

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of June 27, 2023

2:40 – 4:02 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Barari, Ahmad
Barber, Wendy
Bryant, Toba
Carmichael, Carla
Davidson, Catherine
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad
Eklund, Mike

Fernando, Shanti
Hosseini, Sayyed Ali
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori

MacMillan, Patricia
Nokleby, Scott
Rastpour, Amir
Rodgers, Carol
Roy, Langis
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe
Watterworth, Michael

Regrets:

Azad, Nader
Bailey, Robert
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Christou, Ted
Crawford, Greg
Dubrowski, Adam

Felder, Ruth
Frazer, Mitch
Jones, Ferdinand
Law, Corey
Lloyd, Meghann
Partosoedarso, Elita
Peters, Manisha

Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Serote, MaryCae

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Hamilton, Barbara

Hester, Krista
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney, Kimberley
Nyaamine, Ruth
O'Halloran, Niall

Thompson, Dwight
Townshend, Lisa
Turner, Lauren
Wingate, Adam

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Joe Stokes read the University's land acknowledgement and shared some personal reflections on the land.

2. Agenda

Upon request, the Minutes of the Meeting of May 23, 2023 as well as the Cyclical Program Reviews from USC - Bachelor of Science in Physics were removed from the consent agenda and added to the regular agenda.

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone who participated for an excellent Convocation. Noting that this is the final Academic Council meeting of the academic year, he wished everyone a restful summer.

4. Inquiries and Communications

- **COU Academic Colleague Report**

A. King presented the COU Academic Colleague Report. She advised that the topic at the most recent Academic Colleague meeting was supporting COVID-19-era students. She summarized some of the findings shared, including that students are less likely to feel that they matter when enrolled in a fully online program which can lead to diminished academic performance. She discussed the pandemic's impact on high school students and some of the challenges students face as they enter post-secondary education. She went on to summarize the issues facing educators as they try to parse apart students' need for coping skills versus mental health challenges. She closed by noting that the Academic Colleagues also received an update on the rise of private post-secondary education which, according to the speaker, has been facilitated by a lack of cohesion between universities and colleges.

Academic Council then discussed the COU Academic Colleague Report. In response to a question about intersectionality, A. King responded that while not a part of this particular meeting, the needs of traditionally underrepresented students have been discussed by the Academic Colleagues. In response to a question about faculty mental health, A. King advised similarly. A discussion on the value of in-person interaction with students, student expectations of support from faculty, and programs available in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities then ensued. In response to a question about private post-secondary institutions, A. King clarified that the speaker was talking about the province of Ontario. She agreed to share the slides presented to the Academic Colleagues.

5. Provost's Remarks

- **Senior Academic Administrator Search Update**

The Provost provided an update on the Academic Search, advising Academic Council that interviews for the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology took place last week. She thanked those who reviewed the curricula vitae, attended the presentations, and submitted questions. A recommendation to the Provost from the Chair of the Committee was made today; conferral with the search firm on procedural steps prior to making a recommendation to the President is the next step. She then moved into general updates, congratulating Doctors Kishawy and Pioro on their appointments as fellows of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, thanking everyone for their work over the course of the academic year, and wishing everyone a restful and safe summer.

A member of Academic Council expressed concern about the transparency of the decanal recruitment, in particular the lack of opportunity to meet the candidates

and ask questions in real time. In response, the Provost shared that there was an intention to allow such questioning, but the University was advised at the last minute that one candidate would be travelling with unstable connectivity. A decision was made to use Zoom to minimize the number of people on screen to preserve bandwidth; the time to review curricula vitae was extended as a result. The member then asked about submitting feedback on the decanal candidates and the Provost confirmed that feedback will be accepted until June 30th. In response to a concern about the end of the feedback window and the Committee's recommendation to the Provost, the Provost clarified that while the Committee has made a recommendation, the Provost will take into account any further comments received.

Committee Reports:

6. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

L. Roy presented the USC report, drawing Academic Council's attention to the items on the consent agenda. No major issues or motions were noted.

7. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

(a) Master of Information Technology Security

As the Secretary to GSC, K. McCartney provided context and a summary of the motion on the major program modification of the Master of Information Technology Security. She advised that when an option outside of a capstone project or an internship is introduced to a program, it must come forward as a major program modification. She noted that there were no concerns at GSC regarding the proposed change.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Hossein Nejad and seconded by L. Roy, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Information Technology Security program.

8. Research Committee

(a) Research Centre Approval

L. Jacobs presented the motion to approve a new research centre: Aerodynamic and Climatic Adaptation Research (AeroClimar) Centre. The proposal, which originates from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, will be the first at the University focused on using the core research facilities in the Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE). The proposal has been endorsed by the Research Committee.

At the request of the Chair, H. Kishawy provided additional information about the proposed Centre due to L. Jacobs' technical issues. H. Kishawy accordingly shared that the proposed centre will build on ACE infrastructure and will draw on faculty members with expertise in aerodynamics, a major aspect of ACE.

Participation from other faculty members is welcome if the proposed centre can contribute to their research or if their research could contribute to the centre.

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy and seconded by S. Fernando, pursuant to the recommendation of the Research Committee, Academic Council hereby recommends the Establishment of Aerodynamic and Climatic Adaptation Research (AeroClimar) Centre for approval by the Board of Governors, as presented.

9. Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC) (Lori Livingston)

(a) Results of Calls for Nominations and Expressions of Interest

The Provost presented the Results of Calls for Nominations and Expressions of Interest, reminding Academic Council that, at the request of GNC, additional nominations were sought for positions still vacant after the end of first round of elections. She advised that there was a significant response to the second call and few vacancies, listed in the materials, remain. In response to a question, K. McCartney advised that remaining vacancies will be advertised via targeted e-mails as the majority of the vacancies can only be filled by Academic Council members. Any further nominations will be brought forward to GNC in September for endorsement to Academic Council.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by T. Bryant, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the following appointments:

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

- *Faculty of Education: Wendy Barber*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences: JoAnne Arcand*
- *Faculty of Science: Denina Simmons*
- *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Scott Aquanno & Shannon Vettor*
- *Faculty-at-Large: Mikael Eklund & Shanti Fernando*

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

- *Samantha Brown (undergraduate)*

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

- *Josh Lowe*

Teaching Staff Position on the Governance and Nominations Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:

- *Wendy Barber*

Student Position on the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024: • Breanne McAlpin

Position on the Academic Council Steering Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024:

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor*

Academic Council member on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:

- *JoAnne Arcand*

Academic Council member on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:

- *Wendy Barber*

Board of Governors Liaison for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024; renewable for one additional year subject to renewal on Academic Council:

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor*

Chair of the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025:

- *Brent MacRae*

W. Barber, M. Eklund, and S. Fernando abstained from voting.

(b) Research Committee Renewal

The Provost presented the Research Committee Renewal, noting that per the terms of reference, the Vice-President, Research and Innovation consulted with the Dean of Education before recommending the renewal of Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen's membership on Research Committee to GNC.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by A. King, pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the appointment of the following faculty member to the Research Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2026:

- *Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen, Faculty of Education*

(c) Academic Council Meeting Format

At the request of GNC, the Secretariat prepared an analysis of meeting formats for Academic Council meetings in 2023/2024. GNC agreed, based on the information provided, that hybrid meetings should not be considered but to instead opt for a mix of in-person and online meetings. There was a recommendation that at a minimum the first and last meetings of the year be held in-person recognizing the importance of in-person connections and that the format of meetings be communicated well in advance for members to prepare for attendance. The Provost drew Academic Council's attention to the draft schedule in the materials.

A discussion then ensued on the value of in-person meetings with Academic Council recommending that more than two meetings be held in person in 2023/2024. After some debate, it was decided that the first meeting of the fall and winter terms and a final meeting, for a total of three, will be held in person. A member noted that a call-in option for in-person meetings may be helpful when members are suddenly unable to attend; this was distinguished from a hybrid meeting as emphasis would remain on attending in person.

10. Minutes of the Meeting of May 23, 2023

A member requested that the May 23, 2024 Academic Council minutes be amended to reflect that three members of Academic Council made comments on the April 25, 2023 minutes. The University Secretary agreed to review the relevant portion of the May 23, 2023 minutes and bring a revised version the September 2023 meeting of Academic Council.

11. Cyclical Program Reviews from USC

(a) Bachelor of Science in Physics

A member asked about the resourcing for the cyclical program review of the Bachelor of Science in Physics, inquiring about laboratory equipment and whether or not costs contemplated were included in the budget. The Provost responded that implementation plans are prepared by Deans. The materials presented are, in effect, a plan for how to address the reviewer's comments but do not guarantee the allocation of resources. K. McCartney then clarified that the review is before Academic Council for information and has been considered by the Academic Resource Committee (ARC) from a resourcing perspective. USC is responsible for reviewing the curriculum portion of the review, in accordance with the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

In response to a question, the Provost advised that comments on the review can be addressed to the Dean. In response to a further question, the Provost advised that in accordance with quality assurance documents, the outcome of the planning process will be brought back in 18 months. In response to a question about teaching staff instructing first year courses, the Provost clarified that reviews such as this one are program-specific and not across-the-board. A member then asked if it was procedurally appropriate to discuss this item without those responsible for decision-making present. In response, L. Roy clarified that the review was discussed at USC, including the allocation of teaching staff resources. The University Secretary further clarified that no decision is before Academic Council; this item is presented for information only. Further concerns were expressed about the lack of a subject matter expert such as a faculty member from Physics or a Dean or Associate Dean. Another member expressed use of consent agendas in general. Having this item return to Academic Council in September was discussed, with members ultimately satisfied that instead it be assured that those responsible for consent agenda items be present at Academic Council meetings.

12. Consent Agenda

- (a) Minor Program Adjustments from USC
 - a. Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology*
- (b) Editorial Policy Changes
 - a. Thesis Oral Examination for Master's and Doctoral Candidates Policy*
- (c) 2023-2024 Major Scholarship Memo*

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

13. Other Business

None.

14. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by S. Nokleby, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Lauren Turner, University Secretary