

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of November 22, 2022**  
2:30 – 3:45 p.m., Videoconference

**Present:**

Murphy, Steven (Chair)	Fernando, Shanti	Nokleby, Scott
Azad, Nader	Frazer, Mitch	Peters, Manisha
Bailey, Robert	Hosseini, Sayyed Ali	Rastpour, Amir
Barber, Wendy	Hossein Nejad, Mehdi	Rodgers, Carol
Bliemel, Michael	Jacobs, Les	Roy, Langis
Bradbury, Jeremy	Kay, Robin	Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Carmichael, Carla	King, Alyson	Robyn
Crawford, Greg	Kishawy, Hossam	Sankarlal, Joshua
Davidson, Catherine	Law, Corey	Serenko, Alexander
Dubrowski, Adam	Liscano, Ramiro	Serote, MaryCae
Duff, Ana	Livingston, Lori	Slane, Andrea
Easton, Brad	Lloyd, Meghann	Stoett, Peter
Eklund, Mike	MacMillan, Patricia	Watterworth, Michael
Felder, Ruth	Murphy, Bernadette	

**Regrets:**

Barari, Ahmad	Partosoedarso, Elita
Bryant, Toba	Stokes, Joe
Jones, Ferdinand	

**Staff & Guests:**

Bruno, Jamie	Lin, Sylvia	O'Malley, Grace
Callahan, Stephanie	Livingstone, Clarissa	Scanga, Franco
Cantrell, Sarah	MacIsaac, Brad	Townshend, Lisa
Hester, Krista	McCartney, Kimberley	Turner, Lauren
Levy, Melissa	McLaughlin, Christine	Wingate, Adam

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. J. Sankarlal read aloud a land acknowledgement and shared some reflections on the history of the Williams Treaties.

**2. Agenda**

The Chair noted that the appropriate time to pull items from the Consent Agenda would be at the approval of the meeting agenda and noted that this would be the practise moving forward. In response to a question he indicated that this change is to align with best practices for meeting management.

*Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, the Agenda was approved as presented.*

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair acknowledged that the semester had moved quickly and thanked everyone for their hard work. He highlighted the accomplishments of the Ontario Tech student athletes,

in particular the Men's Soccer team who hosted a quarter final this year, a first for the team. The Chair went on to summarize a number of recent events including the Ontario Tech International Atomic Energy Agency Workshop, and he thanked the Ontario Tech Student Union and the Durham College Student Association for organizing a very meaningful Remembrance Day ceremony. He congratulated Dr. Barbara Perry, who was appointed UNESCO's Research Chair in Hate Studies on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair noted that the Auditor General's report on Laurentian University had been released. While the report was focused on Laurentian, there are three main themes that are of relevance to all universities in the province: Financial Sustainability, Program Sustainability, and Governance. Members were reminded that Ontario Tech was one of four universities chosen for a value for money audit this year, and that report is expected to be released soon. The tone of the Laurentian report was severe due to the circumstances leading to the audit. The report for Ontario Tech is expected to be far less severe, but similar themes are anticipated. In response to a question, the Chair indicated that details cannot be shared until the report has been tabled in the Ontario Legislature.

**a. Strategic Discussion De-Brief: Partnerships**

The Chair shared his thoughts on the Strategic Discussion with Lindsay Coolidge and Jennifer Alsop. It was agreed that having information on the work done in the Partnerships Office was helpful. A number of members spoke, noting that the nature of various partnerships can evolve over time, and commenting that because other areas of the University also manage partnerships, central coordination is vital. While it is not possible to control every relationship, the Partnerships Office does attempt to track any partnerships occurring. It was further noted that there is the ability to transfer a partnership to them if a Faculty or unit reaches capacity to manage it on their own. A comment was made that this information would be helpful for the whole campus community.

**4. Inquiries and Communications**

**a. Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Report**

A. King presented the COU Academic Colleague Report. She highlighted a discussion on modalities of teaching, noting that there is no 'one size fits all' mode of delivery and the significant time investment needed to teach HyFlex if there is a desire to do it well. There are also concerns about the academic and mental preparedness of students coming to university post-pandemic. It is anticipated that the government will do a review of the university sector, and there is a concern regarding loss of independence and academic freedom. A. King went on to update Council on COU's advocacy efforts with the provincial government and directed members to the COU website and the articles appended to her report.

**5. Provost's Remarks**

The Provost added to the President's statements regarding the efforts of our student athletes and recognized Christopher Campoli, who was awarded the Joe Johnson Memorial Trophy as U SPORTS men's soccer player of the year. He becomes the first Ridgeback in any sport to be presented with a national player of the year award. The Deputy Provost also informed members that Chancellor Mitch Fraser had been named to the Order of Ontario. Members expressed their congratulations to the Chancellor.

**a. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update**

The Provost advised that Dr. Michael Bliemel will not be seeking a second term as Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology (FBIT). A call for expressions of

interest for the FBIT Dean Search Advisory Committee has been made and it is expected that the Committee will be formed before the break in December. The Provost's thanks to Dr. Bliemel for his contributions to FBIT and the University were echoed by Academic Council.

## **6. 2023-2024 Budget Approach**

B. Maclsaac opened the presentation on the 2023-2024 budget approach, which was also included in the meeting material. He noted that the University's priorities drive the budget. He walked through the overview of Q2 results, noting that surpluses in some areas cannot be redirected to other areas. The current forecast has a \$600,000 surplus, but it is hoped that this will increase in the winter term with some anticipated increases in enrollment. The desired yearly surplus is \$4,000,000 for future deferred maintenance and capital projects.

S. Cantrell outlined the enrollment plan, which is a key factor in determining the University's revenue. The Office of Planning and Analysis reviews Day 10 numbers and meets with Deans and Faculty teams to consider targets for the following year. The targets are applied to a flow-through model using pre-pandemic retention rates. It was noted that the final student enrollment numbers are usually within 2% of the targets. There is some possibility that international student enrollment will increase with an easing of pandemic restrictions and an end to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada interruption.

B. Maclsaac noted that the largest risk in the budget assumptions is the pressure exerted by labour costs on operating expenses. He highlighted the need for investment in building repair and equipment. The Provost then discussed the priorities in the Integrated Academic-Research Plan which will guide resource allocation. She noted that the budget is intended to be conservative and focused University priorities.

In response to a question, it was noted that the total expenses include the increased labour costs. It was further noted that some expenses from the previous budget year were brought forward due to supply chain issues. Additionally, some prior year reserves were used for the renovation of Charles Hall.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **7. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)**

L. Roy highlighted the items included for information in the Consent Agenda.

### **8. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)**

B. Murphy updated members that a new Manager of the School of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies (SGPS) would be hired soon. The Provost noted that this would be Dr. Murphy's last Academic Council meeting as interim Dean of SGPS and thanked her for her hard work and willingness to take on the role. Academic Council thanked Dr. Murphy for her service.

### **9. Research Committee**

L. Jacobs noted that the Mitacs funding pause has been lifted and that they are keen to pilot an embedded graduate program at Ontario Tech. This would mean that every student in the program would have the opportunity to hold a Mitacs internship.

L. Jacobs also provided an update on two items from the Research Committee: (i) the Research Excellence Chairs Competition will be expanded in 2023; and (ii) recently

developed memoranda of understanding and other agreements continue to create robust research, entrepreneurship, research chair, and experiential learning opportunities. He also advised members of the University's acquisition of a subcritical nuclear reactor assembly that will be used for teaching and research and generates zero meaningful power output. Extensive consultation will take place as part of the licensing process, as the support of the community, especially the Indigenous community, is critical.

#### **10. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the Meeting of October 25, 2022
- b. Conferral of Degrees – Fall 2022
- c. Minor Program Adjustments from USC
  - a) Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting - Fall 2021 Start
  - b) Bachelor of IT in Game Development and Entrepreneurship
  - c) Bachelor of IT in Networking and IT Security Advanced Entry
  - d) Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering
- d. Cyclical Program Reviews from USC
  - a) Bachelor of Science in Computer Science - Outcomes from the Cyclical Program Review
  - b) Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology - 18-month Follow-up to the Cyclical Program Review
- e. Revised Final Examination Administration Procedures

*Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by L. Roy, the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received for information.*

#### **11. Other Business**

There was none.

#### **12. Termination (M)**

*Upon a motion made by M. Hossein Nejad, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.*

Kimberley McCartney, Assistant University Secretary