

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of February 28, 2023
2:30 – 4:28 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Bailey, Robert
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Bryant, Toba
Carmichael, Carla
Christou, Ted
Crawford, Greg
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Eklund, Mike

Easton, Brad
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Law, Corey
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Nokleby, Scott

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

Regrets:

Dubrowski, Adam
Frazer, Mitch

Hosseini, Sayyed Ali
Kay, Robin

Staff & Guests:

Aquanno, Scott
Bauer, Chelsea
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Gottlieb, Sara

Hester, Krista
LeSage, Ann
McCartney, Kimberley
Tepyllo, Diane
Townshend, Lisa

Turner, Lauren
Windsor, Shelly
Wingate, Adam

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. P. MacMillan shared some reflections on the land acknowledgement.

2. Agenda

Upon request, the 2023-2024 Graduate and Undergraduate Academic Schedules were removed from the consent agenda and added to the regular agenda.

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared that L. Jacobs, Vice-President, Research, has submitted an intent to renew for a second term. Expressions of interest will be sought for a renewal advisory committee that will begin its work in the spring. He also noted that the University has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Grandview Children's Centre; he thanked Dr. M. Lloyd for her research and advocacy. He went on to share some additional updates

including the successful engineering outreach workshop for Back youth as a part of International Day of Women and Girls in Science which was attended by the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth as well as Ontario Tech's great presence at the Canadian Nuclear Association conference last week in Ottawa. He closed by updating Academic Council on the re-appointment of the Chancellor, and the appointment of two new governors.

4. Provost's Remarks

a. Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost updated Academic Council on the search for a new Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology, advising that the role is now posted. She noted upcoming campuswide consultations on the Integrated Academic-Research Plan 2023-2028 that will take place in March.

5. Integrated Academic-Research Plan – Institutional Metrics

The Provost introduced the Integrated Academic-Research Plan (IARP) Institutional Metrics, noting that establishing targets for the metrics is an important iteration of the University's planning process. The proposed targets are being shared with Academic Council as part of the consultative process.

S. Cantrell provided an overview of the proposed targets, inviting Academic Council to consider how the University would like to perform versus 3-year provincial averages. She shared that next steps will be to define and provide greater transparency on metrics definitions and targets and provide additional information at upcoming consultations. She noted for Academic Council that the targets before them do not include Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) 3 targets.

In response to a question, a discussion ensued on the target for percentage of female students. Factors considered included the mix of programs at Ontario Tech and historical representation of male versus female students as well as what can be achieved in one year versus multiple years. Academic Council encouraged the administration to set aspirational targets in this space.

In response to a question, S. Cantrell discussed some of the challenges finding quantifiable metrics to associate with "tech with a conscience", an inherently qualitative concept. A brief discussion then ensued on setting graduate student enrollment higher than the proposed target to address the shortage of qualified Teaching Assistants. In response to a comment about the sticky campus, S. Cantrell confirmed that a number of metrics could apply to more than one area of the IARP and that results often measure the outcomes of initiatives. She noted that the metrics measure a suite of strategies put into place by a variety of groups including Faculties, Student Life, and the Ontario Tech Students' Union.

In response to a question, S. Cantrell clarified that the metrics will need to respond to the next iteration of the IARP and confirmed that they may need to be adjusted if different priorities are identified. In response to a further question, she clarified that a differentiation agenda involves advocating for the University's strengths based on internal plans and assessments rather than SMA metrics.

Committee Reports:

6. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies - Advanced Entry, and Undergraduate Diploma in Designing Adult Education for the Digital Age

L. Roy gave introductory comments about a number of Major Program Modifications (MPM) coming before Academic Council for approval. He noted in particular that a suite of common changes are proposed for the MPMs from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities; specifically, revisions to the required courses for first year students and the modes of delivery for some courses.

D. Tepylo provided additional information related to the changes to the Educational Studies programs, noting that a significant aspect of this MPM is the addition of a specialization in adult education. In response to a question, she clarified that three course offerings are being removed and three introduced.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by H. Kishawy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies - Advanced Entry, and Undergraduate Diploma in Designing Adult Education for the Digital Age programs.

(b) Bachelor of Science in Applied and Industrial Mathematics

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM in Applied and Industrial Mathematics.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by G. Crawford, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Applied and Industrial Mathematics program.

(c) Degree Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

L. Roy introduced the proposed changes to Degree Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. S. Aquanno provided additional details on the changes to first-year programming, noting a desire to give first-year students more flexibility and choice. He highlighted cooperation with the Registrar's Office to achieve the proposed change.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Degree Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.

(d) Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Media Studies (CDMS), CDMS - Advanced Entry, and CDMS Minors

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM. S. Aquanno commented on the development of a number of new minors which highlight the unique strengths of the CDMS program.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby

approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Media Studies (CDMS), CDMS Advanced Entry, and CDMS Minors.

(e) Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice

L. Roy presented the proposed modification to the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by A. King, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice.

(f) Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology - Advanced Entry

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM to Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology – Advanced Entry.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology - Advanced Entry.

(g) Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM to Bachelor of Arts in Legal studies, highlighting the creation of a double major with Political Science completable in four years.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by A. King, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies.

(h) Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Minors

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM to Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Minors.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Minors.

(i) Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Political Science Minor

L. Roy presented the MPM to Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Political Science Minor.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by S. Fernando, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and the creation of the Political Science Minor in Global Studies.

(j) Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Psychology, including Specializations, and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology - Advanced Entry

L. Roy presented the proposed MPM. In response to a question, P. Stoett advised Academic Council that one new faculty member has been hired and recruitment of another is presently underway. S. Aquanno then clarified that the three research methods courses being added are already being taught by Psychology professors but they are offered as criminology courses.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Psychology, including Specializations, and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology - Advanced Entry.

(k) New Minor in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

L. Roy presented the New Minor in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, commenting on the interdisciplinary nature of the minor. A brief discussion ensued.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the New Minor in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

7. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

T. Christou congratulated the Faculties that successfully proposed the foregoing MPMs. He made a couple of brief announcements, including the upcoming Three Minute Thesis competition and the University's first cotutelle doctoral thesis.

(a) Master of Arts in Education, Master of Education, and Graduate Diploma in Education and Digital Technologies programs

A. LeSage presented the MPM, noting that the program has not been amended since its inception in 2009. She noted that proposed changes will allow students a greater breadth of choices, removes requirements to take courses from certain clusters, and introduces new themes including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Arts in Education, Master of Education, and Graduate Diploma in Education and Digital Technologies.

(b) Master of Science in Nursing

C. Rodgers presented the Master of Science in Nursing MPM, highlighting considerations such as alignment with Trent University, Ontario Tech's partner institution, scheduling when the majority of students are practicing nurses and demonstrating leadership in the admissions process.

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by T. Bryant, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Science in Nursing.

(c) Master of Arts in Criminology

P. Stoett presented the Master of Arts in Criminology MPM, commenting on hybrid and synchronous courses. In response to a question, K. McCartney clarified that certain materials in the package delineate which courses have changes to their modes of delivery.

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by P. Stoett, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Arts in Criminology.

8. Research Committee

L. Jacobs presented the update on the Research Committee, noting that Ontario Tech has moved up four spots in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. He also noted that the Research Excellence Awards program is restarting and that awards will be handed out before July 1, 2023. At that time, Ontario Tech will have doubled the number of research chairs across the University in the last two years.

L. Jacobs then discussed developments in, and a potential research orientation towards, hydrogen energy. He shared an intent to launch a hydrogen commercialization and demonstration centre focused on testing prototyping and product development. He advised Academic Council that the University has just received a grant from Energy Canada to kickstart the initiative.

L. Jacobs shared an update regarding changes in governmental approach to safeguarding research. Whereas federal and provincial governments were previously aligned on this issue, there are signs that the federal government will be following the United States and Australia in taking a more restrictive approach. Recently, Royal Military College was prohibited from conducting research with universities in China, Russia, Iran and Syria. In response to a question, L. Jacobs shared the expectation that Canadian universities will demand that rules imposed by the federal government not be discriminatory towards graduate students. In response to a further question, he confirmed that restrictions have been broadening in the last month and may expand into all funding streams of NSRC, CIHR, SSHRC and Mitacs. The President confirmed that further updates on this issue will be brought to Academic Council.

In response to a question, a brief discussion ensued on Project Arrow. L. Jacobs confirmed that discussions are ongoing with APMA about next steps. He further advised that local opportunities are being explored to possibly produce a platform using hydrogen fuel. He indicated the intent to bring more projects of the calibre of Project Arrow to Ontario Tech to provide marquis experiences for students. The President shared that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the provincial government regard Ontario Tech as well-positioned to be a great contributor to the supply chain of electric and alternative fuel cell vehicles.

9. Inquiries and Communications

a. COU Academic Colleague Report

R. Liscano presented the COU Academic Colleague Report, highlighting the emphasis on mental health. He shared his reflections on his own knowledge in this space and noted that Carleton University is rolling out training for faculty and staff. He then advised Academic Council that a working group on international education has recommended a need for increased support of international students. A brief discussion then ensued on funding challenges faced by Ontario universities and government intervention in higher

education. In response to a question, the advocacy efforts of COU were summarized and briefly discussed.

10. 2023-2024 Graduate Academic Schedule and 2023-2024 Undergraduate Academic Schedule

In response to a question, J. Stokes explained that the withdraw date for courses moving to the last day of lectures was not in response to COVID-19 but rather a student support measure. He noted that the change brought Ontario Tech into line with trends emerging from the United States as well as Canada. J. Stokes confirmed that the policy in which the date is codified followed the appropriate consultation path. In response to a further question, K. McCartney advised that Academic Council was consulted on May 24, 2022 and an open online consultation took place from May 2-13, 2022. The policy was also considered by the Policy Advisory Committee on April 29, 2022. She advised that no comments were received during consultation and that the policy was approved in June 2022 by the Provost.

11. Consent Agenda

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of January 24, 2023*
- (b) Minor Program Adjustment from USC*
 - a. Bachelor of Health Science in Medical Laboratory Science
- (c) Minor Program Adjustment from GSC*
 - a. Doctor of Philosophy (Phd), PhD Direct Entry, and Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Psychology
- (d) Cyclical Program Review from GSC*
 - a. Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science in Computer Science

Upon a motion duly made by G. Crawford and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, the contents of the consent agenda were received for information or approved as appropriate.

12. Other Business

There was none.

13. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by H. Kishawy, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Lauren Turner, University Secretary