

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, September 28, 2021 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Hogue, Andrew
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori

Lloyd, Meghann
Naumkin, Fedor
Partosoedarso, Elita
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rastpour, Amir
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stokes, Joe
Tokuhiko, Akira

Staff & Guests:

Bignell, Paul
Boujos, Kristen
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Chang, Bin
Dinwoodie, Becky
Foy, Cheryl
Hester, Krista
Livingstone, Clarissa
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McGovern, Susan
Nickle, Joanne
O'Halloran, Niall
Pierce, Tess
Scanga, Franco
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Dubrowski, Adam
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Ruttenberg-Rozen, Robyn
Stoett, Peter

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Agenda

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Academic Council meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. He welcomed the newest members of Academic Council:

- Nader Azad, FBIT
- Ramiro Liscano, FEAS
- Ruth Felder, FSSH
- Andrea Slane, FSSH
- Ana Duff, Faculty At-large
- Andrew Hogue, Faculty At-large
- Amir Rastpour, Faculty At-large
- Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen, Faculty At-large
- Student member – Jessica Leishman

The Chair shared that he is looking forward to the orientation session happening immediately following the meeting. He encouraged the new members of Academic Council and those who would like a refresher to attend the session.

The Chair thanked the members for making time during August to meet, as there is a lot of work being done to keep the campus safe and continuing to run the university. He noted that we should be proud of what we have accomplished and he thanked everyone for their contributions during this challenging time. As COVID will likely be with us for some time, we need to focus on keeping healthy physically and mentally. He remarked that it is great to see people back on campus. He has been hearing from students that they are getting a good experience. People have also been sharing that they feel safe when they are on campus. He is observing students social distancing and wearing masks and he thanked professors for reminding students to sit apart. The Chair noted that the university is continuing to prioritize the health and safety of the university community. They understand the anxiety people may feel as we start to return to campus and are around more people than we have been used to for the past year and a half. He emphasized the importance of helping people learn to live with the risks of COVID and to do so in as safe a manner as possible. The mandatory vaccination policy is one tool in our toolkit to help make people feel safe when on campus.

The Chair discussed the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. It will be a meeting free day across the university so that people may attend the events planned for that day. He also reported on an event he attended on Saturday for Science Literacy Week, which had in person and virtual participation. He commented that it was good to see Western scientific perspectives and assumptions challenged and aided by Indigenous knowledge and the melding of the two. The Chair also discussed the Scarborough Charter, which commits institutions to action

focused on anti-black racism. The Charter evolved out of the national dialogues and action events held by UofT Scarborough. While the university has not yet signed on, they are looking to sign on. He welcomed feedback on it.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of June 22, 2021

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by L. Jacobs, the Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Inquiries and Communications COU Academic Colleague Report

A. King provided an overview of the COU Academic Colleague report. The COU's COVID-19 Reference Table is continuing their work. She reported that there was also a discussion regarding Laurentian University and the financial sustainability of all Ontario universities in light of declining provincial funding. A. King advised that there was also a discussion about the province's Student Access Guarantee program. eCampusOntario will be developing a portal that will house OSAP-approved microcredentials, which is targeted to launch in September. A. King also provided an update on the Ontario Health Data Platform (OHDP), which has been created to improve the detection, planning, and response to COVID-19 and to support epidemiology research. While Ontario's universities support the objectives of the OHDP, there are concerns about a research agreement that grants the province ownership of intellectual property generated through access to the OHDP and are working together to communicate their concerns to the government. L. Jacobs provided additional information about the platform and advised that currently no faculty from Ontario Tech are using the platform.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost thanked everyone who participated in this year's orientation events, including all students, peer leaders, faculty and staff. The success of the events was helped by the great weather over Labour Day weekend. She also thanked all students, staff, and faculty who have contributed to keeping the campus safe as people are abiding by the preventative measures.

The Provost also discussed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She reported that there are a number of events happening this week, including virtual activities, opportunities for self reflection, and self-guided learning. There will be a few on campus activities, as well. The Library's Fireside Reading Room will be hosting a video done by Rick Bourque focusing on dream catchers. The Provost encouraged everyone to actively participate in the activities. She noted it is also Health and Safety Awareness Week at the university.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost advised that the search committee for the Deputy Provost has been established and their first meeting will be taking place in October.

(b) Enrolment & Planning Update

The Provost reported that overall, we are 2.7% over where we were last year. First year undergraduate intakes were below our intake target (91%), while we increased our conversion rates this year. This will create a flow through problem for us with respect to future SMA modelling and increases the importance of retaining students year over year.

8. Delegation of Authority Review

M. Hossein Nejad presented the motion for consideration. There was a discussion regarding whether the delegation of authority is still necessary given all of the measures that are in place and the fact that Academic Council has continued to function throughout the pandemic. It was noted that there is no downside to renewing the authority and that getting rid of it would result in the loss of essentially an Executive Committee. A question was asked about whether Academic Council had been close to not meeting quorum during the pandemic. B. Dinwoodie advised that there was one meeting where it was a close number to reach quorum but then it was achieved with some late arrivals. A suggestion was made that consideration should be given to establishing a more permanent delegation of authority to the Steering Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by A. Hogue, Academic Council renewed the delegation of authority to the Steering Committee on the following basis:

- the delegation of authority comes into effect upon Academic Council failing to achieve quorum at either a special meeting or a regular meeting of Council. Failure to achieve quorum will not be declared until at least fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time of the meeting in question;*
- the delegation of authority will continue for one month or until the next scheduled Academic Council meeting, whichever is earlier. However, should Academic Council be unable to reach quorum, the delegation of authority will continue. The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, will arrange for the next Academic Council meeting as quickly thereafter as possible;*
- the scope of the Steering Committee's delegated authority includes the Steering Committee will have the authority to exercise Academic Council's responsibilities as set out in Article 1.1 of By-law No. 2, including the appointment of replacement members to the Steering Committee, if necessary; and*

