



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY, 19, 2015

Present:

Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Deborah Saucier (Vice-Chair)
Robert Bailey
Chantelle Bishop
Carla Cesaroni
Nicole Charewicz
Christopher Collins
Becky Dinwoodie
Mikael Eklund
Craig Elliott
Shanti Fernando
Cheryl Foy
Brenda Gamble
Franco Gaspari
Mark Green

Janette Hughes
Ferdinand Jones (*via teleconference*)
Matthew H. Kaye
Hossam Kishawy
Brent Lewis
Brad MacIsaac
Lennart Nacke
Kimberly Nugent
Michael Owen
Diana Petrarca
Otto Sanchez
Namdar Saniei
Tarlochan Sidhu
Miguel Vargas Martin

Guests:

Tara Ashley
Jeremy Baarbe
Kristen Boujos
Brad Easton
Kimberley McCartney-Young
Olivia Petrie
Sira Syed

Regrets:

Reem Ali
Nawal Ammar
Nadim Arafa
Perrin Beatty
Greg Crawford
Tirtha Dhar
Pamela Drayson
Susan McGovern
Ed Waller

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that this is the time of year that reminds us all why we are here. He thanked everyone for another successful academic year. In addressing student success, he discussed attending OPG CEO Tom Mitchell's retirement lunch and relayed Mr. Mitchell's complimentary remarks about UOIT. Mr.

Mitchell and his wife, Linda, are establishing a bursary at UOIT in their name. The bursary will be awarded to students in financial need who are interested in engineering or nuclear science, with preference to be given to Indigenous and Aboriginal students. Mr. Mitchell also requested that donations be made to the bursary instead of giving him personal retirement gifts. The Chair advised that another substantial gift to UOIT will be made public shortly.

The Chair offered his congratulations to the UOIT soccer players who were named to Team Canada and will be competing in South Korea this summer. He pointed to this as a reminder that university life is not just about academics.

The Chair confirmed that discussions have started with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities regarding the funding formula review. Unfortunately, he anticipates that there will be no new money on the table. The President advised that he expects the discussion to continue to unfold over the summer months.

The Chair took the opportunity to congratulate Brent Lewis on his retirement, wish him well, and is looking forward to working with him in the future. The Chair acknowledged his outstanding contributions to UOIT as Dean.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2015

Upon a motion duly brought by M. Eklund and seconded by N. Saniei, the Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. MacIsaac followed up on 3 matters arising from the minutes:

1. Winter Term vs. Midterm Break – he confirmed that it has been called “Midterm Break” since 2007-08 and will remain so for 2015-16. Once the Fall Break is introduced, the terminology will change to Winter Break.

2. Fall grades are due December 21, 2015 at 10:00am.

3. To eliminate confusion, the wording in the Academic Schedule will be changed to: “December 3, 2015 - Lectures will follow the Monday schedule on this day only. Last day of lectures, fall semester. April 11, 2016 - Lectures will follow the Friday schedule on this day only. Last day of lectures, winter semester.”

C. Foy followed up on the timing of the Academic Council orientation session. Council members were previously advised to hold the date of September 15, 2015 for orientation, to be held after the first AC meeting. She discussed several alternative dates and invited comments from the Council as to which date they prefer. D. Petrarca commented that holding the orientation session on September 15 after the first AC meeting would be beneficial for new members as they will then have context when discussing the orientation materials. M. Eklund suggested that the Board of Governors and the full Council be invited to meet and welcome the new Council members following orientation. It was agreed that the date of the orientation session will remain September 15 and C. Foy will arrange to invite the Board of Governors to meet the Academic Council following the session or arrange another opportunity for social interaction.

6. Inquiries and Communications

A synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting held on March 11, 2015 was provided to the Council. T. McTiernan went over the synopsis and asked whether there were any questions. M. Eklund requested an update with respect to the AUCC matter that went before the Board at that meeting. T. McTiernan explained that AUCC required all institutional members to sign a reaffirmation statement acknowledging their continued adherence to the AUCC membership criteria. T. McTiernan confirmed that the Board approved the proposal to endorse AUCC's principles for institutional membership, recognizing the value of UOIT's membership in the AUCC.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost advised that the Funding Formula Review is underway and Sue Herbert has been appointed to write the report. Engineering programs are also undergoing provincial review. In a time of differentiation, every university has an engineering program or wants to have one. The government is attempting to determine how engineering programs can be differentiated. There was discussion about how engineering is very broad and how the traditional notion of engineering should be challenged as engineers are engaged to solve a wide variety of problems.

The Provost also advised that UOIT's request for funding of the Master of Arts in Education program was denied as a result of lack of differentiation and an oversubscription to graduate programs. There was also no indication given as to when we can reapply. UOIT can still offer the program; however, the students will be ineligible for OSAP and grants, and will not count towards UOIT's domestic targets.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Executive Committee

C. Foy advised that there will be key items related to governance that will be carried over to next year. With respect to the work accomplished this year, the Secretariat designed and delivered Academic Council Orientation and completed the election procedures. Work has been started on developing a rationalized set of procedures for the Sexual Harassment & Violence Policy and updating the Appeal Procedures and will continue into next year. She also addressed the proposed Academic Council changes to Section 8 of the UOIT By-Law. She reviewed the history of the proposal and advised that this will be rolled into a full By-Law Review Project, commencing this summer. A working group will be formed to conduct the review and members of the Council will be part of the group. C. Foy then requested suggestions for governance priorities for the coming year. None were given at the time.

