

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 23, 2021 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bradbury, Jeremy
Crawford, Greg
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
Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori

Lloyd, Meghann
Naumkin, Fedor
Pierce, Tess
Partosoedarso, Elita
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea
Bignell, Paul
Boujos, Kristen
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Dinwoodie, Becky
Dupuis, Jackie
Foy, Cheryl
Hamilton, Barb
Hester, Krista
Livingstone, Clarissa
MacIsaac, Brad
Mahmoud, Qusay
McCartney, Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
Nickle, Joanne
O'Halloran, Niall
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Bliemel, Michael
Jones, Ferdinand
Kishawy, Hossam
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Rastpour, Amir
Sankarlal, Joshua

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 S. Rahnamayan, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that it was the last AC meeting before winter break. It is difficult to believe that we are almost at the end of term. He thanked everyone for their efforts over the past term. He understands that we are not in the optimal situation and that faculty are working hard to ensure their students are engaged. The Chair thanked E. Partosoedarso for chairing last month's AC meeting in his absence.

The Chair commented on the improvement of the university's standing in the recent MacLean's ranking. He reported on the Women for STEM Summit that took place on October 14. He discussed the importance of the Women for STEM initiative as it provides our female students with bursaries and mentorship opportunities.

The Chair also congratulated those involved in the launch of the International Atomic Energy Agency Collaborating Centre at Ontario Tech. He thanked the team involved in coordinating the launch event. He also discussed the National Treaties Week events and shared that he hopes everyone had an opportunity to participate in one of the sessions. The Chair also reported that the university signed onto the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education: Principles, Actions, and Accountabilities last week.

The Chair announced that it would be C. Foy's last Academic Council meeting as her last day at the university is December 17. C. Foy joined the university in 2013 and built the Office of the University Secretary and General Counsel from the ground up. During her time here, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen and improve the university's governance processes, the outcome of which we are witnessing now. Her invaluable contributions to the university will be felt for years to come. The Chair invited members to join him in thanking C. Foy for her service to the university and wishing her the best of luck in her next endeavour. The Chair personally thanked her for everything she has given to the university and expressed his appreciation for everything she has done.

4. Inquiries and Communications

None.

5. Provost's Remarks

The Provost thanked all those students, staff, faculty and alumni who participated in the Experience Events over the past three weekends. People seemed genuinely excited to be on campus. The events were a great opportunity for prospective students to get a sense of the university before making such an important decision. She also thanked the Registrar's Office and Recruitment Team for their work organizing the events.

The Provost also thanked everyone for their efforts during this term. She noted that the university community should celebrate our ability to adhere to the preventative protocols.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost provided an update on the Deputy Provost search. She advised that the committee completed a review of the initial pool of applicants and information will be distributed in the next few days about the next stage of the search.

6. 2022-2023 Budget Approach

S. Cantrell and B. Maclsaac delivered a presentation on the 2022-2023 budget approach, which was also included in the meeting material. They responded to questions and comments from Council, which included:

- Heard several times that increasing enrolment is important but that the university is limited by the government – If we hit a ceiling, we do not get additional funding, correct?
 - S. Cantrell explained that the university has dipped within our corridor and when we negotiate SMA4, we want to be in a strong position to lobby the government for increased enrolment; accordingly, we need to demonstrate that there is demand for our programs and that we would be able to accommodate that with additional funding.
 - The Chair added that what we want to do is get to the top of the corridor – there is room to increase enrolment within the corridor, as well as room to improve the retention of students.
- Noticed the ambitious plan to increase international enrolment – how does that play out in the budget?
 - B. Maclsaac responded that two years ago, the university started to move forward on increasing international enrolment. Currently, the university is above the targeted increase of international students this year. He noted that we must ensure we have the investment in international recruiting and scholarships/bursaries. The university must also examine the amount of investment required to ensure our international students succeed.
 - L. Livingston added that it is important to ensure we have supports in place to help our international students: financially, adjust to the university environment, with their mental health, etc. She noted the university has taken a measured approach to international student recruitment where other institutions have not diversified their approach (e.g. focused on China) - we are recruiting from lesser known markets with great success.
- Will any surplus be invested toward faculty and staff retention?
 - L. Livingston responded that the university recognizes that people have worked extremely hard throughout the pandemic and that is one of the reasons for investing in mental health and equity initiatives.

Investments are also being made in improving pedagogy (e.g. new staff in TLC). She advised that they will also be investing in people to help faculty, staff, and students succeed in the new environment.

- A member suggested that pay equity at the university should be examined.
 - L. Livingston advised that investments are being made in mental health supports and that work is being done to address EDI anomalies. She noted that a campuswide EDI survey is being conducted so that a number of areas can be benchmarked. Investments are also being made in faculty and staff positions in order to help deal with the contraction of positions during the pandemic.
- What kind of assumptions are being made about course delivery next year?
 - B. MacIsaac advised that from an expense perspective, the starting point is what Faculties/units had as their base budget this year. S. Cantrell will be discussing changes with the units in helping decide how to allocate the \$3.5m surplus. Further, when they build the budget, they always include contingency, including reserves – that \$3.5m will serve as a contingency during the year.
 - L. Livingston advised that they are anticipating more people on campus with the necessary supports to do that. She clarified that it will not look like pre-pandemic planning and each faculty member is being encouraged to define their way forward, which depends on their discipline and Faculty.
- Looks like every year we were conservative with our budgeting. If we are continuously experiencing a several million-dollar surplus, does this send the wrong message to the government when looking for additional funding?
 - L. Livingston noted that it is prudent to be conservative and run surpluses given the current government.
 - The Chair added that the government is looking for relatively moderate surpluses to ensure fiscal sustainability.

