



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017**

Present:

McTiernan, Tim (Chair)
Asiedu-Boateng, Peter
Bailey, Robert
Clarke, Jessica
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Desaulniers, Jean-Paul
Eklund, Mikael
Gaber, Hossam
Green, Mark
Hogue, Andrew
Holdway, Douglas
Kirkwood, Andrea
Kishawy, Hossam
Lauricella, Sharon
Livingston, Lori
MacIsaac, Brad
Mahmoud, Qusay
McMorrow, Thomas

Nugent, Kimberly
Ritchie, Pamela
(teleconference)
Roy, Langis
Scott, Hannah
Smimou, Kamal
Stoett, Peter
Tokuhiko, Akira
Wu, Terry
Dinwoodie, Becky (non-voting)
Elliott, Craig (non-voting)
Foy, Cheryl (non-voting)

Guests:

Harvel, Glenn
Hester, Krista
Liscano, Ramiro
McLaughlin, Christine
Petrarca, Diana
Petrie, Olivia

Regrets:

McGovern, Sue
Sidhu, Tarlochan
Taylor, Noreen
Tuppal, Sai

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. Agenda

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair discussed the Colleges faculty strike and noted while there were picket lines at the campus entrances, there have been no reported incidents. The Chair also provided an update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement and confirmed they are working on the final edits.

The Chair noted that this year's Maclean's university rankings were released and that the university improved its ranking to 8th place nationally for primarily undergraduate schools. The university also did very well in several other categories. He acknowledged the work of the faculty and staff in improving the university's rankings.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of September 19, 2017

Upon a motion duly made, the minutes were approved as presented.

Those members who were absent from that meeting abstained.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

C. Foy advised there had been a development with respect to the Student Association and she would provide a non-public update during Other Business.

6. Inquiries and Communications

There were no inquiries or communications.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost provided an update on academic planning. The Deans have submitted draft academic plans and an integrated academic plan will be presented to Academic Council in January. The integrated academic plan will feed directly into other service unit plans, which will be prepared and shared with Council in June. Those plans will be used in budget planning. The Provost also reported on his recent trip to the Yukon and the opportunities for academic partnerships resulting from the trip.

(a) Update on Senior Academic Administrator Appointment Searches

The Provost confirmed that the search committee responsible for recommending the next Dean of Faculty of Business and Information Technology has made its recommendation to the President for consideration. He is hopeful that they will be able to announce the successful candidate at the next Council meeting.

(b) Questions from Council Members

Further to the last meeting, the Provost reminded Council of the new “Questions” section and asked that members limit themselves to asking only one question per meeting.

- **2017 Faculty Hardware Refresh and Computer Specs**

The Provost advised that the university moved to a 4-year refresh cycle and there have been no reported issues. Starting in the 2017 fiscal year, I.T. covers the cost of standard laptops for faculty and staff. If there are any customizations, the cost must be covered by the relevant Faculty or business unit. He confirmed that I.T. accommodated 15 customization requests this year, all of which were paid by the relevant business units.

A member expressed concern about how I.T. determines what constitutes a “standard” laptop. There was also a discussion regarding who is responsible for covering the cost of upgrading a laptop with custom requests.

- **Strategic Academic Plan Update**

The Provost discussed the significant changes that occurred during the year that influenced the development of the strategic academic plan. There was a discussion about the consultation process for developing the integrated strategic academic plan. The Provost confirmed that the draft plan will be shared with and discussed by Council.

- **Rules of Order: Voting**

In accordance with the *Democratic Rules of Order* by Francis & Francis, going forward the Chair will request affirmative votes prior to asking for opposing votes.

8. Course Evaluations

R. Bailey provided the background to the review of the course evaluation process. A working group was formed to review and reconstruct the existing course evaluation tool. The group generated a new tool for course evaluations, which is being piloted in the Faculty of Science in Fall 2017. The updated course evaluation is called a “Student Feedback Survey” (Survey). The Survey includes questions about the individual student, the learning environment, and the instructor. The working group eliminated the “professor score” from the Survey. Instructors will be provided with the raw data from the feedback to gain a better understanding of the course evaluation. R. Bailey responded to questions from Council. The new form will be distributed to Academic Council for information at the next meeting.

Council discussed the objective of modifying the form. R. Bailey advised that the Survey is an opportunity to obtain feedback from students to determine the effectiveness of an instructor, as well as to understand the learning environment. M. Eklund added that the review of the evaluation reflected a concern regarding the use of course evaluations. It is important to keep in mind that student feedback is only one measure of an instructor’s teaching.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Curriculum & Program Review Committee (CPRC)

G. Harvel presented the items coming forward from CPRC for approval.

9.1.1 FOR APPROVAL

(a) Centre for Institutional Quality Enhancement - Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment 18-month Follow-up Report

MOTION APPROVED

That Academic Council approve the 18-Month Follow-Up report of the undergraduate program review for the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science.

(b) Faculty of Energy Systems & Nuclear Science – Major Program Modification – Minor Program in Health Physics

MOTION APPROVED

That Academic Council approve the Minor program in Health Physics.

9.1.2 FOR INFORMATION

G. Harvel briefly summarized the items being presented for information.

(a) Office of the Registrar – Indigenous Admissions Practice

(b) Faculty of Social Science & Humanities – Bachelor of Arts – Minor Program Adjustment – Pathways Programs

9.2 Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

L. Roy presented the items coming forward for approval from the GSC.

9.2.1 FOR APPROVAL

(a) Master of Health Sciences – Field Name Change

L. Roy explained the context for the proposed name change.

MOTION APPROVED

That Academic Council approve the field name change in the MHSc program from “Community Health” to “Community, Public and Population Health.”

9.2.2 FOR INFORMATION

L. Roy briefly reviewed the items coming forward for information.

(a) Master of Health Sciences - Change in Admission Requirements

(b) Master of Health Sciences – New Research Seminar Course

L. Roy answered questions from Council. There was a discussion regarding improving the process of supervisors identifying potential students.

9.3 Executive Committee

9.3.1 Academic Council Governance

(a) 2017-2018 Fall Election Results

B. Dinwoodie presented the 2017-2018 Fall Election results to Academic Council for approval. She discussed the unique election result for the student position on the CPRC, which was a three-way tie. The tiebreaker process calls for a coin toss, which provided a challenge with three candidates. As a result, the tiebreaker procedure will be reviewed and a report delivered to Council.

Appointment of the following faculty members to serve on Academic Council for a three-year term starting on November 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2020:

MOTION APPROVED

- Meghann Lloyd, Faculty of Health Sciences Representative
- Ahmad Barari, Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science Representative
- Ann LeSage, Faculty of Education Representative

Appointment of the following graduate student to serve on the Graduate Studies Committee for a two-year term starting on November 1, 2017 ending on August 31, 2019:

MOTION APPROVED

- Stuart Self, Part-time Graduate Student Representative

Appointment of the following student to serve on Academic Council for a two-year term starting on November 1, 2017 ending on August 31, 2019:

MOTION APPROVED

- Safwan Alam, Undergraduate Student Representative

Appointment of the following student to serve on the Curriculum & Program Review Committee for a two-year term starting on November 1, 2017 ending on August 31, 2019:

MOTION APPROVED

- Atta-ul Musawar, Undergraduate Student Representative

Appointment of the following students to serve on the Academic Appeals Committee for a two-year term starting on November 1, 2017 ending on August 31, 2019:

MOTION APPROVED

- Ibukun Abass, Graduate Student Representative
- Isabelle Simard, Graduate Student Representative

(b) Election Process & Vacant Positions

B. Dinwoodie reviewed the report summarizing the number and timing of senate elections at other institutions. The Academic Council Executive Committee supports holding an annual spring election and a by-election in the fall, if necessary. They also support the practice of extending the nomination period when no nominations for a role are received.

(c) Nominations to 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:

- Shahram Heydari, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Andrea Slane, Faculty of Social Science & Humanities

(d) Academic Council Orientation

B. Dinwoodie reported on last month's orientation session. There was a question asked about the prior years' joint reception for Board and Council members following orientation. Due to poor attendance at last year's reception, a reception was not held this year and other opportunities for engagement between the Board and Council will be considered. It was suggested to hold a joint Council and Board meeting sometime this year.

10. Conferral of Degrees for Summer 2017

B. Maclsaac presented the report for consideration by Council.

That pursuant to Article 8.10 of UOIT's By-law No. 1, Academic Council hereby authorizes the granting of degrees to those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements at the end of the Summer term 2017 and who have been recommended for graduation by their Faculty.

G. Crawford abstained as his son is one of the recommended graduates.

11. University Governance**(a) By-Law Review Project**

C. Foy provided an update on the status of the Board By-law Review Project. As a result of the consultation sessions with Academic Council, the By-law Review Working Group considered Council's feedback and supported keeping an administrative staff member on Council. The Working Group presented the Board's Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee (GNHR) with two options to allow an administrative staff member to remain on Academic Council while maintaining the ratio of elected faculty members to other members.

GNHR recommended adding another elected at-large faculty member in order to increase the diversity of perspectives and increase engagement. The version of the by-law distributed to Council is the same one that will be presented to the Board for approval on October 26. C. Foy expressed her thanks to the working group. M. Eklund added that there is still a lot of work to be done with respect to strengthening governance. C. Foy confirmed that there is a “parking lot” of items coming out of the by-law review and additional items will be coming forward to Academic Council as a result.

T. McTiernan acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that went into the by-law review.

12. Other Business

Student Association Litigation – Privileged & Confidential

C. Foy gave a privileged and confidential summary of the terms of the Student Association litigation settlement. She responded to questions from Council members. T. McTiernan commented on the opportunity to work with the new UOIT Student Union going forward and looks forward to building an ongoing and positive relationship.

There was a discussion regarding the forecasted budget surplus, as well as scantron marking machines.

13. Colleagues' Exchange

As it was the President's last meeting as Chair of Academic Council, he thanked the members and remarked on the incredible accomplishments of the institution in a very short time. R. Bailey thanked the President on behalf of Council.

Upon a motion duly made, the Meeting terminated at 3:57 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary