

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of October 25, 2022
2:30 – 4:26 p.m. Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Bailey, Robert
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Bryant, Toba
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti

Frazer, Mitch
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Hosseini, Sayyed Ali
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Law, Corey
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
Murphy, Bernadette
Nokleby, Scott

Partosoedarso, Elita
Peters, Manisha
Rastpour, Amir
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Serote, MaryCae
Slane, Andrea
Stokes, Joe
Watterworth, Michael

Regrets:

Carmichael, Carla
Crawford, Greg
Dubrowski, Adam
Giorgees, Ifrodet

Hogue, Andrew
Hoornweg, Daniel
Kishawy, Hossam
MacMillan, Patricia

Stoett, Peter

Staff & Guests:

Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Doyle, Ian
Gottlieb, Sara
Hamilton, Barbara
Hester, Krista

Lin, Sylvia
MacIsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
O'Halloran, Niall
Papke, Darryl
Scanga, Franco

Townsend, Lisa
Turner, Lauren
Wingate, Adam

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. C. Law read aloud the land acknowledgement.

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by J. Sankarlal and seconded by R. Kay, the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending Academic Council, welcomed new members, and reminded the Council about the following upcoming events: open house, staff appreciation event, and the men's varsity soccer game. The Chair noted that the University's masking mandate has been extended.

a. Strategic Discussion De-Brief

The Chair shared his reflections on the Strategic Discussion with visiting Elder Pat Green and invited Council members to do the same. A number of members spoke, sharing thoughts about getting back to the land, the synergy between the Elder's talk and the talk by Professor McGregor, planetary well-being, the harms of the colonial education system, and the Elder's input on a specific technology course. General support was expressed for having discussions with Elders in the future.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of September 27, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by B. Murphy and seconded by E. Partosoedarso, the minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2022 were approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

6. Inquiries and Communications

There was none.

7. Provost's Remarks

The Provost thanked those who have put time and effort into the upcoming open house. She congratulated the organizations of the Women in STEM event and the Teaching and Learning Centre's first annual conference. She shared that the former raised \$50,000 for scholarships for women in STEM. The Provost also noted that Project Lord Ridgeback, a collaborative, multi-disciplinary mock-emergency experiential learning exercise between the University and Durham College is upcoming.

a. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost advised Academic Council that the search for a Dean of the School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral studies has reached a successful conclusion with the new Dean starting in January, 2023, with a campus wide announcement expected shortly. Following up on the discussion at Academic Council on September 27, 2022, the Provost elaborated on the logistical challenges of scheduling candidate presentations.

b. Integrated Academic-Research Plan Update

The Provost presented the Integrated Academic-Research Plan Update, noting that the four strategic pillars are unchanged but that each iteration of the Plan will see a new element added. Between the first and second round of planning, qualitative evaluation process was added. Since then, efforts have been made to quantify progress towards targets. The Provost then reviewed timelines for consultation and approval of the Plan.

S. Cantrell noted that institutional metrics were set with the benefit of input from Academic Council, Committees of the Board of Governors, and other groups across campus. This fall, she advised that focus is on setting targets for those metrics. In response to a question, she advised that the consultation on metrics took place last fall. In response to a question, the Provost committed to returning with the exact approval path for the Integrated Academic-Research Plan. In response to a request, the University Secretary committed to posting the slides being shown with the other materials for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee

L. Roy gave a brief report on the October Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting, noting that there were no decision items tracking to Academic Council, only minor course curricular changes and information items.

9. Graduate Studies Committee

B. Murphy gave a brief report on the October Graduate Studies Committee, noting that there were no decision items tracking to Academic Council. She advised of a personnel change and that a working group led by J. Bradbury on interdisciplinary PhDs would have consultations in December and a report in the new year.

10. Research Committee

L. Jacobs provided an update on four items from the Research Committee: (i) student summer funded research opportunities; (ii) a new Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) stream for partnership development; (iii) a new Chair of the Research Ethics Board; and (iv) the launch of Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON).

A discussion then ensued on funding for Student Training Assistantships in Research (STAR) and how it has been brought into line with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSRC) Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRAs). It was noted that the number of STAR students will increase, and, combined with USRA, will be 50 next year.

11. Governance and Nominations Committee

a. Academic Council & Committee Nominations

The Provost presented the nominations to Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC), noting that the nominees were endorsed by Steering Committee and recommended by GNC for approval by Academic Council. In response to a question, the University Secretary confirmed that endorsement by Steering Committee is a prerequisite of nominees to GNC being presented to Academic Council per the GNC Terms of Reference.

Upon a motion duly made by F. Jones and seconded by A. King, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee, Academic Council approved the following appointments:

Student member on Governance & Nominations Committee for the term of October 25, 2022 – August 31, 2023, renewable for an additional year:

- *MaryCae Serote*

Faculty Teaching Staff representatives on the Governance & Nominations Committee for the term of October 25, 2022 – August 31, 2025:

- *Robert Bailey*
- *Toba Bryant*

The Provost went on to note that although the approval of Faculty Council Vice-Chairs is on the consent agenda, there was noteworthy discussion on the subject at GNC. Pursuant to the direction of GNC, she confirmed that Deans have been advised that next year additional information about the selection of Vice-Chairs will be required.

12. Policy Consultation

a. Electronic Monitoring Policy

The Chair introduced the Electronic Monitoring Policy, noting that it has come back to Academic Council at the Council's request, and following significant discussion at last month's meeting. He provided the legislative basis for the Policy. S. Gottlieb commented on the University's collaboration with a Council of Universities of Ontario (COU) working group which produced a template policy for universities to use. S. Gottlieb noted that the draft Policy before Academic Council is narrower than the template in a number of ways, in particular that it will not generally be used for performance management purposes. She stressed that the Policy does not expand any rights held by the University, but is rather intended to be an exercise in transparency.

A robust discussion then ensued with a number of members raising concerns and making suggestions for clarification. Concerns and comments revolved around the following subjects:

- Ensuring that the Policy does not infringe academic freedom or independence;
- Ensuring that the Policy does not infringe on confidentiality or compromise intellectual property rights;
- Ensuring alignment between the legislative purpose and the content of the Policy;
- Clarity in the distinction between active and passive monitoring;
- Ensuring that examples are robust enough to be illustrative and ensuring that where examples are not exhaustive, that that is clear to the reader;
- Clarity around the role and responsibilities of Durham College as a shared service provider;
- Clarity around data retention to the extent needed beyond retention schedules;
- Clarity of application to students and former employees;

Discussion closed with Academic Council expressing a desire to see a statement about the value the Policy has to the University. The Chair thanked all participants for their thoughtful and robust feedback.

b. Expenditure Signing Authority Procedure

The Expense Signing Authority Procedure was presented for information.

13. Consent Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by M. Bliemel, the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received for information.

14. Other Business

In response to a question, the Provost advised that more than 15 responses from students, staff and faculty were received in response to the consultation regarding the Directive on Digital Learning Resources.

In response to a concern raised by a member, there was a short discussion about the challenges of using digital identification cards during exams. In response, the Registrar committed to looking into the issue further.

15. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by S. Nokleby, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.