

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of September 27, 2022
2:30 – 4:40 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Bailey, Robert
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Bryant, Toba
Carmichael, Carla
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Dubrowski, Adam
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike

Hoorweg, Daniel
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Law, Corey
Liscano, Ramiro
Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Nokleby, Scott

Partosoedarso, Elita
Peters, Manisha
Rastpour, Amir
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Serote, MaryCae
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Regrets:

Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
Hogue, Andrew

Livingston, Lori
Nader, Azad
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea
Cantrell, Sarah
Gottlieb, Sara
Hester, Krista
Hosseini, Sayyed Ali

Lin, Sylvia
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
O'Halloran, Niall

Papke, Darryl
Shah, Alena
Townsend, Lisa
Turner, Lauren
Wingate, Adam

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. C. Davidson read aloud a land acknowledgement and shared some reflections on its meaning to her.

2. Agenda

A member requested that the two policies posted for written consultation be added to the agenda.

A member requested that agenda item 8(e) be re-named to reflect that the Faculty of Energy Systems & Nuclear Science was restructured, and not closed. The University Secretary committed to revising the materials and reflecting that correction in the minutes.

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending Academic Council, welcomed new members, and reminded attendees that orientation will immediately follow the Council meeting. The Chair went on to comment on the great energy on campus, the success of student orientation, and truth and reconciliation activities taking place this week. Members were provided updates on the universities fair, the golf tournament and fundraiser for the Becky Dinwoodie Memorial Fund, and the Chancellor's Challenge.

On behalf of the Provost, the Chair advised members that the UB Faculty Lounge is now open, Dr. Marc Rosen has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and that the next open session with the Provost and President is on October 6th at Charles Hall.

4. Public Minutes of the Meeting of June 28, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by B. Murphy, the public minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2022 were approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

6. Inquiries and Communications

- **Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Report**

A. King presented the COU Academic Colleague Report. A. King highlighted work being done on indigenizing research and noted that her report includes her own notes as well as some articles that may be of interest to Council members. The Chair acknowledged A. King's work with indigenous communities and elders and recognized her efforts as critical to the forthcoming minor in Indigenous Studies. A. King went on to update the Council on COU's advocacy efforts with the provincial and its engagement with the Association of Ontario Municipalities.

7. Provost's Remarks

- a. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

L. Roy updated Academic Council on the search for a new dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS). The Council was advised that five individuals were shortlisted by a search advisory committee in August and invited to interview. From there, two candidates were invited to give presentations to the Ontario Tech community. It is hoped that the new dean will start with the University in early 2023.

A lengthy discussion then ensued on why candidates' presentations were only in person, a scheduling conflict between one presentation and this meeting of Academic Council, and why no recordings were being made. Concerns were expressed about the short notice of presentations and difficulties accessing candidates' curricula vitae. The Chair clarified that a significant driver of confidentiality is the candidates themselves; many candidates and search firms will not agree to public presentations. Discussion then continued on the challenges of scheduling, the importance of meaningful public consultation, and having a process that yields the best possible candidates.

b. Enrolment and Planning Update

S. Cantrell provided an update on enrolment and planning, noting that there has been a good start to the term and the University is at 99.4% of its registration target. The delays at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) were noted as having a significant impact on undergraduate performance. The admissions staff, faculty and Academic Council members who have worked on mitigating these impacts were thanked. The year-over-year growth in applications of 26.9% was highlighted as a significant achievement that caught the attention of many other universities.

In response to a question, S. Cantrell advised that the enrolment corridor for the university is the commitment that has been made to the provincial government for all domestic undergraduate, masters and doctoral students. The commitments must be achieved within a three percent corridor, plus or minus, to secure funding. In response to a further question, S. Cantrell clarified that exceeding the corridor means that no grant will be received by the University for those students; the University is therefore not pursuing pure enrolment growth for its own sake. She advised that student needs such as housing are a factor in setting the corridor.

In response to a question about internal students, S. Cantrell advised that both new and continuing students are impacted and that it is an incredibly challenging time for them. In response to a further question, S. Cantrell advised that registrations are down 2.3%, attributable to the IRCC delays. Accommodations and deferrals to winter will continue to be offered. J. Stokes advised that a recent report from IRCC is cause for optimism that students unable to start or return to studies in the fall will be able to do so in the winter.

c. Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Policy and Procedures Quality Council Updates

S. Cantrell presented the IQAP Policy and Procedures Quality Council Updates. Council members were reminded that the Policy and Procedures were previously approved by the Council and have subsequently been revised in accordance with the Quality Council's feedback. In response to a question, S. Cantrell advised that the substantive change – including student feedback in major modifications – is now expressly codified but was always part of the process in the handbook. A member suggested that language that cites dean, singular, might be reviewed for programs engaging more than one Faculty.

Upon a motion duly made by G. Crawford and seconded by J. Bradbury, Academic Council hereby approves the updated IQAP, as presented.

Committee Reports:

8. Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)

a. Academic Council & Committee Nominations

The Chair advised that GNC has had two meetings since Academic Council last convened: August 11, 2022 and September 20, 2022. At those meetings, a number of candidates were put forth and endorsed by the Committee to fill vacancies on Academic Council and its Committees.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council approved the following appointments:

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

- *Corey Law*

Teaching Staff representative on the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2025, renewable for an additional year:

- *Adam Dubrowski*
- *Daniel Hoornweg*

Student representative on the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, renewable for an additional year:

- *Meaghan Good*

Student representative on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, renewable for an additional year:

- *Corey Law*
- *Abdul Kareem Olatinwo*

Student representative on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, renewable for an additional year:

- *Michael Watterworth*

Faculty members of Research Committee for the term of September 2022 until June 2025:

- *Amy Leach*
- *Carolyn McGregor*
- *Shahram ShahbazPanahi*
- *Nick Wattie*

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

- *Ifrodet Georgees*
- *Michael Watterworth*

Teaching staff representative on Academic Council for the term September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2025 for the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science:

- *Sayyed Ali Hosseini*

b. Academic Council Vice-Chair Nomination

The Chair thanked E. Partosoedarso for serving as the Vice-Chair of Academic Council for 2021-2022. He advised Academic Council that R. Ruttenberg-Rozen volunteered to serve in the role for 2022-2023 at Steering and was supported by the Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Bailey and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council

approved the appointment of Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen as Vice-Chair of Academic Council for the term of October 1, 2022 until September 30, 2023.

c. Faculty Council Membership Lists

The Chair presented the Faculty Council Membership Lists for Academic Council's review and approval noting that this is an annual exercise. In response to a question, the University Secretary advised that By-Law 2 provides that Academic Council approves the establishment of Faculty Councils and the annual review of membership is an extension of that oversight.

In response to a comment by a member about inconsistencies in student representation on Faculty Councils, a short discussion ensued.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by J. Sankarlal, pursuant to the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approved the 2022-2023 Faculty Council memberships as presented for the following faculties:

- *Faculty of Business & Information Technology*
- *Faculty of Education*
- *Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences*
- *Faculty of Science*
- *Faculty of Social Science & Humanities*

d. Faculty Council Vice-Chair Nominations

The Faculty Council Vice-Chair Nominations were presented for Academic Council's review and approval.

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy and seconded by A. Slane, pursuant to the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council approved the appointments of the following individuals as Vice-Chairs of their respective Faculty Councils for the term of September 27, 2022 until September 30, 2023:

- *Faculty of Business and Information Technology – Theresa Miedema*
- *Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Jennifer McKellar*
- *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Amir Mostaghim*
- *Faculty of Education - Lorayne Robertson*

e. Governance Implications of the Restructuring of the Faculty of Energy Systems & Nuclear Science

The Chair provided a summary of the governance impacts the restructuring of the Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science (FESNS) and the resulting motion before Academic Council. He noted that the terms of reference of the councils of Academic Council and By-Law 2 vary in their rigidity regarding faculty affiliation being the basis for membership on a particular governing body.

In response to a question, the University Secretary advised that only the Board of Governors may amend By-Law 2. The University Secretary advised the Council that the

terms of reference and By-Law 2 would be reviewed and appropriate amendments made to reflect the restructuring. A member noted that the last time By-Law 2 was amended, there was significant consultation with Academic Council. In response to a question about vacancies on Academic Council, the University Secretary advised that the appointments just made had filled previously existing vacancies. The University Secretary expressed regret that beneficial members of Academic Council and Research Council were no longer able to serve and the view that the need to end said service was an unfortunate by-product of an otherwise thoughtful decision about restructuring FESNS.

Upon a motion duly made by F. Jones and seconded by G. Crawford, pursuant to the recommendation of Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council approved:

- *The termination of Daniel Hoornweg's appointment to Academic Council effective September 27, 2022; and*
- *The termination of Kirk Atkinson's appointment to Research Committee effective September 27, 2022.*

9. Research Committee

L. Jacobs provided a report on the most recent meeting of the Research Committee. Academic Council was advised that there is \$26.2 million in research funding and that one in four graduate students has a Mitacs opportunity, greatly exceeding the U15 average of 11 percent. L. Jacobs also commented on a number of significant events and initiatives, including a visit from Mitacs leadership, the Shad program being hosted through brilliant catalyst, and a commitment to launch a program for Black entrepreneurs. He then commented on the challenges the University faces in commercialization of intellectual property, particularly constraints on available support resources. The launch of Intellectual Property Ontario, "IPON", was also noted.

A member commented on the challenges of interacting with the Research Ethics Board and the negative impacts its significant time delays have on graduate students. The Chair advised the Council that the Research Ethics Board operates independently of the administration of the university. The Chair committed to raising the concerns brought forward to Academic Council with the Board's new Chair.

10. Policy Consultation

a. Directives on the Use of Digital Learning Resources for Assessment Purposes

L. Roy advised Academic Council that the Directive has been in effect since 2019 and is scheduled for review. He noted that approval of the Directive lies with the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Committees, but that the Council's campus-wide perspective is also being sought. In response to a question, it was clarified that an online consultation will also be available and will be open for two weeks.

A member commented that students are interested in the price ceiling in the Directive, which they feel should be covered by tuition. Another member commented on the role of the Ancillary Fee Committee, in response to which L. Roy clarified that the resources covered by ancillary fees are not the subject of the Directive; the Directive pertains solely to resources not covered by ancillary fees.

A discussion then ensued on the cost and deployment of digital tools. Responding to a

comment, L. Roy advised that non-compliance with the Directive can be reported via advisors or students' home programs. The Chair noted that any additional feedback on the Directive can be sent to L. Roy directly.

- b. Privacy Policy: Personal Health Information Collection, Use and Disclosure and related Procedure

N. O'Halloran provided an overview of the Privacy Policy. In response to a question, he advised that instructors' receipt of accommodation notices does not make them health care providers. He further clarified that anyone who has personal health information in their possession, but is not a health care provider, is not the subject of the policy. In response to a further question, N. O'Halloran advised that a student training to be an athletic therapist would be bound by the policies of the placement. Some additional discussion ensued, and N. O'Halloran invited anyone with further feedback to submit it to policy@ontariotechu.ca.

- c. Electronic Monitoring Policy

In response to a question, N. O'Halloran advised the Council that the Electronic Monitoring Policy was developed in response to government legislation – Bill 88 – which obliges the University to have a policy on this subject. He further advised that the owner of the Policy is the Chief Transformation and Organization Culture Officer, Human Resources. Academic Council members raised concerns regarding the activities being monitored, imbalance in the policy unfavourable to employees. In response, the Chair advised that the Chief Transformation and Organization Culture Officer, Human Resources will attend the October Academic Council meeting to give some additional information and context about the Policy.

- d. Employee Phone Directive

In response to questions about the Directive, B. MacIsaac clarified that the Directive applies only to University-issued phones. He further advised that anything funded out of start up or PD funds is excluded from the scope of the Directive.

11. For Information

- a. 2022-2023 Academic Council Work Plan
- b. 2022-2023 Academic Council Strategic Discussion Work Plan
- c. 2022-2023 Undergraduate Academic Calendar
- d. Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Education Intermediate/Senior and Primary/Junior programs
- e. Revised Final Examination Administration Procedures

The above noted items were received by Academic Council for information.

12. Other Business

There was none.

13. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by J. Bradbury and seconded by B. Easton, the public session of Academic Council was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

14. Call to Order

The Chair called the non-public portion of the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

15. Non-Public Minutes of the Meeting of June 28, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by M. Bliemel and seconded by A. Slane, the non-public minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2022 were approved.

16. Termination

Upon a motion made by R. Bailey and seconded by M. Bliemel, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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