8.2 Honorary Degrees Committee

8.2.1 Honorary Degree Recipients

T. McTiernan apologized for the delay in getting further information on the honorary degree recipients to the Council. They are still in the process of getting sign off on the draft biographies. He commented that the Council members might already know some of the recipients. He reviewed the information on the recipients' backgrounds and contributions. He advised that other candidates were also reviewed, but were either unavailable this year to receive the honour or the spots had been filled prior to contacting them.

8.3 Curriculum and Program Review Committee

8.3.1 Bachelor of Commerce – Pathways (Direct Entry Seneca College Accounting) – Minor Program Adjustment

R. Bailey advised of a minor program adjustment to the Bachelor of Commerce – Pathways (Direct Entry Seneca College Accounting) program in order to keep the fit between Seneca’s program and ours (see attached).

8.3.2 Admission Criteria – English Language Proficiency for International Students

R. Bailey advised that CPRC reviewed two ESL schools (Omnicom Language School and Capital English Solutions) and approved them both as programs having acceptable standards of language proficiency for consideration for admission to UOIT undergraduate programs (see attached).

8.4 Graduate Studies Committee

8.4.1 Graduate Studies Regulations – Amendments

B. Easton spoke to the proposed amendments (see attached). The proposed amendment at 1(d) regarding absences from studies was removed.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed amendments to the Graduate Studies Regulations, excluding the proposed amendment at 1(d).*

8.4.2 Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Technology programs

A couple of courses were left off the information from September and have been added.

9. Approved 2015-16 Budget

C. Elliott gave a presentation on the 2015-2016 budget (see attached). He started by thanking B. MacIsaac and his team for all of their hard work on the budgets. He reviewed the fundamentals of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) of budgeting and advised that by reducing the steps in the budget, there is reduced potential for error. The budget process has not changed much since last year. He confirmed that similar to last year, the budgets will be opened to the faculties in October and closed in January.

He noted that the audited financial statements will be more favorable than Management’s financial statements due to the difference between cash and accrual accounting methods. The total forecast is down quite a bit compared to previous budgets. He confirmed there are no new efficiency targets, which are set by government. There is a slight drop in NASMs, but quite below the system average. He also noted the student/faculty ratio is also below the system average. He pointed out that if UOIT grew by 25 students, it would result in a gain of \$250,000.

A few faculties were identified as having carry-forwards, which is an element of RAM. He noted we want to get to the point where 60% of the resources coming in are being allocated to the Academic and Academic Support budgets. Approximately 64% of the new resources last year went to Academic and Academic Support.

C. Elliott reviewed the breakdown of revenue and noted that student funding of UOIT is greater than government funding. He also noted that the greatest reduction in capital projects was space reconfigurations because we are running out of space to reconfigure.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting

D. Saucier gave a presentation on Strategic Planning and Budgeting (see attached). She discussed how we must use our strategic plan to determine budget priorities. She reviewed the 3 priorities of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan and provided an update on the 2014-15 accomplishments (see slides 26-27). She then reviewed the strategic highlights for 2015-16 (see slide 28), including increasing engagement with students in upper years. She also discussed the Strategic Financial Planning Cycle, which is a 5 year forecasting cycle. The 5 year plan then turns into a 1 year budget. We now have a complete cycle of fiscal management.

A question was raised regarding how UOIT's expense allocation compares to other universities. T. McTiernan responded that other universities would have pension liabilities, whereas UOIT has debenture costs unique to UOIT, administrative costs resulting from our association with DC, and the expense of our downtown locations that would not be incurred at many other universities. M. Eklund remarked that other universities have a larger proportion of their budget allocated to academic faculty. D. Saucier explained that our expenses are skewed because the debenture and lease payments are considered to be administrative costs. If we removed the debenture, UOIT's budget allocation to academic faculty would fall more in line with other universities.

A Council member also inquired whether UOIT will continue to use the RAM budget model. C. Elliott confirmed that we will continue building on the RAM model.

10. Other Business

M. Eklund raised the issue of receiving conflicting and confusing information from the Graduate Studies Department regarding whether there is a hard cap on the number of international graduate students a program can accept. Although targets are given, it is unclear whether the programs are capped at those numbers. There was discussion that the Graduate Studies Department is operationally flagging when a program is close to meeting or exceeding its targets. This is currently being handled by wait-listing students and bringing it to the attention of both the particular program and the Provost. There have been some programs wanting to exceed their targets by 100%. It was decided that it would be best to wait for E. Waller to address the specifics on the Graduate Studies process.

There was also a general discussion surrounding the rationale for capping the number of international graduate students. We must balance UOIT's interests with the Ministry's concern about spending tax dollars on domestic students. It will be helpful to look for additional sources of funding for students at the graduate level, including international students. It was also suggested that a different approach could be taken by having international students take professional courses and then leave, which could provide additional revenue. The Council agreed that this will be an ongoing discussion.

11. Colleagues' Exchange

There was none.

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

Cheryl Foy, Secretary