



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

Present:

D. Saucier
B. Muirhead
T. McTiernan
B. MacIsaac
R. Ali
N. Charewicz
C. Collins
M. Eklund
S. Fernando
M. Green
C. Bishop
J. Hughes
P. Drayson
E. Waller
M. Kaye

H. Kishawy
B. Lewis
L. Nacke
K. Nugent
D. Petrarca
N. Saniei
O. Sanchez
T. Sidhu
M. Owen
C. Foy
M. Gerrits
R. Bailey
C. Elliott
C. Cesaroni (via teleconference)

Guests:

K. McCartney-Young
K. Boujos
G. Genesko
T. Ashley

Regrets:

N. Ammar
S. de Castell
N. Arafa
P. Beatty
G. Crawford
P. Ritchie
T. Dhar

M. Vargas Martin
F. Gaspari
S. McGovern
O. Petrie

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

2. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

T. McTiernan advised Council that it is becoming abundantly clear that the Ministry is reviewing and approving programs that are in keeping with the strategic mandate. This means that program proposals will have to demonstrate to the government that they are furthering the strategic mandate.

T. McTiernan also informed Council that he is looking forward to attending a dinner at the UofT President's house, along with a small group of university presidents and the Minister wherein he expects to discuss the funding formula among other timely issues.

T. McTiernan expects the major capacity expansion proposal to be reviewed by the end of the month before the formal retirement of Deputy Minister Deborah Newman. T. McTiernan reflected that UOIT will need to build new relationships within government to ensure that its voice continues to be heard and interests advanced.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2015

The minutes were approved as presented.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was none.

6. INQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

7. PROVOST'S REMARKS

The Provost expressed concerns regarding the Ontario funding formula in light of Minister Moridi's recent remarks in the media. Specifically, she is concerned that government may institute a formula that resembles the outcome-based funding model employed by various US jurisdictions. This model bases funding on employment data and information sourced from industry which in turn may adversely affect the institution's ability to pursue academic excellence and innovative programs, as well as potentially impinging upon its autonomy and freedom to operate.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Executive Committee

C. Foy presented the report of the Committee which contained two informational items.

8.1.1 Academic Council Orientation

C. Foy advised that 15 members attended the two orientation sessions conducted on December 16, 2014 and February 24, 2015. A survey was circulated for member input, and C. Foy encouraged members to submit feedback to the Secretariat's Office prior to the next meeting. Summarized results will be shared.

8.1.2 Academic Council Elections

C. Foy advised that elections were underway for the five open positions for 2015-2016. Elections were on pace to conclude within the scheduled timeline with the intention of announcing results to ACX at the April 7 meeting. C. Foy noted that no nominations were received for the graduate studies position. The Secretariat's office would follow up to ensure this was not the result of ineffective communication.

8.2 Curriculum and Program Review Committee

B. Muirhead presented the report of the Committee which contained one item for action.

8.2.1 Faculty of Social Science & Humanities – Communication Program Nomenclature Change

MOTION
CARRIED

That Academic Council approve the proposed nomenclature change from the Bachelor of Arts in Communication to the Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Media Studies (CDMS).

B. Muirhead noted that the nomenclature change does not reflect a change in the program's existing curriculum or research foci, but rather, serves to clarify and better reflect the program's teaching and research practices and strengths as the program evolves and matures overtime. The nomenclature going forward will convey the program's "digital media studies" focus and will effectively communicate the program's uniqueness.

8.3 UOIT Policy on Posthumous Degrees and Certificates

B. MacIsaac put forward the following motion for action:

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council approve the Policy on Posthumous Degrees and Certificates of Achievement in Memoriam as presented.*

The policy essentially codifies existing practices as they relate to the conferral of Posthumous Degrees and Certificates with a view to provide clarity and standardization.

9. FALL TERM BREAK

The Provost indicated that 84% of UOIT faculty and students were in favour of a fall term break according to a recent survey. However, the responses were much more varied with respect to duration and timing of the break. The main impetus for instituting a fall term break was to address mental health and retention issues. The Provost, in consultation with the Senior Academic Team and Academic Council Executive was putting forward the idea of a four day “co-curricular” break. As one member pointed out, the formal title of the fall break will be a critical piece.

B. MacIsaac addressed the scheduling of the co-curricular break. It is to be scheduled in week 7, from Thursday to Sunday subject to other statutory holidays. No formal classes, exams or assignments will be scheduled during that period, however faculties and units may decide to utilize the time to hold optional activities. The primary objective of the fall break is to provide students with an opportunity to access academic supports and resources. Week 7 is late enough to have received substantive evaluation in courses, but is earlier enough to address their academic needs.

In response to a question, B. MacIsaac clarified that Council had exercised its authority to reduce the number of contact days per academic term from 64 to 60 last year but that the operational and scheduling piece rested with management. He further clarified that 60 days was determined not to affect accreditation hours. M. Eklund suggested that the guidelines have an expiration date whereby results are evaluated to ensure that the timing and duration of the break is achieving its desired results. Both B. MacIsaac and the President endorsed his suggestion.

10. INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

M. Owen presented a draft International Strategy to Council for their consultation and feedback. The International Strategy focuses on four directions: the on-campus student experience, international opportunities for students, collaborative research opportunities and enhancing institutional capacity for internationalization. M. Owen indicated that the International Committee is working to identify a set of metrics for the purpose of evaluating execution and strategic outcomes. The Committee will also provide annual reports to Council and Board to ensure the international strategy continues to align with the direction of the institution. One issue discussed by Council was the lack of funding and the difficulty in attracting highly qualified and skilled international students. Other recommendations included student representation on the Committee and developing infrastructure to support the various international programs.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

T. McTiernan was pleased to announce some exciting news. First, UOIT was the recipient of the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship which will be providing approximately \$465,000 in student support over the next three years (2015-2015). This scholarship will contribute significantly to students’ experiential learning abroad and to attracting international students to study and conduct research at UOIT. Second, Irish and Canadian governments have jointly contributed to a \$150,000 scholarship fund to facilitate two-way student exchanges. Third, the Ireland Fund of Canada committed \$25,000 to fund student bursaries at UOIT. Finally, T. McTiernan advised that the partnership with Ryerson and SFU enabled UOIT to secure \$1.268M in funding over five years through the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Cheryl Foy, Secretary