

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of March 28, 2023
2:30 – 4:20 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)	Fernando, Shanti	Partosoedarso, Elita
Bailey, Robert	Jacobs, Les	Peters, Manisha
Barari, Ahmad	Jones, Ferdinand	Rodgers, Carol
Barber, Wendy	Kay, Robin	Roy, Langis
Bradbury, Jeremy	King, Alyson	Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Bryant, Toba	Kishawy, Hossam	Robyn
Carmichael, Carla	Law, Corey	Sankarlal, Joshua
Christou, Ted	Liscano, Ramiro	Serenko, Alexander
Davidson, Catherine	Livingston, Lori	Serote, MaryCae
Duff, Ana	Lloyd, Meghann	Stoett, Peter
Eklund, Mike	MacMillan, Patricia	Stokes, Joe
Easton, Brad	Nokleby, Scott	Watterworth, Michael
Felder, Ruth		

Regrets:

Azad, Nader	Frazer, Mitch
Bliemel, Michael	Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Crawford, Greg	Hosseini, Sayyed Ali
Dubrowski, Adam	Rastpour, Amir

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea	Maclsaac, Brad	Scanga, Franco
Bruno, Jamie	McCartney,	Suter, Benjamin
Callahan, Stephanie	Kimberley	Townshend, Lisa
Cantrell, Sarah	McLaughlin,	Turner, Lauren
Gottlieb, Sara	Christine	Windsor, Shelly
Hamilton, Barbara	Papke, Darryl	
Hester, Krista		

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. M. Peters read the land acknowledgement.

2. Agenda

Upon request, the Memo from the Registrar re: Campus ID Cards was removed from the consent agenda and added to the regular agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy and seconded by A. King, the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair commented on a number of recent events at the University, including the Teaching and Learning Conference, the Celebrate Teaching! Awards, and the annual 3 Minute Thesis competition. He congratulated all nominees, winners, participants and organizers. He went on to recognize exceptional student athletes honored at the recent athletic gala and to thank all those who made the Experience Days spring open house a success. He noted that masking is mandatory throughout the exam period.

The President then discussed the Government of Ontario's Blue-Ribbon Panel, providing a brief update on its anticipated activities, including an expected report in the summer. He laid out the difficult financial context in which the University operates and shared three possible avenues for mitigation: (i) increasing capacity in high-demand programs; (ii) increasing international student enrolment; and (iii) using or selling land, are presently being explored by senior leadership.

4. Inquiries and Communications

None.

5. 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 search committee is expected to receive an update on the candidate pool this week.

The Provost then went on to provide general remarks, including an update on the 2023-2024 tuition fees. She advised Academic Council that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has released a new tuition fee framework for 2023-2024. In response, the University has submitted a proposal to increase tuition for three programs (computer science, engineering, and commerce) that are at least 10% lower than the sector average. A decision is expected from the Ministry before the end of April. It was made clear that while any increase in tuition is beneficial, the increases from these programs will not materially impact the University's budget.

In response to a comment, Academic Council engaged in a discussion on recent changes to Google Drive storage. B. MacIsaac clarified that storage will not be limited when required for research or employment purposes; the changes imposed by Google did, however, present an opportunity to deploy good storage hygiene. He apologized for a lack of clarity in the messaging on the subject and any stress that it may have caused. He went on to explain the institutional storage limits imposed by Google and how the University allocated storage to individual accounts; he advised that IT is available to assist with space reduction efforts and alternative storage solutions. He went on, in response to concerns about the quality of communications and the appropriateness and adequacy of consultation, to advise that IT needs have been added to the agendas of the Research

Committee and Graduate Studies Committee. He advised that further messaging will be pushed to graduate students to address their particular concerns.

6. Consultation: Integrated Academic-Research Plan 2023-2028

The Provost invited Academic Council to provide comments on the Integrated Academic-Research Plan 2023-2028. She noted that this consultation with Academic Council follows two town halls earlier in March which were attended by over 150 individuals as well a solicitation of input from Joint Committee. She thanked those who participated in the consultative process and advised Academic Council that the questions and comments provided will be used to edit the draft strategies in the Plan, which will be an iterative process. She shared some common themes to the input thus far provided.

In response to a question, the Provost described how the IARP has evolved over time. She traced the origins of the Plan in 2019, explaining that it was set to cover two years at that point because it was a new process. She noted the priorities of brevity, clarity, and ensuring that the Plan worked for the University. She discussed the uncertainties that the COVID-19 pandemic introduced, and the concomitant need to keep the plan focused on a two-year time frame. Speaking to the current state of the Plan, she addressed the development of metrics to move from a qualitative to a quantitative measure of progress. S. Cantrell added that the move to a longer-term Plan aligns with the University's move to a multi-year budget, the latter being driven by the former. She noted the strategic benefits of a longer-term plan, including its potential to drive the Strategic Mandate Agreement rather than responding to it. In response to a question, the Provost confirmed that the metrics allow for year over year monitoring of progress against the plan and allow for more nimble adaptation when needed. In response to a further question, she confirmed that the Plan will drive the allocation of budget and resources, not the other way around. In response to a final question, she confirmed that a further draft of the Plan will be shared with Academic Council, but that the current draft contains all of the key elements – the strategies and actions – in line with prior consultations.

Committee Reports:

7. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

L. Roy presented the report of the USC, highlighting some of the important work on minor program adjustments. He noted amendments to the Indigenous Studies Minor and the Sustainability Studies Minor as examples of combining traditional knowledge and western science, and a cross-disciplinary approach, respectively.

8. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

T. Christou introduced the Major Program Modifications before Academic Council for approval, noting that the revisions support programmatic clarity and consistency.

(a) Master of Engineering and Master of Applied Science in Automotive Engineering

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by S. Nokleby, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Engineering and Master of Science in Automotive Engineering.

(b) Master of Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy, and Master of Applied Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by S. Nokleby, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Applied Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

(c) Master of Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy, and Master of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering

Upon a motion duly made by T. Christou and seconded by S. Nokleby, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Applied Science (MASc) in Mechanical Engineering.

9. Research Committee

L. Jacobs presented the update from the Research Committee, highlighting NSERC competitions, discovery grants, and the SSHRC small grants competition. He congratulated all recipients, noting in particular I. Dincer for partnering with a First Nations community on integrating clean energy into the community and M. Lloyd for her research on systemic racism in pediatric services in partnership with Grandview Children's Centre as examples of the types of research the University is being funded for at a national level.

L. Jacobs then provided an update on the data management policy required by Tri-Council which will be in place by summer; the policy will be circulated widely amongst teaching staff. He advised that consultation on the Intellectual Property Policy is imminent. He closed by advising Academic Council that the call for applications for Ontario Tech Research Awards went out yesterday, noting that a new structure has been introduced to strengthen the program. He encouraged applications.

10. Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC)

The Provost reported on the most recent meeting of the GNC, noting that in addition to the items in this section of the agenda, the Committee also discussed transparent tracking of governance document reviews and meeting procedures.

a. Election Results

The Provost reported on the Election Results, thanking students who have agreed to have their terms extended as well as those whose terms of service will end this academic year.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by E. Partosoedarso, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council approves the following appointments:

Teaching Staff Position on Academic Council for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:

- *Faculty of Science: Fedor Naumkin*

Student Position on Academic Council for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, renewable for an additional year:

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor (undergraduate); and*
- *Breanne McAlpin (undergraduate).*

Student Position on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, renewable for an additional year:

- *Aliyat Olatinwo (undergraduate)*

Student Position on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, non-renewable:

- *MaryCae Serote (undergraduate); and*
- *Isabel Smith (undergraduate)*

Student Position on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024, renewable for an additional year:

- *Aliyat Olatinwo (undergraduate); and*
- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor (undergraduate)*

MaryCae Serote abstained from voting.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by E. Partosoedarso, on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the reappointment of the following student members of Academic Council and its Committees for an additional term ending August 31, 2024 (not eligible for further renewal):

- *MaryCae Serote – undergraduate student member of Academic Council & member of Governance & Nominations Committee*
- *Ifrodet Giorges – graduate student member of Academic Council*
- *Michael Watterworth – graduate student member of Academic Council & member of Graduate Studies Committee*

MaryCae Serote and Michael Watterworth abstained from voting.

In response to a question, the University Secretary advised Academic Council that GNC has directed that a second round of nominations be opened to try to fill the teaching staff vacancies on Academic Council and its Committees. In response to a further question, she confirmed that almost all student vacancies are filled for 2023-2024.

b. Review of Honorary Degrees Procedure and Committee Terms of Reference

L. Livingston presented the Review of Honorary Degrees Procedure and Committee Terms of Reference. A discussion ensued, with Committee members recommending that a revocation clause be added and debating the merits of drawing membership of the Committee exclusively from Academic Council.

11. Memo from Registrar re Campus ID Cards

J. Stokes briefly contextualized his memorandum, reminding Academic Council that a further discussion on campus ID cards was requested at its October meeting. In response to questions about compatibility of electronic IDs with policy and accessibility concerns, J. Stokes shared his plans to move the digital ID beyond its current status to integration with other campus services such as the library and parking. In response to some concerns expressed by Academic Council members, he advised that the Examination and Grading Policy will be opened for consultation and review. In response to a question, J. Stokes confirmed that initial uploads of images for digital IDs are verified by University staff. In response to a further question, he confirmed that physical IDs are still available for purchase.

12. Consent Agenda

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of February 28, 2023*
- (b) Minor Program Adjustments from USC*
 - a. Bachelor of Commerce
 - b. Bachelor of Information Technology
 - c. Bachelor of Education - Intermediate/Senior and Primary/Junior
 - d. Educational Studies Minor
 - e. Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering & Electrical Engineering Smart Grid Specialization
 - f. Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering & Mechanical Engineering Energy Engineering Specialization
 - g. Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering
 - h. Indigenous Studies Minor
 - i. Sustainability Studies Minor
- (c) Editorial Policy Changes*
 - a. Revised Graduation and Conferral of Degrees Policy
 - b. Revised Registration and Course Selection Policy
 - c. Revised Graduate Grading System, Research Progress, and Academic Standing Policy
 - d. Revised Graduate Program Changes and Program Transfer Policy

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy and seconded by A. King, the contents of the consent agenda were received for information or approved as appropriate.

13. Other Business

In response to a question, S. Gottlieb confirmed that the University would consider accommodation and alternate arrangements when an exam falls on a recognized holiday.

14. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by S. Nokleby, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Lauren Turner, University Secretary