

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 Videoconference, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Al-Shawesh, Yousef
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Crawford, Greg
Davis, Owen
Davidson, Catherine
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
Gaber, Hossam
Heydari, Shahram
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Livingston, Lori

Lloyd, Meghann
Mahmoud, Qusay
McCabe, Janet
Mostaghim, Amir
Naumkin, Fedor
Obasohan, Jacinta
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Partosoedarso, Elita
Pierce, Tess
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Shon, Phillip
Scott, Hannah
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe
Tokuhiro, Akira

Staff & Guests:

Babb, Shay
Bignell, Paul
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Campbell, Brian
Chen, Kevin
Cluett, Dakota
Crouse, Dan
Dinwoodie, Becky
Drinkwalter, Andra
Foy, Cheryl
Heslip, Michelle
Hester, Krista
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McGovern, Sue
McLaughlin, Christine
Molinaro, Nichole
Nickle, Joanne
O'Halloran, Niall
Sankarial, Joshua
Scanga, Franco
Secord, Krista
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Dubrowski, Adam
Jones, Ferdinand
Marques, Olga
Sami, Ramin
Serenko, Alexander
Sheikh, Jahan

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by H. Gaber and seconded by R. Kay, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair emphasized the importance of everyone taking time to decompress given the year we have all come through. He encouraged everyone to rest and recharge, as this is not a sprint, but a marathon, and it is important for everyone to be well. He shared that he feels a sense of optimism, with the arrival of the nice weather and the reopening of outdoor recreational activities on the weekend. The Chair congratulated everyone on the completion of the winter term. The spring term has commenced and he thanked everyone who is teaching this term.

The Chair reported that there have been ongoing meetings of COU and UC, as the Presidents across Ontario discuss reopening plans. The university's approach puts safety first, as it has been throughout the pandemic. Even trying to anticipate the path of COVID one month ahead is challenging enough and looking forward to the fall and beyond is even more difficult.

The Chair noted that given the full agenda, the matters requiring motions were scheduled earlier in the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of April 27, 2021

Upon a motion duly made by T. Pierce and seconded by G. Crawford, the Minutes were approved as presented.

M. Lloyd abstained.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Provost's Remarks

The Provost echoed the Chair's comments and hopes everyone had a great long weekend. She thanked everyone who participated in the collaborative teaching symposium hosted by the university and OCAD last week. She reported that there were over 80 participants at the event. Ana Duff, Tess Pierce, Sharon Lauricella, Bob Bailey, and Q Mahmoud presented at the event. The Provost thanked the TLC staff and particularly Dr. Stephanie Cork for coordinating the event.

The provost also reminded members of the upcoming Staff Awards of Excellence event happening on June 9 between 2-4 p.m. This will be an excellent opportunity to thank our colleagues who have done their best over the past year to support the university. She also reminded Council of the next town hall scheduled for Tuesday, June 1.

7. Inquiries & Communications

None.

8. Steering Committee:

(a) Delegation of Authority Review

T. Pierce presented the delegation of authority for approval. There was a discussion about the timing of the renewal of authority and whether it would expire if Council does not meet over the summer months. A member asked whether there has been discussion as to when the delegation of authority will no longer be required (e.g. dependent on level of vaccinations completed). The Chair responded that it would likely depend on the return to in-person and there should be a discussion of Academic Council as to when that would be possible. This will be included as part of the delegation of authority item at the next Council meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by T. Pierce and seconded by J. Obasohan, Academic Council renewed the delegation of authority to the Steering Committee on the same basis as it was approved on April 3, 2020.

2 members abstained and 29 members voted in favour.

(b) Blended Learning Strategic Discussions

The Chair invited Academic Council members' feedback on last week's blended learning session, which involved presentations from COU Academic Colleagues. The feedback of Council members included:

- it was really great – highlights the need for small class sizes;
- it was a great session and all faculty would have benefitted from hearing the presentations;
- suggestion that Deans think about having members of their Faculty share their learnings at Faculty Council meetings – also consider inviting COU Academic Colleague speakers to speak to Faculty Councils; and
- consider recording this type of session going forward, as it would broaden the scope of who has access to these sessions.

Committee Reports

9. Undergraduate Studies Committee

(a) Faculty of Health Sciences: New Bachelor of Health Administration Program Proposal

L. Roy presented the proposal for consideration. He highlighted that the program is a collaboration between the Faculty of Health Sciences and FBIT. He also noted that the program makes efficient use of existing resources.

Comments from Council included:

- Dr. Bartfay is listed as the main contact of the proposal and will be retiring soon
 - L. Roy clarified that this will be updated
- Conflicting start dates of the program in the material
 - L. Roy confirmed that intake will commence in Fall 2022

There was also a discussion of the program map and the prerequisites required for the business courses.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by R. Kay, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Bachelor of Health Administration and recommended approval of the program to the Board of Governors.

10. Graduate Studies Committee

(a) Faculty of Education: New Doctor of Education Program Proposal

L. Roy presented the new program for recommendation. He noted that the theme of the new doctoral program is “Education in the Digital Age”. It is a collaborative program with faculty members across the university contributing to it. The program is geared towards working professionals. There was a discussion regarding the maximum number students that will be permitted each year and the minimum number of students required to run the program. R. Kay clarified that the maximum is 15 students per year with a maximum of 50 students in all years for the entire program. With the demand already expressed in the program, he does not anticipate a problem getting 15 students per year. It was also clarified that if a student has no courses in a particular year, they would be enrolled in a “continuance course” to stay registered (similar to other thesis programs). R. Kay also confirmed that each student will be supported by a specific professor and the areas of focus will be listed to ensure there is supervisor capacity. There was also a discussion regarding the difference in outcomes of a PhD and EdD.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by A. Tokuhiko, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Doctor of Education and recommended approval of the program to the Board of Governors.

(b) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: New Graduate Diploma in Police Leadership Program Proposal

L. Roy provided an overview of the program. He noted that the diploma program could serve as a building block towards a Masters in Criminology and that the program is responding to a market need.

There was a robust discussion of Academic Council, which included the following comments and questions:

- This degree will be offered online and some courses overlap with the Masters program – will some of the Masters courses be forced online since this program is online?
 - These are second versions of the courses that would be offered online only and existing Masters courses would not be forced to go online.
 - It might be the case that the professor teaching the Masters course might prefer to teach it online, in which case it would be offered online.
- By what standard is 3 modules and 20 graduate students being used as a standard workload for the delivery of one module-based, asynchronous course?
- Are there any other Faculties at the university that currently use module-based, asynchronous methods of teaching graduate courses exclusively, and if so, what is the minimum number of students who have to be enrolled in a course in order for it to run and typical maximum numbers enrolled in graduate-level courses?
- How do you resolve the issue of asynchronous learning and students not completing the modules during the term?
- Are faculty members part of the proposed programs being asked to develop these courses without appropriate remuneration?
- Anyone teaching a graduate course should have a graduate faculty appointment – ensure there is appropriate oversight from graduate faculty members.
- Concern about building a graduate diploma program around sessionals – could pose a reputational risk.
- The graduate diploma program for rehab in FHSci did not work well – raising this as a recent cautionary example.
- Concern that in its current form, the proposed program violates the terms of the Collective Agreement as it does not have timelines - suggestion that the proposal be sent back to add in timelines; and
- Suggestion to remove comments about the modules being equal to one course – modification of that one paragraph would leave the discussion open for implementation as opposed to debating the actual program.

P. Stoett responded to questions and comments about the proposal. He noted:

- these questions were not raised at the FSSH Faculty Council meeting when the proposal was discussed;
- when offering a program in modules, we need to think outside the 12-week box when it comes to course assignments – the proposal might need some tweaking and might need consideration in context of the Collective Agreement;
- many of the courses would be taught by sessionals – hope to involve some former professional police officers in the teaching delivery;
- must examine how the 20 student number was arrived at – could involve some tweaking – likely due to the financial viability of offering the program;
- the program does not anticipate more work involved;
- similar program structure not offered elsewhere at the university;
- if we are going to move towards programs that are more flexible to accommodate students who work full-time, it will require different program structures;
- there are already instances of students who do not complete their course work during a term now – would be treated no differently;
- would put some limitations on when a module should be completed;
- program would not be taught solely by sessionals;
- two former police officers were part of the development process – the program would be directed by the GPD of the Criminology Program and other full-time faculty of FSSH;
- have conducted market research into the viability – DRPS and other police organizations in Canada and internationally; and
- this has been designed as “overload” and would be compensated accordingly – not designed as a “workload” assignment.

C. Foy added that the proposal has not been found to violate the Collective Agreement. P. Stoett accepted the suggestion to take the proposal back for further review and return at the next AC meeting. The Chair asked that if there are additional comments to please send them directly to P. Stoett for consideration.

L. Roy withdrew the motion.

11. Governance & Nominations Committee

(a) Review of Research Board Terms of Reference

L. Livingston presented the updated Terms of Reference for consultation. The comments of Council included:

- How is the secret ballot conducted? Suggestion to clarify how that the secret ballot would be implemented.
- Might be helpful to have a member of ACE as a non-voting member of the Research Committee.

- Should not prioritize one group over another on campus, as it could leave the impression that ACE is more important than other research groups on campus – invite all research entities or none.

12. Research Board

L. Jacobs presented the Research Board report. He informed Council that at the June meeting, the Research Board will be presenting a proposal to establish an Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research. He also reported that there will be a soft launch of the Brilliant Developers Studio. There have also been several meetings discussing the development of a possible Long-Term Care Centre.

Other

13. Policy Consultation:

(a) Signing Authority Policy

(b) Expenditure Signing Authority Procedure

(c) Legal Commitments Signing Authority Procedure

N. O'Halloran provided an overview of the policy documents, which form part of a signing authority framework.

Academic Council provided the following feedback on the policy documents:

- missing piece related to turnaround time – would be helpful to include an expected level of service;
- the policy instruments do not appear user-friendly to faculty – a cumbersome process to determine what requires review;
- suggestion to make the approval process clear;
- s. 15.3 Legal Commitments – unclear in the language that when they have smaller internship agreements, they should not be treated in the same way – some of this could be shifted down to distinguish between large MOUs and smaller, one-off MOUs (e.g. Capstones); and
- a flowchart might help make the process more clear.

14. Consent Agenda:

Upon a motion duly made by R. Kay and seconded by J. Obasohan, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

(a) Academic Council Nominations

(b) Student Member Renewals

15. For Information:

USC:

(a) Cyclical Program Review: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

GNC:

(b) Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives

(c) Faculty Council Vice-Chair Selection Procedures

16. Other Business

17. Termination

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by G. Crawford, the meeting terminated at 4:23 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary