



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015

Present:

Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Deborah Saucier
Reem Ali
Nawal Ammar
Robert Bailey
Chantelle Bishop
Carla Cesaroni
Christopher Collins
Taylor Collins
Greg Crawford
Maurice DiGiuseppe
Becky Dinwoodie
Mikael Eklund
Craig Elliott
Cheryl Foy
Hossam Gaber
Brenda Gamble
Mark Green

Ferdinand Jones
Sharon Lauricella
Brad MacIsaac
Qusay Mahmoud
Susan McGovern
Kimberly Nugent
Langis Roy
Otto Sanchez
Namdar Saniei
Hannah Scott
Mahmoud Shaaban
Tarlochan Sidhu
Kamal Smimou
Miguel Vargas Martin

Guests:

Tara Ashley
Kristen Boujos
Olivia Petrie
Igor Pioro

Regrets:

Perrin Beatty
Pamela Drayson
Franco Gaspari
Michael Owen
Pamela Ritchie
Ed Waller

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

2. Agenda

M. Eklund requested an update on the Senior Appointments Policy, which was discussed at a previous meeting. The Chair proposed to add it as an item under “Other Business”.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair remarked that the night before was an interesting night as the Election results were determined. The results will have an impact on the PSE sector. There will be a transition period between governments and the incoming government will identify its priorities in the next few months. The university will track what changes are happening.

On the provincial front, the Chair anticipates constructive federal-provincial relations in the coming months.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2015

On a motion, 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 thanked everyone in each faculty for their hard work at the Ontario University Fair. As part of our recruitment efforts, there is an open house being held on November 7. She encouraged people to come out and speak to potential students. She commented that students and parents find these events to be particularly informative and helpful.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Executive Committee

8.1.1 Faculty Council Membership Update

B. Dinwoodie advised the Council that the Faculty Council membership lists were presented to the Academic Council Executive Committee for approval on October 6. She confirmed that while the Executive Committee approved the membership lists in principle, they had concerns about outdated terminology being used in some of the lists. Accordingly, the Committee asked that the membership lists be returned to the Councils and formatted using current terms and presented in a consistent format.

8.1.2 Governance

a) Election Results and Nominations to Academic Council

The Executive Committee recommends:

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

- Kamal Smimou, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council appoint the following graduate student to serve on Academic Council for a two year term ending on June 30, 2017:*

- Mahmoud Shaaban, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

Curriculum and Program Review Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council appoint the following undergraduate student to serve on the Curriculum and Program Review Committee for a two year term ending on June 30, 2017:*

- Alexandra Flewell, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

Graduate Studies Committee

The Executive Committee recommends:

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council appoint the following graduate students to serve on the Graduate Studies Committee for a two year term ending on June 30, 2017:*

- Omar Afifi, Faculty of Engineering (Full-Time)
- Lokendra Ramotar, Faculty of Engineering (Part-Time)

b) By-Law Review Project Update

C. Foy provided an update on the Board By-Law Review Project. She confirmed H. Scott and M. Eklund were appointed to the Working Group and the first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for late November.

8.2 Curriculum and Program Review Committee –

R. Bailey reviewed each of the CPRC items with Academic Council.

8.2.1

a) Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Media Studies – Major Program Modification – Addition of Simple Pathway (Canadian University of Dubai)

Council was advised that the structure is an existing pathway (2 + 2 program). This was developed between the Canadian University of Dubai and the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities over many years. It is also consistent with the 2020 International Plan. In the first year, they expect 5-7 students, some of them being expats.

On a motion, that Academic Council approve the major program modification to the Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Media Studies with the addition of a simple pathway with the Canadian University of Dubai.

MOTION
CARRIED

(b) Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology - Major Program Modification – Addition of Simple Pathway (Canadian University of Dubai)

In response to some concern raised on the association with the Canadian University of Dubai, N. Ammar informed Council that we have a great relationship with the university – the relationship began in 2008. She also confirmed that it is an accredited institution. Council was also assured by CPRC that due diligence has been done on the university and the quality of its programs.

On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed major program modification to the Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology with the addition of a simple pathway with the Canadian University of Dubai.

MOTION
CARRIED

Q. Mahmoud abstained

8.2.2 Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science – Major Program Modification - Removal of Specialization

Council was advised that there was little student interest in the program and CPRC recommends its removal. N. Ammar and K. Nugent clarified that the course will still be offered, only the specialization is being removed.

On a motion, that Academic Council approve the major program modification to the Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science program by removing the specialization set out in the attached documents.

MOTION
CARRIED

8.2.3 Bachelor of Education – Minor Program Adjustment

R. Bailey explained that it is a concurrent acceptance program.

**8.2.4 Bachelor of Science in Biological Science - Minor Program Adjustment
– Replacement of Required Course**

R. Bailey reviewed the minor program adjustment.

**8.2.5 Admission Criteria – English Language Proficiency for International Students
Western English Language Centre Partnership Agreement**

R. Bailey explained that we have a number of similar ESL partnerships with other organizations. It was also confirmed that the Western English Language Centre is part of Western University.

9. Registrar’s Authority to Determine Student Eligibility to Confer Degrees

Prior to discussing the motion, B. MacIsaac agreed to amend the wording of the motion to include recommendations from the Office of Graduate Studies. Concerns were raised about the Council delegating its authority to confer degrees. B. MacIsaac and R. Bailey responded to the concerns by explaining that Council would not be delegating its decision-making authority but the administrative authority. R. Bailey elaborated by saying that it is Academic Council that sets the rules regarding conferral of degrees and the Registrar’s Office administers the rules. Several other members expressed hesitation to approve the delegation of authority and others stated that the approval seems to be ceremonial in nature. The Registrar was asked whether he would have to return to Council for approval of any irregularities in the conferral process and he confirmed that he would be required to do so.

On a motion, that Academic Council approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS Academic Council has the delegated authority from the Board of Governors to confer degrees under section 8.10(a)(VI) of the UOIT By-Law;

WHEREAS Academic Council has the power to delegate administrative functions in relation to the authority to confer degrees;

WHEREAS Academic Council approves the degree requirements for each program;

WHEREAS students must meet those degree requirements in order to be recommended for graduation by their Faculty;

WHEREAS the Registrar receives graduation recommendations from each Faculty, confirms student eligibility, and accepts each Faculty’s recommendations to grant degrees to those students who meet the requisite criteria, which is an administrative function related to Academic Council’s authority to confer degrees;

WHEREAS the Registrar has committed to report on the conferral of degrees to Academic Council at every June meeting, highlighting any recommendations that fall outside of Academic Council requirements;

NOW THEREFORE Academic Council hereby confirms the delegated administrative authority of the Registrar to confirm student eligibility and accept Faculty graduation recommendations for those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements and authorizes the Registrar to execute and complete such documents as may be required to exercise this administrative authority.

MOTION
DEFEATED

10. Budget Assumptions

D. Saucier and C. Elliott presented on next year's budget assumptions. D. Saucier used the slides to show that when the strategic plan was developed, we expected incremental growth. However, now we are seeing flat growth due to the declining numbers of high school students across the province. She explained the forecasted increase in 2018-19 due to the new building. She reviewed the significant budget assumptions, which were set out in the presentation. C. Elliott continued the presentation by discussing the forecasted escalating loss as salaries/revenues continue to grow while revenues remain flat. We must examine how best to address the shortfall. C. Elliott reviewed the discussion questions and answered Council members' questions regarding items set out in the budget.

It was suggested that explanatory footnotes be included in the budget to assist those who are less familiar with reading budgets. D. Saucier remarked that budget cuts are a complex puzzle and they would appreciate suggestions from Council on developing a cogent set of principles to guide the cuts.

D. Saucier reviewed the budget priorities:

- a) maintaining faculty/staff ratios but might have reallocations;
- b) increasing percent of total budget going to instruction & research; and
- c) maintaining reserves and current amounts in annual capital.

C. Elliott confirmed that each faculty/business unit will decide how cuts would be allocated. B. MacIsaac advised that he is still working on a cost display. The Ministry has mandated balanced budgets. If we did nothing for the first 3 years, by the time we got to 4-5 year mark, we would likely require an 8% cut. B. MacIsaac suggested setting up a time to review the budget with those members who are interested.

11. COU Update

M. Green suggested deferring this item to the next meeting due to time constraints.

12. Other Business

12.1 Senior Appointments Policy update

C. Foy advised Council that the document addressing the appointment of Deans, Dean of Graduate Studies and the Associate Provost has been reviewed by the Policy Office. The Policy Office has conducted benchmarking and the benchmarking is almost complete. She explained that there will be a high level policy piece with procedures underlying it. She also confirmed that the search for the Dean of Education will follow existing procedures until the new policy is implemented.

13. Colleagues' Exchange

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary

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