- *the reporting requirements relating to the delegation of authority are on the Steering Committee agenda and material to be circulated to Academic Council to provide Academic Council members with an opportunity to provide feedback for consideration by the Steering Committee; the Steering Committee meetings will be public and available Academic Council members may join virtually to listen; notice of decisions made by the Steering Committee on behalf of Academic Council will be distributed immediately following the meeting, with the relevant minutes to be provided to Academic Council after approval.*

25 votes in favour, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions

Committee Reports

9. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Faculty of Science Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Science in Biological Science – Marine Biology Specialization

L. Roy provided an overview of the proposal for approval. He confirmed that the specialization would be implemented in Fall 2022. There was a discussion about what the fees would be for our students and how partner changes would affect our program. G. Crawford added that the partner is both a research and educational institution and has been around for decades. The institution has partnered with many institutions in the US and Canada. The program would involve 4 courses with a higher average of credits per course. J. Stokes advised that the fees would be \$12,400 for tuition. The room and board fee has not yet been confirmed. J. Stokes confirmed that they are working on setting up a scholarship for students who are interested in taking advantage of this program. It was confirmed that the courses would also be open to students of other institutions, so our students would have the opportunity to interact with other students. They are still working on whether faculty will have an opportunity to participate. Also being examined is whether students could stay on for a research opportunity over the summer term. There was a discussion about whether the students from Bermuda would be able to access the university's library catalog. This would be one of the things that needs to be finalized before students begin in 2025.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by G. Crawford, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science in Biological Science programs, as presented.

10. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

(a) New Program Proposal - Faculty of Business and Information Technology – Master of Financial Data Analytics

L. Roy presented the proposal for consideration. M. Bliemel explained how this program differentiates from the existing program. He noted that they are complementary and that the new program focuses on the investment side of financial data. There was a discussion regarding why a new program was created rather than creating a specialization under the MBAI. M. Bliemel advised that they are targeting different audiences. B. Chang added that there are accreditation differences, as well. There was also a discussion about whether consideration was given to a thesis option. M. Bliemel advised that it is not designed to be a research degree but to be a professional degree for use in the banking sector.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by M. Bliemel, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Master of Financial Data Analytics and recommended approval of the program to the Board of Governors.

11. Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)

(a) AC & Committee Nominations

L. Livingston presented the nominations for approval and referred Council to the report included in the material for details on how the nominations were received. She encouraged members of Academic Council to consider serving on these committees, as there are a number of vacancies that remain.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the following appointments:

- *Academic Council – Joshua Sankarlal, undergraduate student position from October 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022*
- *Academic Council – Tess Pierce from October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021*
- *Governance & Nominations Committee – Andrea Slane (elected faculty member of AC) from October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*
- *Research Board - Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen (Faculty of Education) from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Research Board - Steven Downing (Faculty of Social Science and Humanities) from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Research Board - Bin Chang (Faculty of Business and Information Technology) - from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*

- *Research Board - Kirk Atkinson (Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science) - from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Research Board - Manon Lemonde (Faculty of Health Sciences) - from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Research Board - Sean Forrester (Faculty of Science) from September 21, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Graduate Studies Committee – Isabelle Simard (graduate student) from September 28, 2021 – June 30, 2022*

(b) Faculty Council Vice-Chair Nominations

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the appointment of the following individuals as Vice-Chair of their respective Faculty Council for the term of October 1, 2021 until September 30, 2022:

- *Faculty of Business & Information Technology - Theresa Miedema*
- *Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science – Min Dong*
- *Faculty of Energy Systems & Nuclear Science – Matthew Kaye*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences – Brenda Gamble*
- *Faculty of Social Science & Humanities – Amir Mostaghim*

12. Research Board

L. Jacobs presented the Research Board report. He reported that they are observing more annual grant applications than ever from the university and he thanked everyone who submitted applications. L. Jacobs reported on the following key items:

- Call went out for Research Excellence Chair programs – there will be four Chairs – a key part of the Research Chair is an EDI process;
- Call also went out for academic directors to lead an initiative on developing an Aging with Dignity facility/institute – there is an opportunity for the directors to shape the initiative – open to all teaching faculty as well as tenured/tenure stream faculty – he encouraged everyone to take a careful look at the positions;
- Research Ethics Board (REB) hired a coordinator - new development in the structure of the REB – more of a professionalized process – full-time position and will bring a lot of expertise and will be joining the university in 2 weeks; and
- He discussed the university's research rankings – internationally, we are well placed as compared to many other larger institutions.

13. For Information:

The Chair highlighted item (b). Given the success of last year's blended learning strategic discussions, a strategic discussion work plan was prepared for this year. In

order to ensure sufficient time for discussion, four separate strategic discussions have been proposed and a short debrief on the session will take place during the following Academic Council meeting.

- (a) 2021-2022 Academic Council Work Plan**
- (b) 2021-2022 Academic Council Strategic Discussion Work Plan**
- (c) Cyclical Program Review - Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Master of Engineering Management and Graduate Diploma in Engineering Management**
- (d) Minor Program Adjustments:**
 - (i) Faculty of Science – MSc in Modelling and Computational Science**
 - (ii) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – PhD in Criminology and Social Justice**

14. Other Business

A question was asked based on the minutes, particularly about the comment that more disaggregated budget information is presented at the Faculty level. B. MacIsaac believes it was in response to an appendix to the budget and will clarify at the next meeting.

15. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy, the meeting terminated at 3:51 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary