

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 28, 2022
2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Dubrowski, Adam
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Hoorweg, Daniel
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Hogue, Andrew
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson

Kishawy, Hossam
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Partosoedarso, Elita
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea
Boujos, Kristen
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Forrester, Sean
Hester, Krista
Law, Corey
Levy, Melissa
Lin, Sylvia
MacIsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
O'Halloran, Niall
O'Malley, Grace
Papke, Darryl
Shah, Alena
Tepyllo, Diane

Regrets:

Azad, Nader
Frazer, Mitch
Jones, Ferdinand
Jacobs, Les
Leishman, Jessica
Naumkin, Fedor
O'Rourke, Nicholas

Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rastpour, Amir
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Joshua

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2. Agenda

The Provost requested to add an item under Committee Reports (will be new item 11) coming from the Governance and Nominations Committee to approve a nomination of a teaching staff member to the Academic Appeals Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by E. Partosoedarso and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last Academic Council meeting of the academic year. He reminded Council of the extension of the mask mandate throughout the summer as we

are hearing from our campus community members that this continues to make everyone feel safe.

The Chair thanked all faculty and staff that participated in Convocation and noted how remarkable it was to hold the ceremonies on Polonsky Commons. It was truly a very special time for our students and their families.

Finally, as it was a difficult year, the Chair thanked everyone for all the hard work and perseverance.

4. Provost's Remarks

a. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost reminded Academic Council that the search for the new Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is underway.

She also noted that nominations for next year's honorary doctorates is open and information can be found on the website.

She reiterated her gratitude to all those involved with and participated in Convocation as it was a huge success. She noted that it was a wonderful way to welcome people on campus and the feedback from the community is tremendous.

The Provost noted that Ontario Tech hosted the CUPA conference last week and thanked Sarah Cantrell and her teams in OIRA and CIQE. She also thanked the Registrar's office for their assistance.

Another successful event held last week was the Staff Awards ceremony and the Provost thanked Beth Partlow and the HR team on the event. We said a fond farewell to Rick Bourque as he retires. She thanked all those involved and noted that we value everyone that works and studies at Ontario Tech University. The Provost wished everyone a great summer.

M. Eklund inquired about the search for the Vice-President, Advancement. The President noted that it is going well and we are moving from long list to short list and hoping the position will be filled for sometime in the fall.

5. Inquiries and Communications

There were none.

6. 2022-2023 Budget Update

B. MacIsaac and L. Livingston provided an update on the budget.

B. MacIsaac reminded Council that we present and track the budget on a modified cash basis (i.e. cash in/cash out) and the fiscal year is April 1 to March 31.

The Budget Working Group looks at the budget at a number of perspectives and walks through each ask. He noted the estimated revenue increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23 to be \$22.7M (mainly from growth in international and commercial services coming back). He noted that the recommendation is to spend \$4.8M from prior year reserves. Base expenditures are things that are already baked into budgets (i.e. salary increases). He noted that there is approximately \$23M to allocate, however, not all of this is discretionary.

The Commercial budget includes auxiliary (i.e. parking) and food services – this money cannot be moved into the classroom. The Infrastructure budget has an increase of \$7.5M in expenses; \$2M is a grant from the government and \$4.4 is dedicated with other prior year reserves. He noted that there is \$11M in all of the asks to allocate to priorities. He reiterated that the priorities drive the budget.

L. Livingston focused on the priorities and stated that the Integrated Academic Research Plan drives the budget, not the other way around. She presented examples of where money is being spent against the priorities:

Sticky Campus: Commitment to Mental Health and EDI - \$9.7M invested in 58 new full time employees and \$1M in five specific EDI hires.

Sticky Campus/Learning Re-imagined: Student Centric University - \$3M FT/PT faculty to support enrolment, \$1.8M for recruitment and \$1.6M in financial aid.

Learning Re-imagined/Tech with a Conscience: Innovative Programming - \$2.1M Health Simulation lab, \$3M in the 61 Charles Street building renovation as a downtown hub and \$1M in IT projects (i.e. cybersecurity and two-factor authentication).

Learning Re-imagined/Partnerships: Scholarship of Teaching and Teaching Practice - \$1M to support faculty members in pedagogical initiatives (i.e. scholars in residence program and the OER coordinator position) and \$1M in seed funding to the Brilliant Energy Institute and Brilliant Catalyst.

B. Maclsaac spoke about scenario planning and longterm needs. The budget is set by management in February and last November they came to Academic Council with different assumptions for the budget. A 1% deviation in enrolment leads to approximately \$1M in variance from tuition fee revenues. Due to the greater numbers in 101 applications that risk is minimized for us.

For the future expenses we expect normal salary increases and inflationary costs and the current budget is conservative in revenues and leaves less for the Provost to allocate. He further reminded Council that since 2012 we have been in the corridor funding, tuition was cut 10% and then frozen.

For financial sustainability we need to start looking at deferred maintenance (our buildings are still new but looking out to 2040 there will be more and more associated costs).

B. Maclsaac wrapped up by noting that the university is in a good financial position to move forward.

Questions and comments from Council included:

- Will the York campus in Markham have an effect our numbers?
 - This is something that has been on our radar. They have run into a series of delays. We remained concerned about their presence but they are just one of many potential competitors.
- Graph in the presentation notes 2020-2025 we are more than doubling our intake of international students from 8-9% to about 18% approximately. Understand why

but wondering about our support and resources. What is the risk associated? Seems like a really big increase in a short amount of time.

- Confirmation about graph/numbers. Page 4 figure 2 shows international at 8% to projected 16.8% in 2024 (total not just intake). Large growth on small numbers. Growth to 16% addresses what we see in the system which is closer to 18%. We are just having a late start in getting to that number. Also, there are supports in place for the expected growth.
- As we grow we have to add more supports, this is reflected in some staff positions added this year. We will scale up staff as we realize new students coming in.
- What about the risk with relying on international growth?
 - For risk mitigation we have a very diversified mix. Our Registrar's office has done a good job of identifying opportunities to diversify. We see these percentage increases but our starting point was on very small numbers.
- With regards to the 58 full time hires noted in the presentation – are those all net new (i.e. not including replacement hires)?
 - Confirmed – the 58 positions are net new on top of replacements that were in budget.
- Consultations going into the new Integrated Academic Research Plan and Academic Council's involvement?
 - We are working on getting the budget paper out for October/November and that is where the open sessions and townhalls will take place.
 - We are beginning the new rollout for the IARP to go to budget holders in the next few weeks. It is a rolling plan, designed to be updated on specific items. The major pillars will stay the same and it will inform the budget process.
- In regards to the Computer Science program and the growth from under 400 to 700 students, totalling over 50% of the Faculty of Science and we are operating at very low levels – how do you determine hiring?
 - We sit down in the fall and look at the data to see where we are going and try to keep up with growth but sometimes things are unexpected. We are aware of the computer science issues and have added positions and replaced current losses. We are always happy to engage in discussions with deans and program leads. We are catching up and trying to stay ahead but sometimes we can't accurately predict new intakes. We are doing our best to try to mitigate by rescinding offers for those that don't confirm or haven't paid by the cut off dates.

Committee Reports:

7. Research Committee

S. Forrester presented the Research Report. He noted that the Research Committee has been very active. The Committee oversees our institutes and research centres and they provide annual reports.

He noted that the university's total research funding is around \$21M which is on par compared to last year and that number could likely go up due to some last minute grants. He stated that our Mitacs funding has increased significantly with an applications 73% increase in its activity versus the 25% average of the program across Canada.

The 2022 URA Program – 57 projects were submitted by faculty members; 122 students applied for the 2022 program. Total awards: 7 STAR; 29 NSERC USRA = 36 grants awarded.

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

a. Major Program Modification: Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies

L. Roy noted that the main focus of this Modification is the addition of a four-year direct entry from high school option (adapted from the two-year program). There are two new electives also being added to the program and two program learning outcomes that are part of the major program modification. These changes come from building on recommendations from previous program reviews. It was unanimously approved at USC.

M. Eklund stated that when we look at resource requirements it says none required but as program grows it sounds like more resources will be required. L. Roy noted that the same logic applies as described by that Provost regarding Computer Science. Resources will follow the enrolment.

M. Eklund inquired about this coming through a couple years ago and asked if it was the same program? R. Kay stated that, no, this program is based on the pathways program (also the reason there aren't a lot of extra resources required). This is the first four-year option offered within the Faculty of Education where students can come directly from high school and can take courses from this program and across the university which can help guide them in terms of specializations. D. Tepylo built on those comments and noted that there was a great interest in a four-year educational studies program. There are no immediate new resources needed, however, that will be dependant on enrolment.

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

b. Revised Policy Document: Undergraduate and Professional Admissions Policy

L. Roy noted that this is about removing a reference to CASPer, a tool used in addition to GPA to determine eligibility of nursing students. Many other universities do not use it and we are removing it from the admissions policy.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by J. Stokes that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Undergraduate and Professional Admissions Policy, as presented.

c. York Catholic District School Board Partnership

L. Roy noted that this is an international student recruitment partnership similar to others. In order to provide an entry point, a specific pathway for gap year students who are doing the certification through the school board. It will bolster our undergraduate recruitment for international students coming from that school board.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by A. Slane, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the York Catholic District School Board partnership.

d. Global Education Language Institute ELP Partnership
L. Roy stated that we are now evaluating students in GELI ELP program for admissions. The strategy is to reach out to that group and have them assessed to admissions.

J. Stokes stated that we waive the test component. All the language schools are accredited and we do site visits with every one of them that we are in a partnership with and do review of their curriculum. We look at the success rate of all students that come through these pathways.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by J. Stokes, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Global Education Language Institute ELP partnership.

9. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

a. Revised Graduate Submission of Thesis, Project or Major Paper Policy
B. Murphy noted that this change is to remove the requirement to file a paper copy of the thesis (we are one of the last universities in the province that still requires this). The second part is that students may now be required to submit their project or major paper formally. The request is from several graduate-level programs and allows flexibility for future graduate-level programs to make this a requirement if they choose to.

Upon a motion duly made by J. Bradbury and seconded by S. Fernando, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Graduate Submission of Thesis, Project or Major Paper Policy.

10. Joint Report: Graduate Studies Committee and Undergraduate Studies Committee

a. Auditing Courses Policy
L. Roy noted that this is tidying up language about fees and the fee schedule and the cap for number of audited courses. B. Murphy noted that previously there has been a wide variation across different Faculties and there was a need to know if a student was auditing a course and if there was capacity to do so.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by J. Stokes, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Committees, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Auditing Courses Policy, as presented.

b. Examination and Grading Policy
L. Roy stated that the revisions include adding a publication date for the examination schedule and also, dates for grade submission.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by J. Stokes, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Committees, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Examination and Grading Policy, as presented.

c. Registration and Course Selection Policy

L. Roy stated that the change is regarding concurrent registration and specifies that students may not be enrolled concurrently in more than one program at any institution unless the programs set up for this. It was clarified that this is for non Ontario Tech university programs (i.e. if a student is enrolled at Ontario Tech and Durham College at the same time, that isn't allowed).

A question was raised about consultation and how that was incorporated into the revised document? L. Roy responded that it is nice to see the entire lifecycle. The major discussions for these policy revisions take place at USC and GSC and can be found in the minutes from those committees.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by B. Murphy, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Committees, Academic Council hereby approves the revised Registration and Course Selection Policy, as presented.

11. Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC)

- a. 2022 Teaching Staff Nomination to Academic Appeals Committee

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by S. Fernando, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the appointment of Janice Strap as the Teaching Staff member of the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of June 28, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

12. Consent Agenda (M)

- a. Minutes of the Meeting of May 24, 2022*
- b. Annual Board Report*

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

A question was raised about the COU Academic Colleague Report from the May meeting noting the province has or may approve increases in out of province tuition fees. L. Livingston responded that yes, the province froze in-province tuition but has allowed for an increase for out of province students. She confirmed that the majority of universities opt in and take advantage of it. We do opt in, however, we don't have many out of province students.

A further question was raised about the same report and Indigenization and what our institution is doing in this regard. L. Livingston noted the President's Indigenous Reconciliation Task Force has been very active under leadership and there are three or four different sub-committees doing a tremendous amount of work. This is also supported by the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle and Ontario Tech's Indigenous Educational and Cultural Services staff in student life.

13. For Information:

- a. Graduate Studies Committee: Graduate Programs in Nuclear Engineering – Update on Changes*
- b. Graduate Summary*

- c. Major Scholarship Recipients*
- d. New Auditing Courses Procedures*
- e. Directives for Co-Operative Education, Internship, and Practicum Development*
- f. COU Academic Colleague Report*

14. Other Business

There was none.

15. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by G. Crawford the public session of Academic Council was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.
