ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Present:

Deborah Saucier (Acting Chair)
Reem Ali
Chantelle Bishop
Christopher Collins
Taylor Collins
Maurice DiGiuseppe
Becky Dinwoodie
Pamela Drayson
Mikael Eklund
Craig Elliott
Cheryl Foy
Hossam Gaber
Brenda Gamble
Franco Gaspari
Mark Green
Ferdinand Jones
Lori Livingston
Brad MacIsaac
Qusay Mahmoud
Susan McGovern
Pamela Ritchie
Langis Roy
Namdar Saniei
Hannah Scott
Mahmoud Shaaban
Tarlochan Sidhu
Miguel Vargas Martin
Ed Waller

Guests:

Tara Ashley
Kristen Boujos
Amy Leach
Niall O'Halloran
Olivia Petrie
Shirley Van Nuland
Elaine Wannamaker

Regrets:

Nawal Ammar
Robert Bailey
Perrin Beatty
Carla Cesaroni
Greg Crawford
Sharon Lauricella
Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Kimberly Nugent
Michael Owen
Kamal Smimou

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair advised that she was sitting in for the President while he was away. She welcomed Dr. Lori Livingston to her first Academic Council meeting as the new Dean of Health Sciences. She congratulated all the nominees and winners of the Awards of Excellence. She also thanked everyone for participating in the Open House event on November 7.

She acknowledged the tragic events that took place in Paris during the past week. She highlighted the role universities play in integrating individuals and working towards social justice.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of October 20, 2015

M. Eklund commented that the discussion surrounding the budget was more comprehensive than what was reflected in the minutes. C. Foy advised that the minutes are not meant to be a verbatim transcript of the meeting. It was suggested that the minutes be revised to say something to the effect of: the discussion regarding the budget was engaged and lengthy, the Council expressed a lot of interest in the topic and there would be a continuation of the discussion at a later date.

Due to the nature of the amendments required, it was agreed that the minutes would be revised and returned for review and approval at the next meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Flowing from the discussion regarding the amendment of the minutes, B. MacIsaac confirmed that there is not a set way of bringing budget matters to Academic Council. He invited suggestions from anyone who has any ideas as to how to present budget matters to Council. He also invited those interested in further discussing the budget to e-mail him. Due to the detailed nature of the budget, it is not possible to go through it in its entirety at a Council meeting. There was discussion regarding presenting budget information to Academic Council in a way that will provide sufficient detail to stimulate a discussion yet not get members bogged down in the numbers.

6. Inquiries and Communications

6.1 Synopsis of Board of Governors' Meeting of October 21, 2015

D. Saucier reviewed the synopsis of the Board of Governors meeting. There were no questions.

6.2 COU Update

M. Green provided the Council with a COU update. In anticipation of electing an alternate COU Academic Colleague this year, he gave an overview of the structure of the COU, what the COU does, and the general time commitment involved as the Academic Colleague. He explained that since each Ontario university is created by an individual Act, there is no formal university system in the province. The COU was founded in the 1960's to act as a unified university system. It functions as an advocacy organization and also provides common services, such as the Ontario

Universities' Application Centre. The Academic Colleagues meet approximately 6 times per year, 2 of which include the executive heads of the universities. When the Academic Colleagues meet without the executive heads, they typically have a working dinner meeting and then another meeting the following morning to accommodate those attending from out of town. He highlighted several of the COU's priority issues.

Funding Formula
The province is currently conducting a funding formula review. The funding formula dates back to the 1960's and is heavily focused on student numbers. The review raises the issue of sustainability. He advised that there has been wide spread consultation regarding the funding formula review. COU has presented a report on the review to the province. He reviewed the suggested approaches contained in the COU's report and suggested that the "true costing" approach could benefit UOIT as we run costly programs. M. Green explained that the COU presents policies to the province and must lobby just like any other organization.

Degree Review
M. Green confirmed that there will not be 3 year college degrees; they will continue to be 3 year diploma programs. He also confirmed there will be no standalone nursing programs in colleges.

Communications Strategy
He noted that the COU is working on improving communication with the government and the public. He also listed some of the surveys that will be conducted over the next few years.

M. Green reported on a meeting of the Premier, the COU President and the President of Colleges Canada. One of the main topics for discussion was the environment of fiscal restraint.

M. Green advised that during the past month, COU launched an online learning institute. The portal provides access to existing online university and college courses and individuals are able to take one or 2 courses that complement their programs. There was discussion that offering an online degree presents concerns with quality control. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have a representative of the Ontario Online Learning Consortium speak to Academic Council about online learning opportunities.

M. Green responded to questions regarding the COU and UOIT's position with respect to the funding formula review.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost did not make any remarks in order to devote additional time to discussion.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Executive Committee
8.1.1 Faculty Council Membership Update

B. Dinwoodie advised that the Faculty Council membership lists had been updated in accordance with the Executive Committee's request for the lists to be presented in a standardized format

and that this format will be used going forward.

8.1.2 Governance

a) Academic Appeals Review

C. Foy delivered a presentation on the Academic Appeals Review. She emphasized that student retention is a strategic priority and by providing students with a consistent experience across the university, including during the appeal process, it will contribute to a positive student experience and aid with retention. She advised Council that they are currently in the pre-drafting consultation stage and shared the feedback received from the Academic Council Executive Committee. She welcomed feedback on the appeal process from the members. H. Scott advised that the process is extremely labour intensive for her faculty. It is also time intensive for the Academic Appeals Committee. H. Scott suggested that perhaps the process could be streamlined. C. Bishop suggested that perhaps grade appeals could be addressed at an earlier stage rather than waiting until the end of term. There were no additional comments.

b) Risk Management Update

M. Vargas Martin left the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

C. Foy provided a Risk Management update. She discussed the composition of the Risk Management Committee, as well as its responsibilities. She confirmed that there are still open positions on the Committee. She advised Council that the Risk Management assessment will also be used to compile the university's compliance obligations. The timeline for completing the risk assessment, risk register and risk profile was presented. She advised that the ultimate goal is to create a risk management culture within the university. Several members expressed their concerns about the possibility of a risk management culture interfering with academic freedom and impeding creativity and innovation. C. Foy directed the Council members to the Risk Management Policy. The Policy acknowledges that many university activities are inherently risky and also states a commitment to academic freedom. The intent is to intelligently manage risk not to limit activities that may be risky

C. Foy also confirmed that the risk register will be presented to Academic Council. D. Saucier suggested that C. Foy return to Academic Council with another presentation including the types/examples of risks in order to address members' concerns of cumbersome procedures.

8.2 Curriculum and Program Review Committee

Q. Mahmoud presented the items from the CPRC Committee in R. Bailey's absence. He asked that Faculty representatives address specific items as they come up for discussion.

8.2.1 Faculty of Business and Information Technology

P. Ritchie spoke to the items coming forward from the Faculty of Business and Information Technology.

a) Addition of Entrepreneurship Major and Minor

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the newly proposed major and minor in Entrepreneurship.*

b) Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting – Addition of Simple Pathway (Fleming College)

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed simple pathway with Fleming College for the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting program.*

c) Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing – Addition of Simple Pathway (Durham College)

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed simple pathway with Durham College for the Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing program.*

8.2.2 Faculty of Science

a) Bachelor of Science (3-year degree) – Removal of Program

M. Green spoke to the item. The program was originally introduced for students going on to medical school. No one has been using this program and there is no need to keep it.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the removal of the Bachelor of Science (3-year degree) program.*

8.2.3 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

a) Bachelor of Arts, Community Development and Policy Studies – Program Name Change

A. Leach explained the rationale for the proposal. The current name of the program does not have much meaning for high school students. The structure of the program is very similar to a traditional political science degree. Changing the name will be more beneficial to the students in the program.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed name change from the Bachelor of Arts in Community Development and Policy Studies to Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.*

b) Bachelor of Arts, All Majors – Addition of Simple Pathway (Bermuda College)

A. Leach explained that although it is referred to as a college, it does not reflect the level or quality of the institution. Bermuda does not allow for institutions to be called "universities". Students will have to take a couple of extra courses to catch up in 3rd year but will be in same courses as other 4th year students.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the proposed additions of simple pathways with Bermuda College to the Bachelor of Arts majors in Communication and Digital Media Studies,*

Community Development and Policy Studies, Criminology, Forensic Psychology, and Legal Studies.

8.2.4 For Information

Q. Mahmoud reviewed the following information items with Academic Council:

a) Faculty of Business and Information Technology – Bachelor of Information Technology – Admission Requirement Adjustment
b) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Arts, Forensic Psychology
c) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Arts, Legal Studies

A. Leach pointed out that in the CPRC Report, the last item should refer to Legal Studies and not Forensic Psychology.

8.3 Graduate Studies Committee

L. Roy spoke to the items brought forward by the Graduate Studies Committee.

8.3.1 Graduate Studies Regulations – Amendment

L. Roy explained that the amendment provides that a student who has paid tuition or has been otherwise active in other terms cannot retroactively claim a leave of absence. He reminded the members that this item had previously been discussed by Council in May 2015 and was sent back for amendment.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council approve the change to section 3.5.12 Absences from Studies of the Graduate Academic Calendar as proposed in the attached documentation.*

8.3.2 Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science – Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Design Engineering

L. Roy spoke to this informational item.

9. 2016-17 Tuition Framework

B. MacIsaac delivered a presentation on The Fee Context. He explained that tuition fee increases are regulated by the government and are capped at 3% per year. He demonstrated that the trend across Canada is that the proportion of funding provided by government has been decreasing and the proportion of funds contributed by students increasing, particularly in Ontario. B. MacIsaac compared UOIT's tuition and ancillary fees to those charged by other Ontario universities. He noted that although UOIT has the highest ancillary fees in Ontario, over the past 3 years UOIT has reduced its ancillary fees by $300 whereas the ancillary fees at other Ontario institutions have increased by an average of $100. Further, if capital-related items were removed from UOIT's ancillary fees, the university would rank in the middle third.
He also examined how much of the money collected is given back to students. 12% of tuition goes back to students in the greatest need either through scholarships or work study. The goal

has been to increase the amount spent on work study and summer employment, which also contributes to the experiential learning mission of UOIT.

Q. Mahmoud and T. Sidhu left the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

One of COU's priorities is showing the difference between posted tuition fees and the actual price paid by students after grants, bursaries, and scholarships. The Ministry has increased the amount of OSAP provided for student support. B. MacIsaac advised that levels of student debt are much lower than they are generally perceived to be. B. MacIsaac answered Council members' questions regarding the presentation.

S. McGovern left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

10. Records Management Project Update

Deferred until the next meeting due to time constraints.

11. Other Business

There was none.

12. Colleagues' Exchange

There was none.

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

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Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary