



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Present:

Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Deborah Saucier
Reem Ali
Nawal Ammar
Robert Bailey
Chantelle Bishop
Christopher Collins
Taylor Collins
Greg Crawford
Suzanne deCastell
Maurice DiGiuseppe
Becky Dinwoodie
Pamela Drayson
Mikael Eklund
Cheryl Foy
Brenda Gamble
Mark Green

Ferdinand Jones
Sharon Lauricella
Brad MacIsaac
Qusay Mahmoud
Susan McGovern
Kimberly Nugent
Michael Owen (*via teleconference*)
Pamela Ritchie
Langis Roy
Otto Sanchez
Namdar Saniei
Tarlochan Sidhu (*via teleconference*)
Miguel Vargas Martin (*via teleconference*)
Ed Waller

Guests:

Tara Ashley
Kristen Boujos
Olivia Petrie
Shirley Van Nuland

Regrets:

Perrin Beatty
Carla Cesaroni
Craig Elliott
Hossam Gaber
Franco Gaspari

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

2. Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Council back to another academic year, which has started off very well. He commented that the general feeling around campus is good. He thanked the faculty, staff, students, and administrators for converting applicants to enrolments. Everyone has done a tremendous job and we are not far from target. He reviewed some of the issues facing the

university and affirmed that as we continue to do a good job with our students, we will continue to be a GTA university.

The Chair advised that over the next few years, we will be paying particular attention to student support and retention. If we continue to work on support for students and increase retention through first and second year, it will help us increase our revenue. He also reminded Council that the funding formula review is underway. If we can get funding that is not based on growth, allowing us to maintain student levels and focus on quality and retention, we will be well situated going forward. He remarked that one of our mandates that we do extremely well is college to university transfers and we should try to expand our reach nationally.

John Knubley, Deputy Minister of Industry Canada, was on campus today and wanted a tour of ACE. He expressed a keen interest in what we are doing. He was heading to GM afterwards. The Chair noted that it provides an interesting view into what both the provincial and federal governments are doing with economic development and that the university has done well in enhancing public and private relationships.

The Chair ended by congratulating the faculty and students who presented at conferences over the summer and succeeded in raising the profile of the institution. He is looking forward to a good year.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2015

M. Eklund questioned the reference to hard caps on international graduate student admissions in the second sentence of item 5. It was suggested that “hard caps on” be changed to “targets for”.

On a motion, the Minutes were approved as amended.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

6. Inquiries and Communications

6.1 Synopsis of Board of Governors Meeting on June 25, 2015 – Public Session

T. McTiernan went over the synopsis of the last Board of Governors’ meeting. He offered his congratulations to those faculty members who were granted tenure and promotion.

7. Provost’s Remarks

The Provost welcomed the new members of Academic Council and thanked them for participating in this important part of the UOIT community. She explained that she will be using this portion of the meeting to highlight important issues going forward.

8. Chancellor Search Update

The Chair informed Council that the Chancellor search is an ongoing process. The Committee reached the point where they approached their key candidate. They had a good discussion with the candidate at the beginning of August. Prior to the meeting, there was some indication that it might be difficult for this person to accept due to the individual's schedule and commitments. Unfortunately, the candidate had just accepted a key role on a broader public sector service board and would likely have accepted if it weren't for that. The candidate offered the Committee some alternative suggestions. The Chancellor Search Committee will be reconvened and will review the existing list of candidates, as well as those recommendations from the former candidate. The Chair thanked the members of the Chancellor Search Committee for their participation in the process.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Executive Committee

9.1.1 Academic Council Work Plan 2015-2016

T. McTiernan advised that specifics of the items from faculties and faculty councils will be identified as they come forward. The Work Plan is to be used as a general guide and is a work in progress.

9.1.2 Governance

a) Academic Membership Update and Nominations to Academic Council

Academic Council

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council appoint the following faculty members to serve on Academic Council for three year terms ending on June 30, 2018:*

Hossam Gaber, Professor, Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science
Sharon Lauricella, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
Qusay Mahmoud, Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

Standing Committees

C. Foy reviewed the nominees to the Academic Council Standing Committees.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That in accordance with the Executive Committee's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby appoints the following faculty members of Academic Council to serve on the Executive*

Committee for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2018 and student member for a term of two years ending on June 30, 2017:

Carla Cesaroni
Brenda Gamble
Chantelle Bishop

Curriculum and Program Review Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That pursuant to the nominations received from the Curriculum and Program Review Committee and in accordance with the Curriculum and Program Review Committee's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby appoints the following faculty members to serve on the Curriculum and Program Review Committee for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2018:*

