.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

T. McTiernan indicated that there was nothing new to report. In response to a question, T. McTiernan advised that the budget was in final stages of consultation and that Academic Council could expect a presentation once the budget is reviewed by Academic Council Executive Committee.

##### **8.2 CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE**

B. MacIsaac, on behalf of B. Muirhead presented two items for approval.

###### **8.2.1 Academic Standing Regulation Changes**

B. MacIsaac advised that eliminating the "academic warning" category and immediately placing students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 on probation will ensure that academic supports are received earlier. Changes to the regulations represent the first step toward a more formalized and advanced student support process to improve retention. This amendment will be instituted as of September 2015 and will affect grades earned at the end of the fall term.

MOTION  
CARRIED

*On a motion, that Academic Council approve the removal of the academic warning category and leveling to the academic standing regulations.*

###### **8.2.2 Faculty of Education – New Adult Education and Digital Technologies (AEDT)**

B. MacIsaac presented the proposal to create an online diploma *Designing Adult Education for the Digital Age*. The six-course diploma builds on UOIT's strengths in the area of learning technology and

complements the existing bachelor and graduate programs in ESDT and will serve as an attractive enrollment and retention tool.

In response to questions raised about the University offering a diploma program, B. MacIsaac clarified that it was a matter of nomenclature and likened the program to a professional certification course offered at any number of Ontario Universities.

MOTION  
CARRIED

*On a motion, that Academic Council approve the new Adult Education for the Digital Age (AEDT) Diploma*

### **8.3 GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

B. Easton, on behalf of E. Waller presented the report of the Graduate Studies Committee which included one item for approval.

#### **8.3.1 New UNENE Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Engineering.**

B. Lewis advised that UNENE has decided to offer a Graduate Diploma, consisting of four courses that overlap with those offered through the Master of Engineering program. McMaster and the Faculty of FESNS have agreed to jointly offer the UNENE Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Engineering. No new courses will need to be offered and student enrollment is expected to be sustainable.

MOTION  
CARRIED

*On a motion, that Academic Council approve the new Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Engineering*

### **8.4. RESEARCH BOARD**

M. Owen presented a new policy framework to govern the use of research funds and sought Academic Council's support in recommending the framework to the Board for approval. The main thrust of the policy instruments is to 1) proactively manage trust and research accounts and 2) institute a process for handling accounts that go into over-expenditure.

There was discussion about onus on researchers to manage their accounts, in light of the shortcomings of the current software. N. Ammar expressed concerns about the Deans assuming responsibility for over-expenditures when the tools to manage such funds is unreliable and inaccurate. M. Owen indicated that upgrades in banner will afford PI's more accurate and timely information to better assist them in management of their accounts. The timing of this upgrade was unknown.

A couple members queried about the level of consultation in drafting these policies. M. Owen indicated that the Research Board solicited feedback and insight from faculties/deans through the normal course.

#### **8.4.1 Policy on the Over-Expenditure of Research Funds**

MOTION  
CARRIED

*On a motion, that Academic Council recommend the Policy on the Over-Expenditure of Research Funds to the Board for approval*

#### **8.4.2 Procedures on the Over-Expenditure of Research Funds**

M. Owen collected feedback and agreed to take it back to the Research Board for consideration

#### **8.4.3 Policy on the use of Internal Research Funds**

MOTION  
CARRIED

*On a motion, that Academic Council recommend the Policy on the use of Internal Research Funds to the Board for approval*

#### **8.4.4 Procedure on the use of Internal Research Funds**

M. Owen collected feedback and agreed to take it back to the Research Board for consideration.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Draft Procedures for the Recruitment of Senior Academic Officers, Associate Provosts and Deans**

T. McTiernan advised that he is working to bring forward to the Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee of the Board an updated set of procedures clarifying roles and responsibilities, mandates and procedures for the recruitment of senior academic officers at the institution. Three drafts were circulated to Academic Council members for individual review and feedback. Members of Academic Council were provided one month for comments and recommendations to be provided to the Secretariat's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Cheryl Foy, Secretary