



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

Present:

Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Nawal Ammar
Chantelle Bishop
Liqun Cao
Christopher Collins
Taylor Collins
Greg Crawford (*via teleconference*)
Becky Dinwoodie
Pamela Drayson (*via teleconference*)
Craig Elliott
Cheryl Foy (*via teleconference*)
Brenda Gamble
Mark Green

Ferdinand Jones
Sharon Lauricella
Helene LeBlanc
Lori Livingston
Brad MacIsaac
Qusay Mahmoud
Langis Roy
Namdar Saniei
Deborah Saucier
Hannah Scott
Mahmoud Shaaban
Kamal Smimou

Guests:

Tara Ashley
Kristen Boujos
Miles Bowman
Nadia Jagar
Nichole Molinaro (*via teleconference*)
Jennifer Percival
Olivia Petrie
Shirley Van Nuland

Regrets:

Reem Ali
Robert Bailey
Perrin Beatty
Maurice DiGiuseppe
Mikael Eklund
Hossam Gaber
Susan McGovern
Kimberly Nugent
Michael Owen
Pamela Ritchie
Tarlochan Sidhu
Miguel Vargas Martin

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 began by referring to the current bargaining taking place between the University administration and Faculty Association. He wished them the best in reaching a successful conclusion as when all is said and done, we are a collegium that works collectively on the transmission of knowledge and do a good job together.

He advised Council that the Chancellor Installation Event will be taking place on May 4 at Regent Theatre and everyone is welcome to attend. He expressed his belief that she will be a terrific ambassador for the University and representative of how UOIT is contributing to the system as a whole.

He also provided an update on the honorary doctorate candidates. He advised that the Honorary Degrees Committee was awaiting an answer from the final candidate. When an answer is received, Academic Council will likely be advised of the successful candidates by e-mail.

On Thursday at the Regent, there will be a symposium on the Role of Universities in the Truth and Reconciliation Process. The Chair confirmed that there will be a stellar panel of speakers, including Phil Fontaine.

The Chair also addressed the recent controversy relating to Social Justice Week. He updated Council on the University's message delivered to the community. He clarified that UOIT was not involved in the organization of the event and the circumstances surrounding the denial of the group's participation was unclear. He confirmed the University's general commitment to the right to free speech and to respectful dialogue and debate, as well as to providing a safe environment on campus for those participating in debates/discussions. As an institution, we do not support BDS activities against Israel.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2016

The Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. Dinwoodie addressed the concern raised at the last meeting regarding the timing of the appointment of the temporary replacements for F. Gaspari and C. Cesaroni. She confirmed that the Secretariat received the request for replacements in early January but not until after the January ACX meeting had taken place. Accordingly, February was the soonest the temporary replacements could have been appointed. She advised that the Secretariat and Scheduling will work together to try to avoid class conflicts for Academic Council members in the future.

6. Inquiries and Communications

None.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost kept her remarks short. She advised that at the next few meetings, she will be discussing metrics and the strategic plan.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Curriculum and Program Review Committee

For Information:

a) Faculty of Science – Clarification of Major Program Modification Program Name Change – Bachelor of Science in Physical Science

Q. Mahmoud reviewed the reason for the program name change.

b) Faculty of Education – Minor Program Adjustment

Q. Mahmoud discussed the Faculty of Education minor program adjustment and the rationale for the change.

8.2 Executive Committee

8.2.1 Governance

a) Administrative Fairness Policy

C. Foy delivered a presentation on the Administrative Fairness Policy. She reviewed the rationale for the framework. She emphasized that the framework provides an opportunity to communicate that the University is committed to procedural fairness and acknowledges the legal requirement when making decisions that affect the rights of individuals. She advised that procedural fairness is already reflected in the academic appeals process. The framework also ensures accountability in the decision-making processes and will help shape the policy response to Bills 8 and 132.

C. Foy discussed the new policy instruments that will underlie the Administrative Fairness Policy, as well as the policies and procedures that will need to be reviewed in light of the implementation of the Administrative Fairness Policy.

She provided an overview of the key elements of the Policy and emphasized the availability of informal resolution mechanisms. She also went through the key elements of the investigation procedures and confirmed that there will be an opportunity for informal resolution even when a formal investigation has begun.

The Policy will address the key amendments set out in Bill 8, which amends the Ombudsman Act. It also addresses Bill 132, passed into law last week, which includes the requirement to have a standalone Sexual Violence Policy for students. The existing Workplace Violence and Harassment & Discrimination policies and procedures will also have to be reviewed.

C. Foy provided an overview of the consultation pathway for the Administrative Fairness Policy and the related policies/procedures that will be coming forward.

H. Scott asked a question submitted by M. Eklund about the Policy not applying to Human Resources. C. Foy clarified that the Policy is intended to apply to quasi-judicial decision-making processes. Collective bargaining is governed by labour law and HR is governed by employment law.

C. Foy responded to additional questions from Council members. She further clarified that HR and administrative decisions fall outside of the Policy.

b) Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Policy

M. Bowman delivered a presentation on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy. He described the broad consultation process. The emphasis in the Policy is on encouraging positive behaviours, with punitive measures as back up.

The Policy is being developed in accordance with the Government's requirements. He reviewed the desired outcomes of the Policy, including:

- The goal of implementing a system that makes it easier for people to get help by streamlining processes;
- Building on community partnerships; and
- Increasing the availability of information.

He also outlined the purpose of the Policy and clarified that it is not intended to be a secondary judicial system, but aims to provide resources to students in need.

M. Bowman provided an overview of the process and possible outcomes that would occur upon a violation. The emphasis is on student choice and ensuring the individual is ok throughout the process. He confirmed that the University Agent will have all of the information on the resources available and the process. They will focus on empowering the individual and helping them move forward.

M. Bowman responded to questions from Council members. There was a discussion regarding to whom a disclosure can be made on campus. There was also a discussion regarding the possibility of an individual who receives a disclosure being subject to a subpoena to testify in criminal proceedings.

M. Bowman clarified that the University Agents referred to in the Policy are currently trained counsellors. Further, training will be provided to student leaders since some students might prefer to discuss a violation with a peer. In some instances, trained peers may act as a liaison between the complainant and the University. The issue of cultural differences was also raised with respect to disclosing to peers and a suggestion was made for the policy to acknowledge the existence of cultural differences with respect to reporting. M. Bowman explained that the University Agent will be the primary person for disclosure.

In response to a question regarding a complainant's ability to access services anonymously, M. Bowman advised that they are working on a system for anonymous requests for services through internet chat.

There was also a discussion regarding the availability of informal resolutions as opposed to formal justice options. M. Bowman confirmed that all of the options available will be discussed with a complainant when he/she meets with the University Agent.

A question was asked regarding the definition of "on campus" in the Policy and whether it includes the use of social media and webpages for student discussions. M. Bowman advised that the Policy will apply to all university activity, including website activity. D. Saucier added that this was the direction from the Provincial legislation and that it will be challenging to implement. There was emphasis on the importance of educating students on the application of the Policy.

There was a recommendation to replace the word "story" with an alternative, possibly "experience" or "account".

M. Bowman explained that they are in the process of revising the University's values to reflect the values identified in the Policy.

H. Scott suggested that the Policy should make it clear that it is applicable to only students. She also recommended looking at Lakehead University's Sexual Violence Policy.

M. Bowman invited members to e-mail him with their suggestions regarding the Policy.

c) Contract Management Policy & Legal Review of Contracts Procedures

C. Foy reminded Council that they saw the Contract Management Policy and Legal Review of Contracts Procedures last month. She is bringing them forward at this meeting to obtain Academic Council's recommendation for approval of the Policy by the Board and approval of the Procedures by the Audit & Finance Committee. She provided a quick review of the purpose of the policy documents.

MOTION CARRIED *On a motion, that Academic Council recommends the Contract Management Policy to the Board for approval and recommends the Legal Review of Contracts Procedures to the Audit & Finance Committee for approval.*

d) Board By-Law Review Project Update

C. Foy provided an update on the work of the Board By-Law Review Project Working Group. She advised that at the last meeting, the group spent a lot of time on the role of Academic Council in the Act and the By-Laws, as well as reviewing the recommendations of the Academic Council Ad-Hoc Committee. At the next meeting, the group will delve deeper into the models that will work in the context of the UOIT Act.

e) Academic Council Elections Update

B. Dinwoodie reviewed the timeline for the upcoming elections.

8. 2016-2017 Academic Schedule

B. MacIsaac presented the draft schedule for next year. He confirmed that next year is the commencement of the co-curricular days in the fall. H. Scott commented that the fall break is a selling feature for students and that students seem to prefer having a week off instead of only a few days. There was also a discussion as to why the break is being called “co-curricular days”, as well as to the timing of the break and why it is not coinciding with the Thanksgiving holiday. B. MacIsaac advised that K. Boujos is working with faculties with labs to ensure the days off are taken into consideration.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Colleagues’ Exchange

The meeting was terminated at 4:07 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary

*Documents attached (A) Approval (C) Consultation (D) Discussion
(I) Information (P) Presentation (R) Recommend for approval