Wendy Barber, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education
Glenn Harvel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science
Qusay Mahmoud, Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
Emma Bartfay, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences
Jeremy Bradbury, Associate Professor, Faculty of Science
Kim Clow, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Graduate Studies Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That pursuant to the nominations received from the Graduate Studies Committee and in accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby appoints the following faculty members to serve on the Graduate Studies Committee for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2018:*

Jennifer Percival, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
Qusay Mahmoud, Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
Brenda Gamble, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences
Luciano Buono, Associate Professor, Faculty of Science
Carla Cesaroni, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Research Board

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That pursuant to the nominations received from the Research Board and in accordance with the Research Board's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby appoints the following faculty members to serve on the Research Board for a term of two years ending on June 30, 2017:*

Janette Hughes, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education
Qusay Mahmoud, Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

Brian Ikeda, Associate Professor, Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science
Robert Weaver, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences
Hendrick de Haan, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science
Jennifer Percival, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

Academic Appeals Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That in accordance with the Academic Appeals Committee's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby appoints the following faculty members to serve on the Academic Appeals Committee for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2018:*

Scott Nokleby
Mikael Eklund

Honorary Degrees Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That in accordance with the Honorary Degrees Committee's Terms of Reference, the Council hereby reappoints the following faculty members to serve on the Honorary Degrees Committee for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2018:*

Mark Green
Barb Perry
Carolyn McGregor

b) Board of Governors' By-Law Review Project Working Group Nominations

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That the Council hereby recommends to the Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Governors that the following faculty members of Academic Council serve on the Board of Governors By-Law Review Project Working Group for the duration of the By-Law Review Project, which is currently anticipated to be 1-2 years:*

1. Mikael Eklund
2. Hannah Scott

10. Enrolment Update

D. Saucier delivered a presentation on the Strategic Enrolment Management update. She confirmed that the strategic priorities are good and we will be extending the overarching goals for an additional 5 years until 2021. We have a sustainable growth piece to focus on. In light of these goals, we can begin annual and 3 year planning in order to work towards achieving our strategic priorities. She confirmed that this is the second year where enrolment is static. If a goal is worthwhile but the plan doesn't seem to be working, change the plan but not the goal.

When we talk about enrolment, at times we have competing goals and must consider factors, such as: optimum enrolment, student profile and academic profile. Our students are proud to be UOIT students. It is important to examine our practices and not be “cylinders”. She confirmed that graduate FTE will be discussed at another meeting. She explained that the enrolment forecast is flat due to a number of factors, the primary being a lack of space for more students at the university. We will not increase enrolment until we have a new building. She also explained that the decrease in the Faculty of Education is a planned decrease due to the change of the program to two years.

D. Saucier advised that our goal will be to expand in our core market and become the primary PSE for Durham region. We will invest in recruiting efforts in Durham and Northumberland.

(M. Owen and M. Vargas Martin left the meeting)

The question was raised regarding whether the correct message is being delivered in order to successfully recruit students. It was noted that it is not only the marketing, but the consistency of the message. For example, at a high school graduation, the university was referred to in two different ways (UOIT vs. University of Ontario Institute of Technology).

D. Saucier also discussed international student recruitment goals. International students are interested in the types of programs we offer. We should coordinate with DC as they have good international student supports in place.

There was also discussion regarding the average admission and retention rates for first and second year students. The system retention average has been 88% over the last 7 years and UOIT falls below the average. Most students leave not because they choose to, but because we ask them to. The students who stay outcompete students from other universities.

The Council discussed efforts at setting up various boot camps (calculus, time management, etc..) to help promote student success. Both horizontal and vertical planning are integral to student success.

A question was asked about offering online courses in order to increase enrolment and suggested perhaps international students would be interested in taking online courses. D. Saucier responded that online classes/programs use up different types of space/resources. Some disciplines would work well in that format; however, the faculty seems to prefer meeting their students. It was noted that most international students want to physically attend international universities, not take online courses. Another member commented that it is challenging to provide online learning to true undergraduate students.

The students on the Council were asked about their experience at UOIT and why they chose to come here. C. Bishop discussed her experience at McGill and how she preferred McGill's downtown campus over the more rural campus since she felt isolated at the rural campus. T. Collins confirmed that his decision to attend a local university was influenced by the desire to save money. Other factors he liked about UOIT were: the opportunities for innovation; that it's a relatively new school and the students can help establish the university; and the community feel.

It was suggested that classroom support could affect student retention, as well, since fewer TA resources and lab assistants available to provide student support might affect student success and their experience at UOIT.

B. MacIsaac confirmed they are looking at early warning systems in order to identify students who require additional assistance by Thanksgiving. We must really try to reach the students who are attending classes, handing in exams/assignments but still not being successful.

There was general agreement among members that this issue requires further discussion.

9. Other Business

There was none.

10. Colleagues' Exchange

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary