

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Partosoedarso, Elita (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Davidson, Catherine
Dubrowski, Adam
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Frazer, Mitch
Hogue, Andrew
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori

Lloyd, Meghann
Naumkin, Fedor
Pierce, Tess
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Josh
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Bignell, Paul
Boujos, Kristen
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Dinwoodie, Becky
Hamilton, Barb
Heslip, Michelle
Hester, Krista
Livingstone, Clarissa
McCartney, Kimberley
Nickle, Joanne
O'Halloran, Niall
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Crawford, Greg
Jones, Ferdinand
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Murphy, Steven
Rastpour, Amir
Stoett, Peter

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that she is chairing in the President's absence. She welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the academic year. The Chair welcomed J. Sankarlal to his first meeting as a member.

4. Minutes of the Meetings of August 24 and September 28, 2021

Upon a motion duly made by C. Rodgers and seconded by A. Hogue, the Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Provost reminded Council that there was a question raised during the last meeting about the minutes of the June meeting with respect to the level of detail provided in the annual budget presentation to Academic Council. As a member of the Budget Working Group, the Group feels that they are presenting the right level of detail on the budget to AC as a governance body. Additional detail pertaining to individual units should be presented at that level. A follow up question was asked about at what point in the budget cycle this would take place. The Provost clarified that the question pertained to the budget paper presented at the June AC meeting and suggested raising it at the Faculty level in advance of the June AC meeting. Unit level questions can be raised at the unit level during the budget cycle.

6. Inquiries and Communications

None.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost kept her remarks brief. She advised that November 1-5 is Treaties Recognition Week and encouraged everyone to participate in the events taking place. The Provost informed Council that the Minister of Colleges and Universities issued a call for the Minister's Awards of Excellence, which are intended to recognize professionals in the post-secondary sector who have demonstrated Ontario spirit and leadership over the past year. The nomination process is brief (400 words or less describing the individual's contributions). She advised that the announcement has been circulated to the Deans and the deadline for nominations is November 5. The Provost encouraged members to take a moment to nominate their deserving colleagues. The link to the nominations page was posted in the chat.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost reported that the search committee for the Deputy Provost position held their first meeting last week. She reviewed the composition of the search committee. She advised that an ad for the position will likely be posted by the end of the week.

8. Delegation of Authority Review

M. Hossein Nejad presented the temporary delegation of authority for approval. He reported that coming out of Academic Council's discussions about the delegation of authority to the Steering Committee, Council gave a clear indication that the Steering Committee should have a more permanent delegated authority. He noted that a review of the Steering Committee Terms of Reference has been added to the GNC work plan for this year. M. Hossein Nejad reported that background work has started on the Steering Committee's Terms of Reference review. The Steering Committee will be conducting an initial review of the Terms of Reference and will be providing their recommendations to GNC for consideration.

Several members commented that they feel the delegation of authority is no longer required. A member confirmed their support for developing a permanent delegation of authority. M. Hossein Nejad added that the delegation of authority to the Steering Committee serves as an insurance policy until a permanent delegation of authority is put in place.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, 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.

18 members voted in favour, 7 opposed and 4 abstained.

Committee Reports

9. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Faculty of Business and Information Technology - Major Program Modification: Bachelor of Commerce

L. Roy presented the proposal for approval. He provided an overview of the proposed changes, as set out in more detail in the accompanying report. He reported that the proposal received strong support by the USC.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Commerce.

There was discussion about the function of the Academic Resource Committee (ARC). L. Livingston advised that the ARC has been in place for a number of years and falls under the Provost's Office. The composition of ARC is the Provost, L. Roy, Registrar, G. Crawford, CIQE director, and CIQE staff. L. Roy advised that the purpose of ARC is to conduct a preliminary quality assurance review before it goes through the approval process and to ensure that the resources cited in the proposal are in place. There was a question about the history of the establishment of the committee.

(b) Toronto District School Board English Language Proficiency Partnership

L. Roy provided an overview of the proposed partnership. There was a question about whether we help the students with the university application process, as well. J. Stokes clarified that this partnership would allow international students attending a number of TDSB Adult Learning Centres to be evaluated for admission to university undergraduate programs without completing a standardized English language test.

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 Toronto District School Board English Language Proficiency Partnership.

10. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

(a) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation New Program Proposal

L. Roy presented the proposal for recommendation. He provided a brief overview of the new program. He advised that it has been carefully designed and is an interdisciplinary program. He noted that the program has been designed in an innovative way that fits our mission and brand very well. L. Roy responded to questions and comments from Council, which included:

- It is unclear what type of jobs/careers that graduates from this program would apply for. Is the program addressing an untapped skills gap and, if so, what would those be?
 - A. Slane advised that it is not a professional Masters degree – it is focused on developing new skills and new means of addressing social problems, which would most likely prepare graduates for work in the public and non-profit sector. The program is intended to fill an interdisciplinary space that would be of interest to employers and those who have more entrepreneurial thinking with respect to social problems. Over time, a more appropriate program name might evolve.
 - L. Jacobs added that there are some programs that occupy that space in Ontario, most of which are in business schools and the business schools end up drawing on social science faculty.
- Could this be targeted to students beyond Social Science programs?
 - If the program is successful, can see it being opened up to students from other programs. It has been initially designed to build upon the skills acquired by students with a social science undergraduate degree and there is an opportunity to expand it to students in other undergraduate programs.
- A member commented that they really like the program proposal and believe it fits well with the priority of interdisciplinary work of SGPS right now. They also really like the emphasis on ethics.
 - L. Roy added that it builds on what we already do well at the university.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by L. Jacobs, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation and recommends approval of the program to the Board of Governors.

11. Research Board

L. Jacobs delivered the Research Board report. He reported the following:

- There has been a tremendous response to the invitation for applications for Research Excellence Chairs.
- Manon Lemonde has agreed to steer the development of the Aging with Dignity/Campus with Care Research Centre.

- Next week will be the launch of the university's Collaboration Centre with the International Atomic Energy Agency. He encouraged members to attend to get a sense of the opportunities available.
- The Research Board is engaged in identifying priorities and will report on those at the next meeting.

L. Jacobs added that he is a strong advocate of engaging in ranking exercises and things are going well in terms of the university's international rankings and confirmed our competitiveness in the sector.

12. Governance & Nominations Committee

(a) Research Board Terms of Reference Review

L. Livingston provided an overview of the background to the updated Terms of Reference.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by R. Kay, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Research Committee Terms of Reference (formerly Research Board), as presented.

13. Consent Agenda:

(a) Conferral of Degrees – Summer 2021

(b) Faculty Council Membership Lists

(c) Academic Council Vice-Chair Nomination

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by A. Hogue, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

It was noted that Aziz Douai should be removed from the FSSH Faculty Council membership list.

14. For Information:

(a) Cyclical Program Review: Faculty of Education – Bachelor of Education 18-month Follow-up Report

There was a discussion regarding whether any of the limited term faculty positions would be transitioned into teaching faculty positions. R. Kay advised that one position has been transitioned to a teaching faculty position. He noted that it would be difficult to move all four positions to teaching faculty positions due to budget constraints.

(b) By-law No. 2 Implementation Plan Update

15. Other Business

A member asked whether there is any update on how the open house went on the weekend. J. Stokes advised that 1700 people registered, which is more than we would get for a face to face open house. There were 1000 unique registrants. Most faculty feedback has indicated it was successful. There was also a question regarding whether we have historical information that would allow us to compare pre-pandemic versus virtual attendance. J. Stokes advised that FSSH numbers have been lower, which might be a result of being unable to promote FSSH programs at in-person events.

16. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad, the meeting terminated at 3:32 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary