

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, March 22, 2022

2:30 – 3:55p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Bradbury, Jeremy
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Hogue, Andrew
Hoorweg, Daniel
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam

Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Naumkin, Fedor
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Boujos, Kristen
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Hamilton, Barb
Hester, Krista
Lin, Sylvia
Livingstone, Clarissa
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McGovern, Sue
Nickle, Joanne
O'Malley, Grace
Shah, Alena
Tepylo, Diane

Regrets:

Barari, Ahmad
Bliemel, Michael
Barber, Wendy
Dubrowski, Adam
Frazer, Mitch
Jones, Ferdinand
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Partosoedarso, Elita
Rastpour, Amir

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by B. Murphy and seconded by H. Kishawy, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair acknowledged the spring weather and that it was great to see faculty, staff and students on campus. He noted that although the province has lifted the mandatory vaccination and masking policy for the province, Ontario Tech will continue to keep these in place until at least April 30. Upon walking around campus our community members reiterate the feelings on safety on campus and this remains our number one priority. He reminded members that Durham College has also kept their mandates in place.

The Chair also noted that it was good news to see that the Colleges and the Union were able to prevent a strike at the last hour.

He thanked the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities for the useful insight provided on the webinar recently. Several professors from FSSH offered analysis and discussion on the war raging in Ukraine. Panelists discussed economic, environmental, humanitarian, and legal implications. The Chair further updated that there is work being done to look into potential bursaries and scholarships around refugee status and that more information will be forthcoming as we get the details.

Questions from members included:

- Understand why we are keeping our mandates in place, however, is there an opportunity to open more doors across campus?
 - Many of our sister institutions that are larger in size have not had the capacity to have security on doors and check vaccine and mask status; We heard from faculty, staff and students that they feel safe being on campus and having that check gives them reassurance. We don't want to deviate from our plan at this point. Consistency is important for the entire community.

4. Inquiries and Communications

None.

5. Provost's Remarks

The Provost noted that there are still open faculty positions available for the Search Advisory Committee for the next Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for FBIT, FSSH and FESNS. She asked interested parties to send expressions of interest to Krista Hester. The Provost clarified that the procedures state the faculty members must be at the Associate Teaching Professor rank or higher.

The Provost went on to note some important dates of events taking place in the coming week where we will celebrate the accomplishments of colleagues and students:

- Three Minute Thesis (virtual): Heats begin March 23 and finals will be held on March 24 at 2:30 p.m.
- Experience Days (in person): March 26 and March 27 (previously termed “Open Houses”) are grouped by functional areas.
 - Saturday at 9am: Business and Computing (north);
 - Saturday at 1pm: Engineering (north);
 - Sunday at 11am: Social Science and Humanities (downtown) and Science Health and Medicine (north).
- Celebrate Teaching Awards (hybrid): March 30 from 2-4 pm in Shawenjigewining Hall.

Questions from members included:

- How will the mandatory vaccination directive be enforced during the experience days?
 - There is a “visitor” option through the Ontario Tech app. They will be granted a yellow pass and asked for proof of vaccination at the door.
- Will graduation be an in-person event?
 - Hoping to have in person, but we are always watching the health situation.

6. Integrated Academic Research Plan – Proposed Metrics (D): Lori Livingston and Sarah Cantrell

L. Livingston introduced the item and noted that the Integrated Academic Research Plan has evolved over time and is now concise and relatively easy to read. It is a rolling plan that we review and update year over year and is action oriented. She noted that the next logical step in the process is to identify ways to measure performance against those items in the plan. We will now identify metrics to track and measure our successes against the plan over time and this will help us identify if we need to make changes.

S. Cantrell presented the proposed plan and asked for feedback from Academic Council.

Feedback from Council included:

- Tech with a Conscience – the current metrics are focused on measuring teaching or learning with technology but it goes beyond using tech in the classroom. Ethics and hard conversations that go along with that.
- Graduate employment earnings should be more longterm instead of immediate as some fields take a few years for earnings to rise.
- Engagement should go beyond industry (i.e. community partners – not for profit).
- What is the default metric when trying to measure something? Are we saying something online is good vs in person is not as good. Be explicit in the

narrative instead of just the numbers. In many cases in person is the best mode of delivery and we don't want to discount that just by looking at numbers.

- It's more about student choice and flexibility to be able to allow some of those pieces. We need to pay attention as we come out of the pandemic how we deliver the courses and provide flexibilities. There will be a narrative around each and it will be examined annually to determine if we are providing the best delivery and flexibility for students and how it relates to "sticky campus". In person or virtual – neither is more important than the other.
- Will Faculties be involved in metrics as in previous years?
 - Currently we are starting at the institutional level but will keep this in mind moving forward.
- There are some pedagogical reasons to bring students on campus so how to mandate flexibility and student choice and sticky campus if the priority will be having students elect to not come to campus. Don't want to lose the sense of community.
 - Data will help inform those discussion – where is the sweet spot.
- While focusing on areas of the Mission (things to achieve) we don't want to do at the expense of our Values.

Committee Reports

7. Research Committee (Les Jacobs)

L. Jacobs noted that Tri Council has been slow in getting results out so we are waiting on those but optimistic.

He updated Council on the CFREF major funding opportunity that was first announced in October 2021. The total funding is 1.4 billion dollars and there are 71 eligible universities across the country and each institution can only submit one application. It's a major collaborative research grant we are pursuing in integrated energy systems and touches on all Faculties. The project optimizes our vision of tech with a conscience and how to get to net zero. The LOI deadline is April 5. Ideally, we will be selected to go on to full application in early September. The total ask is 60M for our project and we are asking CFREF for 40M. He concluded by noting that Deans and Research Board reps can provide more information about the application.

8. Undergraduate & Graduate Studies Committees (Langis Roy & Bernadette Murphy)

(a) Ontario Tech Institutional Quality Assurance Process Policy Documents* (M)

L. Roy presented the proposal for consideration.

L. Roy noted that our current policy was approved only two years ago, however, Quality Assurance province wide has now been reviewed and we are now catching up with the QA framework.

Questions and comments from members included:

- How are micro-credentials incorporated into the policy?
 - This has been incorporated into existing processes to streamline. There is a non-governing Micro-credentials Committee available for consultation and to oversee all micro-credentials. If academic in nature, it will go through Faculty Council then to either USC or GSC for approval and to AC for information. If non-academic, after appropriate consultation it will be approved by the initiating Faculty or Unit, and then to the Micro-credential Committee and AC for information. This includes all university branded micro-credentials (including those sponsored by Continuous Learning and Ontario Tech Talent).
- How is TLC now equally involved with CIQE in the process?
 - TLC's role is to assist and develop workshops if needed. The role of the TLC is to support.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by B. Murphy, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the GSC and USC, Academic Council hereby approves the updated IQAP Policy and Procedures, as presented.

9. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

(a) New Indigenous Minor (M)

L. Roy presented the proposal for consideration.

Discussion:

- Has the vulnerability of the program been looked at? We wouldn't want to completely rely on sessionals if there was turnover of faculty and staff. Are contingencies in place to ensure longevity?
 - The risks are there, however, we want to ensure we are living by our principles as a university and supporting inclusivity and decolonization.
 - We have a pipeline with Trent university (dissertation completion fellowship) and have a fair amount of continuity in the Faculty.
- On of the TRC calls to action is around creating university and college programs in native languages. Is this something we could look at?
 - Currently we do not have a school of language studies that would make this a focus but it is something to think about.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett that, pursuant to the recommendation of USC, Academic Council hereby approves the new Indigenous Studies Minor.

Major Program Modifications

(b) Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies Advanced Entry & Minor Programs* (M)

L. Roy presented the proposal for consideration.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by R. Kay, that, pursuant to the recommendation of USC, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies Advanced Entry and Minor programs.

10. Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) (Lori Livingston)

(a) Nominations to FESNS Reconfiguration Review Committee* (M)

L. Livingston presented the proposal for consideration.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by B. Murphy, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the following appointments to the FESNS Reconfiguration Committee for approval by Academic Council:

- *Ahmad Barari, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science member*
- *Wendy Barber, Faculty of Education member*
- *Daniel Hoornweg, Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science member*
- *Joshua Sankarlal, Student member*

11. Consent Agenda:

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of March 1, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by L. Roy, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

12. For Information:

(a) USC Minor Program Adjustments:

- (i) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Bachelor of Commerce Minor Programs*
- (ii) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Bachelor of IT in Networking and IT Security*
- (iii) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Bachelor of IT in Networking and IT Security Advanced Entry*
- (iv) Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Education – Primary/Junior*
- (v) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering in Automotive Engineering*
- (vi) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Science in Nursing & RPN to BScN Bridge Programs*
- (b) GSC Minor Program Adjustments:
 - (i) MAsc and MEng in Automotive Engineering and MAsc, MEng, and PhD in Mechanical Engineering*
 - (ii) MAsc, MEng, PhD, and Graduate Diplomas in Nuclear Engineering*
 - (iii) Master of Science in Nursing*
- (c) GNC:
 - (i) Update to AC Election Process

13. Other Business

L. Roy noted that the Pi Day series of speakers is really great and it's the best year yet for putting together wide variety of topics and presentations.

14. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane, the meeting terminated at 3:52 p.m.

Krista Hester, Acting Secretary