7. Steering Committee Delegation of Authority Review

E. Partosoedarso presented the delegation of authority for approval. She informed Council that work is happening to update the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, so this should be one of the last times this has to come forward for approval.

Upon a motion duly made by E. Partosoedarso and seconded by R. Kay, Academic Council unanimously 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 AC'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 the Steering Committee agenda and material to be circulated to AC to provide AC members with an opportunity to provide feedback for consideration by the Steering Committee; the Steering Committee meetings will be public and available AC members may join virtually to listen; notice of decisions made by the Steering Committee on behalf of AC will be distributed immediately following the meeting, with the relevant minutes to be provided to AC after approval.*

Committee Reports

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Major Program Modification - Bachelor of Engineering Co-Op

L. Roy provided an overview of the proposal. He responded to questions from AC, which included:

- How would this be rolled out to current students?
 - Q. Mahmoud referred to the transition plan in the proposal – for current students completing first year, they will be able to apply to be admitted and will be required to complete a 6-module course before starting co-op.
 - For third year students, if they have completed 3 co-op work terms and have satisfied all requirements, they should be eligible to graduate with the co-op designation.
 - Q. Mahmoud discussed how the changes have been proposed to address several challenges (e.g. many students participate in co-op and it is not attached to the program and the students do not pay a co-op fee; international students in engineering are not allowed to participate in co-op because it is not a program requirement, etc.); with these changes, international students will be able to obtain a work permit and work off campus.
- Will co-op positions be paid?
 - Follows the required guidelines.

- Question about guidelines regarding co-ops that was passed by AC in 2010 – was this proposal developed in accordance with those guidelines?
 - L. Roy advised that it is his understanding that those procedures are in the process of being updated.
 - There was a discussion regarding the minimum GPA requirement and how it excludes many students.
- J. Bradbury raised a point of order regarding the proposal if not developed in accordance with the applicable guidelines
- K. McCartney clarified that because they are only guidelines, AC is able to approve the proposed changes as long as members are comfortable doing so.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by R. Rutterberg-Rozen, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Engineering programs.

9. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

(a) New Program Proposal - Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Master of Applied Science and Master of Engineering in Software Engineering

L. Roy provided a high-level summary of the proposal. A member commented that it is great to see co-op and experiential learning in our professional graduate programs.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by R. Liscano, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Master of Applied Science and Master of Engineering in Software Engineering and recommends approval of the program to the Board of Governors.

10. Governance & Nominations Committee (Lori Livingston)

(a) Academic Council nomination – Administrative Staff position

L. Livingston informed Council that a by-election was held from November 9-11 to fill the vacant administrative staff position on Academic Council. Additional information about the election process was included in the accompanying report.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by C. Rodgers, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the appointment of Patricia MacMillan as the Administrative Staff member of Academic Council for the term of December 1, 2021 until June 30, 2024.

(b) Academic Council Committee nominations

L. Livingston reminded Council that during the September meeting she encouraged members to submit expressions of interest for the vacant positions on standing committees. GNC received several expressions of interest for positions on the Steering Committee and Governance & Nominations Committee and are bringing them forward for approval. For the Steering Committee, there are still two vacant positions open to all elected members of Council. For the Governance & Nominations Committee, there remain three vacant positions open to elected teaching staff and one vacant position open to students. If interested, she encouraged members to send their expression of interest to B. Dinwoodie as soon as possible.

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

- *Governance & Nominations Committee – Wendy Barber (elected faculty member of AC) from November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Steering Committee – Jeremy Bradbury (elected faculty member of AC) from November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023*
- *Steering Committee - Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen (elected faculty member of AC) from November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*

(c) Faculty Council Vice-Chair nominations

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by C. Rodgers, 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 November 1, 2021 until September 30, 2022:

- *Faculty of Education - Allyson Eamer*
- *Faculty of Science – Sean Forrester*

11. Research Committee

L. Jacobs updated Council on the recent major donor announcement for the Brilliant Energy Institute, which will be a great contribution to the building facilities. There will be close collaboration with the Deans on establishing those labs. He also reported on the appointing of Jackie Hoornweg as the Executive Director of the Brilliant Energy Institute. L. Jacobs also provided an update on research grant applications and the Research Ethics Board.

12. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of October 26, 2021**
- (b) Conferral of Degrees Fall 2021**

Upon a motion duly made by L. Jacobs and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

13. For Information:

USC:

(a) Minor Program Adjustments:

- (i) Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering**
- (ii) Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice**

(b) Cyclical Program Review - Bachelor of Science in Applied and Industrial Mathematics

GSC:

(c) Minor Program Adjustment - Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science – Master of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering UNENE Administered Program

GNC:

(d) Academic Council 2022 Election Process

14. Other Business

15. Termination

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by E. Partosoedarso, the meeting terminated at 4:07 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary