



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017**

Present:

Tim McTiernan (Chair)
Reem Ali
Robert Bailey
Pietro-Luciano Buono
Catherine Davidson
Maurice DiGiuseppe
Becky Dinwoodie
Mikael Eklund
Craig Elliott
Cheryl Foy
Hossam Gaber
Brenda Gamble
Mark Green
Andrew Hogue
Douglas Holdway
Hossam Kishawy

Sharon Lauricella
Ramiro Liscano
Lori Livingston
Qusay Mahmoud
Susan McGovern
Atef Mohany
Kimberly Nugent
Michael Owen
Langis Roy
Kamal Smimou
Peter Stoett
Akira Tokuhiro

Guests:

Krista Hester
Kimberley McCartney-Young
Olivia Petrie

Regrets:

Carla Cesaroni
Greg Crawford
Andrea Kirkwood
Brad MacIsaac
Andre Pinsonnault
Pamela Ritchie
Deborah Saucier
Hannah Scott
Noreen Taylor

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda

A question was raised regarding the Agenda, particularly whether the proposed amended Student Sexual Violence Policy must return to Academic Council for recommendation prior to consideration by the Board. The Chair proposed adding this item to “Other Business”.

Upon a motion duly made, the Agenda was approved, as amended.

3. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair welcomed the two newest members of Council, Catherine Davidson, the new University Librarian, and Peter Stoett, the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. C. Davidson remarked she is pleased to be here and looks forward to meeting everyone. She has been at the university for 20 days. P. Stoett had been at the university for only two days and he added he is also looking forward to meeting everyone.

As it was the last meeting of the school year, he commented that UOIT has had a good year and graduated a record number of students. Convocation was a wonderful event. He hopes everyone has plans to have a good summer period, including catching up on research and writing in preparation for the next academic year. The university continues to evolve and will hopefully announce a new president in the coming months.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of May 16, 2017

B. Dinwoodie noted a comment received on the minutes regarding having insufficient time at the last meeting to discuss the By-law. L. Buono also noted that he left the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made, the Minutes were approved, as amended.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

A question was asked regarding the amount allocated to the Marceau Chair in the budget and its apparent increase to \$900,000. R. Bailey clarified that the \$900,000 presented as an OTO amount in the budget for research includes the Marceau Chair, but represents other allocations, as well. C. Elliott confirmed that the amount allocated to the Marceau Chair has not changed.

There was also a discussion regarding the operational surplus in the budget. T. McTiernan advised that there will be work over the summer on allocating the surplus. There are a number of Board priorities, including student mental health and the moving ground plane (MGP) installation, which will be considered. There have been positive signals from the federal government regarding support for the MGP, which could involve 3-way matching. Another project could involve the activities of the new student union. These would be one-time initiatives.

6. Inquiries and Communications

(a) Synopsis of Board of Governors' Meeting of May 3, 2017

There were no questions.

7. Provost's Remarks

R. Bailey echoed the President's comments regarding Convocation. It is great to celebrate our graduates, together with their families and supporters. He added that we must also acknowledge the faculty and staff that help get students across the stage. The faculty share in the pride of students' success. He remarked that Friday afternoon's ceremony was particularly moving, as it was T. McTiernan and D. Saucier's final convocation at the university.

He informed Council that breakfast with the Provost would continue in another form over the summer months. He advised of the times he would be available in the Tim Horton's in UA and Isabella's downtown.

(a) Update on Senior Academic Administrator Appointment Searches

R. Bailey advised of Glenn Harvel's appointment as the new Associate Dean of Quality Enhancement and Rupinder Brar as the new Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning. He congratulated them on their appointments.

(b) Faculty Data Update

R. Bailey reviewed the highlights of the *Student:Faculty Ratios at UOIT* discussion paper distributed to Council. If the ratio is small, it implies that each student is getting more attention and support. If there is a large ratio, it implies large classes and less individualized attention. He commented that this is a deceptively simple metric. He also noted the number of faculty hires.

The university reached the goal it set six years ago and is at approximately the provincial average. When all permanent faculty are considered, we are in the middle. He discussed the student:faculty ratios by Faculty. He clarified that the numbers in Table 3 represent contracts longer than a year in length. It gives an idea of the scale of contract positions versus full-time faculty. Course sections at UOIT are mostly taught by full-time faculty (79% in 2015, 70% 3-year average).

In Table 1, the ratio is based on the number of students taking courses at that Faculty. R. Bailey clarified that the numbers are based on budgeted positions.

There was a discussion regarding the difference in Maclean's data as compared to our data. R. Bailey suggested that there are better metrics to describe student experience rather than student:faculty ratio. There was also a brief discussion about how we could conduct comparisons against other institutions if the student:faculty ratio is not used. While it might not lend itself to comparison, it would be helpful to examine the student experience.

8. Scholarships and Award Recipients Update

The President presented the report on behalf of B. Maclsaac. He noted that the offers of scholarship were accepted.

A Council member added that a number of students were not aware that they were being considered for scholarships. She put those students in touch with the financial aid office so that they could confirm this before accepting offers.

9. 2016-2017 Graduates Update

In B. Maclsaac's absence, the President presented the report setting out the graduates and medal winners.

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Curriculum and Program Review Committee

10.1.1 FOR APPROVAL

(a) Degree Nomenclature – Program Restrictions and Course Count

Q. Mahmoud presented the proposal for consideration. There was some concern expressed about double counting courses and that this change might prevent students from taking a minor. R. Bailey responded that other faculty members on CPRC did not express concern about the change needlessly impeding students from taking a minor. There were also comments about this proposal not being presented to certain Faculty Councils for recommendation.

R. Bailey responded to a question regarding the rationale underlying the proposal and used the example of students reviewing all of their courses prior to graduation to determine if they qualify for any minors. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure more is involved than simply citing courses for graduation and to recognize the value of a minor.

That Academic Council approve the Restrictions on Program Elements.

L. Buono opposed and M. Eklund abstained.

(b) Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Summary Report

R. Bailey presented the item for consideration and invited questions from Council. A member commented that the reviewers provided some very thoughtful comments. D. Holdway discussed the possibility of introducing volunteer research opportunities. A proposal has been presented to the Senior Academic Team and is being considered. He emphasized the importance of ensuring volunteer positions would be used as learning experiences, as well as giving thought to equity considerations. In FBIT, volunteer work is included as part of the degree

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and a student is given credit for it. It is important for students to get some value out of the process.

R. Bailey clarified that approval of the final assessment report, including the recommendations contained therein, does not translate into funding for the recommendations.

MOTION APPROVED *That Academic Council approve the summary report of the undergraduate program review for the Bachelor of Science in Biological Science.*

10.2 Graduate Studies Committee

10.2.1 FOR APPROVAL

(a) Program Reviews – Final Assessment Reports

L. Roy provided an overview of the final assessment reports to Council.

(i) Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering

The programs have been found to be strong and of good quality. The faculty members are dedicated, there are good facilities and good support. It was noted that in one report, the matter of female role models was raised. H. Kishawy advised that there is a good number of female faculty in electrical engineering.

(ii) Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering

(iii) Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering in Automotive Engineering

MOTION APPROVED *That Academic Council approve the summary reports of the graduate program reviews outlined above.*

(b) Amendments to Graduate Academic Calendar Due to Name Change

L. Roy reminded Council that the name change is effective as of next month. The proposed amendments are housekeeping to reflect the name change.

MOTION APPROVED *That Academic Council approve the proposed revisions to the Graduate Academic Calendar to reflect the approved name change from Office of Graduate Studies to School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.*

10.3 Executive Committee

10.3.1 Governance

(a) Nominations to Graduate Studies Committee & Curriculum and Program Review Committee

B. Dinwoodie presented the nominations to Council for consideration.

Curriculum and Program Review Committee

That pursuant to the nominations received from the respective Faculties and the recommendations of the Executive 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 one year ending on June 30, 2018:

Alyson King, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
Fedor Naumkin, Associate Professor, Faculty of Science

Graduate Studies Committee

That pursuant to the nominations received from the respective Faculties and the recommendations of the Executive 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, 2020:

Khalil El-Khatib, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
Allyson Eamer, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education
Mehran Ebrahimi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science

A suggestion was made to try to increase the representation of Teaching Faculty on the committees.

(b) Board By-Law Review Project Update

C. Foy provided a brief summary of the background of the By-law Review for the benefit of the new Academic Council members. She identified the members of the Working Group. She advised that the group had hoped to finish the review by the end of this academic year; however, the draft of By-law No. 1 will not be going forward to the Board for approval on Thursday.

The version circulated to Academic Council was blacklined against the existing By-law and represents all of the proposed changes suggested by the working group. C. Foy clarified that the reference to Academic Council has been taken out of draft By-law No. 1 since draft By-law No. 2 will include all provisions related to Academic Council. She advised that what remains in By-law No. 1 affects the Board and its committees while By-law No. 2 will more directly affect Academic Council.

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C. Foy thanked M. Eklund, H. Scott and R. Bailey for their work and dedication to the project.

11. Other Business

Student Sexual Violence Policy (SVP)

C. Foy advised Council that the policy was approved after completion of a full consultation process prior to Board approval in December. Academic Council was consulted and recommended the policy for approval in November. The Board provided an additional 3 month period for review and comment and it was open to everyone to provide their feedback. Accordingly, the policy does not need to return to Council for recommendation.

C. Foy also directed Council members to the new policy webpage, which has a new form for providing comments on any policy at any time. There was a brief discussion regarding the applicable regulations and the requirement for consultation.

Concern was expressed that the feedback obtained through the consultation process has not been adequately addressed and the opportunity for additional consultation seems to have been squandered.

R. Bailey clarified the nature of consultation – there is a difference between opportunities to provide input and input resulting in amendments. Changes were made to the SVP as a result of comments received during the extended review period. T. McTiernan advised that the Board will have two options at the meeting on Thursday – to approve the amendments or not approve the amendments and allow the current policy to stand as it is.

12. Colleagues' Exchange

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made the Meeting terminated at 3:50 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary