

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 2022
2:30 – 4:00 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
Hoorweg, Daniel
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam

Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Naumkin, Fedor
Partosoedarso, Elita
Rodgers, Carol
Rastpour, Amir
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Boujos, Kristen
Callahan, Stephanie
Gottlieb, Sara
Hester, Krista
Law, Corey
Lin, Sylvia
MacIsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
O'Malley, Grace
O'Halloran, Niall
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Barari, Ahmad
Crawford, Greg
Dubrowski, Adam
Hogue, Andrew
Easton, Brad

Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
Leishman, Jessica
Lloyd, Meghann
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar

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 E. Partosoedarso, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair remarked on the weather from the long weekend and how we are all thinking about those that had issues across the province.

He also noted that the university will be extending the mask mandate throughout the summer months as we hear that people feel safe on campus. We will continue to follow recommendations and gather information over the summer to determine what is best for the fall. A question was raised about other COVID-related protocols and what is being planned for the fall semester. The Provost noted that we are currently working on setting the schedule while following public health guidelines and monitoring the situation as it continues to evolve. The Deans have been involved in scheduling and although we are not back to a "pre-pandemic" schedule, we are trying to get



necessary programming back on campus in person. The President noted that as another wave may be possible we will need to transition from what we were doing.

The Chair also reminded Council about Convocation, June 8 to 10. We are planning for Faculty-specific ceremonies that will be held outdoors on Polonsky Commons. There are many volunteers required for each ceremony, both in formal (i.e. platform party participants) and informal (i.e. behind the scenes work) that require many individuals. We are grateful for any help you can offer.

He also let members know that the University Secretary position has been posted and we are hoping to have someone in place for September 1 (as a best-case scenario).

The Chair concluded by noting that Ontario Tech has been chosen along with three other universities by the Office of the Auditor General to complete a Value for Money Audit. This year they are focusing on smaller academic institutions and next year the plan is for larger academic institutions. The Audit is focused on finances and governance to see how we operate. He noted that this is an opportunity for us to learn and improve and also highlight the good news stories about Ontario Tech. The OAG timeline is tight as they would like to have it finished in the fall of this year.

A question was raised about the recent audit that was completed last year by MCU and how it differs from the OAG audit. The OAG is an independent body that reports into the legislature. This audit has a different scale and scope and is focused on finances and governance. We are just beginning to learn about scope and specific questions and understanding what they will want to know and who they want to speak with.

4. Inquires and Communications

There were none.

5. Provost's Remarks

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost noted that the search for the Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is underway and that the Committee has met twice. There have been a couple messages out to the campus community regarding the formation of the Committee and providing projected timelines. The advertisement is posted and up for review for potential candidates. The Committee is allowing the summer for candidates to apply.

(b) 2022 Programs and Quality Enhancement Annual Report

The Provost reminded Council that the purpose of the report is to outline what Quality Assurance enhancements have been made to align our policies with province; and to ensure effective governance for new programs.

(c) 2022 Continuous Learning Annual Report

The Provost noted that this is an annual report to Academic Council and the Board of Governors for information that provides a summary of offerings, enrolments in programs as well as major activities to expand professional development program offerings. Newly introduced programs are highlighted with a blue star in the summary at the end of the document.

Committee Reports

6. Research Committee (Les Jacobs)

L. Jacobs congratulated Nina Simmons on receiving the Ontario Early Researcher Award, the most prestigious junior researcher award. He noted that her research program is focused on water quality in the ring of fire and is a stellar example of tech with a conscience. Further, Markus Piro, Tier II CRC, has been renewed for another five years. His research program is focused on small modular reactors, which is very much a research space we are building strength in.

He also spoke about the upcoming launch of the Moving Ground Plane in ACE on Thursday and how this will help us focus on situating ACE as a core research facility and position the university for multiple users, not only within the institution but in government and industry. He acknowledged all the hard work of all involved in getting this project to completion. He noted that there was a 15M+ investment in state-of-the-art technology in ACE and the launch of ACE as a core research facility. That investment was largely from FedDev with significant industry contributions, particularly from Magna and Multimatic.

7. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) (Langis Roy)

Major Program Modifications

(a) Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences

L. Roy stated that a couple of years ago the Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences went through a cyclical program review (item 11 – final assessment report for info). Along with the recommendations for program enhancement documented in item 11 there was an exercise in updating the program learning objectives that were substantial enough to be passed through as a major program modification.

There was the original set of 16 program learning outcomes (PLO). Some are discontinued through various means and have been replaced by 6 PLOs that capture the previous ones and actually updates and enhances them.

A question was asked as to why a major modification to the PLOs came to Academic Council without any other associated changes to the program. It was noted that the program has had a number of minor adjustments that have come through over the years and we encourage programs to review the PLO when they make the changes but that doesn't always occur until we are at the program review change and we realize the PLO need to be looked at. The program review cycle gives us a good opportunity to do these sorts of sweeping reviews to confirm PLOs are still appropriate and meet the current needs of the discipline.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by C. Rodgers, that, pursuant to the recommendation of USC, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Program Learning Outcomes resulting from the Bachelor of Allied Health Science Cyclical Program Review.

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

(a) Election Results

L. Livingston presented the election results, confirming the elections were run smoothly and without any issues.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

Upon a motion duly made by E. Partosoedarso and B. Murphy that pursuant to the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Governance & Nominations Committee hereby recommends the following appointments for approval by Academic Council:

Teaching Staff Positions on Academic Council for the term of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025:

- *Faculty of Business & Information Technology: Mehdi Hossein Nejad;*
- *Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science: Scott Nokleby;*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences: Toba Bryant;*
- *Faculty Science: Robert Bailey; and*
- *Faculty At Large: Ahmad Barari*

Student Position on Academic Council for the term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, renewable for an additional year:

- *MaryCae Serote (undergraduate);*
- *Cory Law (undergraduate);*
- *Manisha Peters (undergraduate); and*
- *Josh Sankarlal (undergraduate renewal/not eligible for further renewal).*

Student Position on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of May 24, 2022 – August 31, 2023

- *Isabel Smith (undergraduate); and*
- *MaryCae Serote (undergraduate).*

Teaching Staff Positions on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of May 24, 2022 – June 30, 2025:

- *Brent MacRae, Faculty of Business and Information Technology;*

Teaching Staff Positions on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025:

- *Wesley Crichlow, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities; and*
- *Amir Mostaghim, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.*

9. Policy Consultation (Langis Roy)

(a) Experiential Learning Directives

L. Roy noted that the document has undergone quite a bit of consultation and they are continuing to do so. The policy instrument is intended to help programs design experiential learning into them.

Lots of discussion took place around the definition of paid vs unpaid co-op, internship or practicum for different programs and Faculties. The policy is setting the minimum standards so programs

can have additional requirements. Yes, in FBIT you can say that every internship in FBIT can be paid.

There was also clarification around who is on the Experiential Learning committee and how they were appointed. L. Roy answered by noting that three years ago an Experiential Learning Task Force was formed (headed by P. Stoett). It was created to maximize our ability to receive funds through the Career Ready fund and other opportunities. The task force did its work. This is a standing committee, along with others (i.e. Microcredentials, Strategic Enrolment Management) that was formed. An invitation was made to all Faculty deans and unit leads to put forward a nominee/representative and there is broad representation from each area. He stated that it also doesn't prevent us from inviting individuals that aren't ongoing committee members to contribute. It is a consultative (not decision making), advisory committee.

A question was asked about the GPA and if it was in line with other institutions. L. Roy responded that the committee spent a fair amount of time considering that point and it became clear that no one is trying to diminish our reputation. Everyone is committed to ensuring our students go out and shine and represent us well. It is clear that GPA is a number in itself and is not the only indicator. The committee felt there needed to be a certain minimum GPA but that there should also be other requirements. Programs individually can choose a higher GPA.

10. Consent Agenda (M)

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of April 26, 2022*

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

11. For Information:

(a) USC Cyclical Program Review – Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences*

12. Other Business

None.

13. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad, the meeting terminated at 3:42 p.m.

Krista Hester, Interim Secretary