

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 25, 2022 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
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
Hogue, Andrew
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori

Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Naumkin, Fedor
Partosoedarso, Elita
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea
Boujos, Kristen
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Dinwoodie, Becky
Drinkwalter, Andra
Hamilton, Barb
Heslip, Michelle
Hester, Krista
Hornweg, Dan
Lemonde, Manon
Lin, Sylvia
Livingstone, Clarissa
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
Nickle, Joanne
O'Malley, Grace
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Dubrowski, Adam
Partosoedarso, Elita
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 G. Crawford and seconded by C. Davidson, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed P. MacMillan and B. Murphy to their first AC meeting. He noted that it is the first AC meeting of 2022 and hopes that this is a better year than the last two. He hopes everyone had a chance to rest and recharge over the holiday break. The Chair also encouraged everyone to get their booster dose, if they haven't had an opportunity to do so already. He reminded Council that work will continue remotely until January 31.

The Chair congratulated Jackie Hoornweg on her appointment as the Executive Director of the Brilliant Energy Institute. The Chair reported on conversations he has had with various groups about integrated health care. The long-term care sector needs a reset and there is a demand for policy and best practices. The Chair noted that the OUAC numbers are now publicly available. Ontario Tech application numbers are up by 33%, which is great for the university. While he recognizes that applications do not necessarily lead to enrolments, it is very encouraging. He also highlighted the university's recent ranking in the top 3 of research universities.

4. Inquiries and Communications

(a) COU Academic Colleague Report

A. King delivered the COU Academic Colleague report. She highlighted 3 items:

- New arts and humanities programs at McMaster - McMaster is integrating technology and hard skills training into arts and humanities programs.
- Tuition fees - the government is aiming to provide students with increased accountability, transparency and clarity by providing details of tuition fees at Ontario's postsecondary institutions.
- Jurisdictional scan on 3-year universities - because of the government's interest in possibly allowing 3-year degrees to be granted at colleges, the COU undertook a scan of 3-year degrees at universities in BC, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, US, UK, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Three-year degrees offered by universities are the international norm – this is something for the university to think about.
- Lakehead's Indigenous Content Requirement – could be helpful to the university as we roll out the Indigenous Studies minor.

5. Provost's Remarks

The Provost extended her congratulations to Sue Coffey, who received a Minister's Award of Excellence last week.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost confirmed that the FSSH Dean Renewal Advisory Committee met for the first time last week. The committee will be considering Dean Stoett's accomplishments over his first term, as well as his vision for the future. She advised

that the call for expressions of interest will be issued for the search committee for the next Dean of SGPS. The Provost thanked B. Murphy for stepping in as acting Dean and thanked L. Roy for his many years of service.

6. 2022-2023 Tuition Framework

The Provost reminded Council that this is an annual discussion item at Academic Council. S. Cantrell referred members to the briefing note included in the material. S. Cantrell explained that the domestic fees will be in line with the province's tuition fee framework, so there are no proposed changes at this time. She reviewed the proposed changes to the international tuition fees. She noted that none of the adjustments proposed would take the university above the system median and average. They are recommending an increase to first year international tuition to provide some stability for upper year in course students by capping those increases at 5%.

(M. Frazer joined at 2:50 p.m.)

S. Cantrell also noted that more money will be made available to our international students (32% increase over last year). She advised that they are looking at it holistically by not only examining the tuition but by also looking at how it impacts our students and how we can better support them.

S. Cantrell responded to questions and comments from Council, which included:

- Domestic and international tuition for the new Masters of Business Analytics and AI differs from what was approved. The full-time international tuition is shown as \$45,000 and on the website it is \$41,000. Can this be revisited as it will cause some confusion?
- Concern about a 15% increase in Masters in Computer Sciences in one year – unclear as to how we are offsetting that increase in terms of graduate funding – reason for the increase?
 - Tuition for the Masters in Computer Science was significantly lower than our competitors, so they looked to make it closer to the average of our competitors, particularly because it is a high demand program. Even with the recommended increase, it is still about \$6000 less than the average in the system.
- Concern that faculty need to be able to support the graduate students in light of the changes.
 - Graduate scholarships will also increase for the year.

Committee Reports

7. Research Committee

L. Jacobs offered his congratulations to the six Research Excellence Chairs who were announced today. He noted the application pool was outstanding and he acknowledged the terrific applications of those who were not selected.

(a) Age With Dignity Campus of Care and Best Practices Research Centre Proposal

L. Jacobs advised that the proposal has been guided by M. Lemonde, who is in attendance. The proposal is about consolidating the university's strengths and providing research-based guidance for policy and best practices. He responded to the following questions and comments from Council:

- As there are no additional physical/financial/staff requirements, do centres such as this make the work of other researchers at the university less valuable? Is this about vetting faculty research?
 - L. Jacobs responded that the proposal and similar proposals of this sort have had an organic quality to them, reflecting a high level of faculty engagement. He advised that it is not about vetting faculty research programs. Creating research centres aligns with the strategic research plan. The strategic thinking about it is that as a smaller university, the consolidation of existing research activities is a strength when it comes to larger collaborative research grants (e.g. clear that there are funding opportunities in this area). There is also strategic value in bringing these strengths together. Centres also have the effect of facilitating cross-faculty collaboration. If we were providing significant money to support the centre, it would be at the expense of other researchers and would be more problematic.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Jacobs and seconded by A. Slane, pursuant to the recommendation of the Research Committee, Academic Council unanimously recommended the establishment of the Age with Dignity Campus of Care and Best Practices Research Centre for approval by the Board of Governors, as presented.

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: New Diploma in Public Policy Proposal

L. Roy provided a high-level review of the proposed diploma.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Undergraduate Diploma in Public Policy and recommends the program for approval by the Board.

(b) Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science & Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: New Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Energy Engineering

L. Roy summarized the new program proposal, which builds on the university's strengths. The proposal is very timely and they believe that there will be a lot of student interest.

Council members had the following questions and comments:

- Course selected for the program for 4th year is BUSI 2205U and it differs from the course that was approved by FEAS Faculty Council (BUSI 2200) (pg. 25).
 - There was a discussion regarding the appropriate consultation and governance process for the course change. K. McCartney advised that it went through the appropriate governance process and was properly approved by FBIT. She clarified that the program maps included in the proposals are not part of the actual curriculum proposal being approved. Further, it has been corrected in the newest version. There was further discussion about the consultation process with other Faculties when such proposals come forward.
- A member expressed support for the proposal and shared that they feel it will be a nice addition to the university. Has any consideration been given to crossing courses as there is a lot of value of having engineering and science students together in courses, especially during upper years?
 - H. Kishawy advised that for accreditation, every program should have AU (academic units); the difference between engineering and science is that science can do work without engineering but engineering cannot do work without science.

L. Roy addressed the course number discrepancy and noted that both course titles are now listed in the program map. He suggested that the proposal be approved today with the understanding that there needs to be some tidying up of the course title/number.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by A. Barari, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council approved the Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Energy Engineering and recommends the program for approval by the Board.

There were two abstentions.

There was a question about the availability of USC material as they are public meetings. K. McCartney shared the link to the material in the chat.

(c) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: New Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Industrial Engineering

L. Roy provided an overview of the proposal. He explained that it is a morphing of mechatronics engineering. It contains industry 4.0 aspects to it (e.g. human/machine interactions). It also builds on the university's strengths and has been externally reviewed. It is setting itself up for success. He responded to questions and comments from Council. Similar concerns were expressed about FBIT's involvement in the proposal and the substitution of courses. A suggestion was made to have more collaboration/communication among Faculties when developing such proposals.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Industrial Engineering and recommends the program for approval by the Board.

There was one abstention.

(d) Registrar's Office: Black or Indigenous Heritage Student-Athlete (BIHS) Bursary

L. Roy provided the background to the proposal. Questions and comments from Academic Council included:

- Also want to ensure that we deal with women's needs in athletics – female athletes are also often seen as “lesser than”.
 - The Chair added that as a board member of OUA, there is equal attention being paid to issues of female athletes.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by J. Stokes, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the University's participation in the Black or Indigenous Heritage Student-Athlete (BIHS) Bursary program.

(e) Major Program Modification - Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Criminology and Justice Minor

L. Roy presented the proposed modification for consideration. He explained that there are multiple minor adjustments that constitute a major modification.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council unanimously approved the Major Program Modification to the Criminology and Justice Minor.

9. Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)

(a) Updated Steering Committee Terms of Reference

L. Livingston reviewed the background to the proposed amendments. She thanked B. Dinwoodie for her efforts on working through the comments to incorporate them into the updated terms of reference.

Comments and questions from Academic Council included:

- Concern about item (e), as feels that it goes beyond the intent of Council – unsure of the type of situations when this might occur.
 - L. Livingston used the example of an extreme weather event that equates to a natural disaster (e.g. winter conditions when everyone locked in their homes and unable to convene Academic Council).
- Feels that it should be more clearly laid out in the terms of reference that decisions made under the delegated authority could be reconsidered.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, Academic Council recommended the updated Steering Committee Terms of Reference, as presented, for approval by the Board of Governors.

28 voted in favour, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

10. Policy Consultation:

(a) Procurement Of Goods And Services – Procedures

B. Maclsaac presented the procedures for consultation. A member commented that the changes will be helpful in modernizing the dollar amounts in the document. Another member suggested including a timeline for service in the document with respect to signing, although raising the thresholds might alleviate some of those timing concerns.

11. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Steering Committee Delegation of Authority Review**
- (b) Minutes of the Meeting of November 23, 2021**
- (c) Academic Council Nomination - FESNS member**

Upon a motion duly made by G. Crawford and seconded by L. Elliott, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

12. For Information:

Registrar's Office:

- (a) 2022-2023 Academic Schedule**

USC:

- (b) Minor Program Adjustments:**

- (i) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Accounting Minor

- (ii) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Entrepreneurship Minor for FBIT Students
 - (iii) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Entrepreneurship Minor for Students Outside FBIT
 - (iv) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Marketing Minor for IT
 - (v) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Technology Management Minor
 - (vi) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics Engineering
- (c) Cyclical Program Reviews**
- (i) Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering
 - (ii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Automotive Engineering
 - (iii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering
 - (iv) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Software Engineering

13. Other Business

None.

14. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad, the public session adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary