

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of October 24, 2023
2:30 – 3:27 p.m. via videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)	Duff, Ana	Partosoedarso, Elita
Aamir, Asifa	Eklund, Mike	Rastpour, Amir
Aquanno, Scott	Fernando, Shanti	Rodgers, Carol
Arcand, JoAnne	Frazer, Mitch	Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Azad, Nader	Hosseini, Sayyed Ali	Robyn
Bailey, Robert	Hossein Nejad, Mehdi	Serote, MaryCae
Barari, Ahmad	Jacobs, Les	Simmons, Denina
Beligan, Mihai	King, Alyson	Stoett, Peter
Bluechardt, Mary	Liscano, Ramiro	Stokes, Joe
Brown, Samantha	Livingston, Lori	Thompson, Dwight
Bryant, Toba	MacMillan, Patricia	Ubor, Tega
Christou, Ted	McGregor, Carolyn	Vettor, Shannon
Crawford, Greg	Naumkin, Fedor	Watterworth, Michael
Davidson, Catherine	Nokleby, Scott	

Regrets:

Barber, Wendy	Kay, Robin	McAlpin, Breanne
Felder, Ruth	Kishawy, Hossam	
Giorgees, Ifrodet	Jones, Ferdinand	

Staff & Guests:

Bauer, Chelsea	Kassarlis, Andrea	O'Halloran, Niall
Bruno, Jamie	Levy, Melissa	Onsiong, Pamela
Callahan, Stephanie	Livingstone, Clarissa	Papke, Darryl
Gottlieb, Sara	MacIsaac, Brad	Thrush, Sarah
Hamilton, Barbara	McCartney, Kimberley	Turner, Lauren
Heslip, Michelle	McLaughlin, Christine	Windsor, Shelly
Hester, Krista	Nickle, Joanne	
Jahan, Celine	Nyaamine, Ruth	

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and T. Ubor read aloud the land acknowledgement. He welcomed the two new Faculty-at-Large members of Academic Council.

2. Agenda

Upon request, the Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2023 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 for their hard work so far this semester. He provided updates on several recent events including the Women for STEM summit, the University's first fall Convocation, the Ontario Universities Fair (OUF), and varsity sports. In response to a question about the re-appointment of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, the President advised that the process will be underway in November; the search advisory committee has been selected and a campus wide email is forthcoming.

4. Inquiries and Communications

There were none.

5. Provost's Remarks

The Provost thanked everyone who participated in the OUF over the weekend. She recognized the Registrar's Office and the recruitment team for their hard work, advising that the event was very well received by attendees.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost provided updates on three decanal searches:

- i. Faculty of Business and Information Technology – the search for candidates is underway
- ii. Faculty of Science – search advisory committee membership announced last week; work of the committee begins shortly
- iii. Faculty of Education – a call for expressions of interest in serving on the search advisory committee is imminent

(b) Planning Update

S. Thrush presented the Planning Update, advising that integrated planning templates were distributed to all Faculties and units in the fall, spurring discussions and retreats. In the winter, the Planning Office will be examining the integrated plan report-back and evaluation. Projects and initiatives that move forward, along with their progress, will be reported in June to both Academic Council and the Board of Governors. She then described the evolution of the integrated planning framework and institutional metrics, highlighting the planned incorporation of qualitative elements. An example of the format will be provided to Academic Council next month. Turning to research metrics, she advised that in conjunction with the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, work is underway to identify metrics that will evaluate progress against both the Strategic Research Plan and the Integrated Academic Research Plan. The research metrics will also be the subject of reporting at year end.

In closing, she advised that planning for 2024/2025 will commence in the spring and Strategic Mandate Agreement metric impacts will be reported at the same time. In response to a question about which initiatives units are moving forward, S. Thrush encouraged the member to check with their Dean from whom planning inputs will be received by the end of the month.

Committee Reports:

6. Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)

(a) Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

M. Bluehardt presented the Major Program Modification, noting that the change is purely the program being re-named.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Bluehardt and seconded by G. Crawford, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science - Biological Science – Life Sciences Specialization changing the program name of the specialization to Biomedical Science.

(b) Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Engineering in Manufacturing Engineering

M. Bluehardt presented the Major Program Modification. In response to a question about the lack of a pathway in Mechanical Engineering, S. Nokleby advised that the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences (FEAS) felt it best to start with a single pathway to judge efficacy before pursuing others; Manufacturing was a logical choice as there is a desire to strengthen enrolment in the program. A member raised a concern about how the pathway was presented to the FEAS Faculty Council (FC), sharing his recollection that it was a preliminary discussion with a commitment to return to FC. D. Papke confirmed that the pathway was presented as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the FC, but that the MOU contains substantively similar content to the Major Program Modification template; any pathway is also by definition a Major Program Modification. The proposal was subsequently moved into the template for procedural reasons including satisfying the requirements of the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance. In response to a further concern about the pace of the Modification's approval, S. Nokleby refuted that the process was rushed, citing consultation with experts within the department and a vote held at FC. D. Papke added that the Modification does not represent any change to learning outcomes; it only speaks to the entry point into the program.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Bluehardt and seconded by S. Hosseini, pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications in the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Manufacturing Engineering to establish a new Pathway for graduates of Durham College's Mechanical Engineering Technology Diploma.

7. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

T. Christou spoke favourably about his experience at fall Convocation. He advised Academic Council that GSC had a busy September meeting leading to a number of items on today's consent agenda.

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

(a) Faculty Council Membership Lists

L. Livingston presented the Faculty Council Membership Lists, noting that these are the balance of the lists not yet approved by Academic Council. In response to a question, C. Rodgers confirmed that the Faculty of Health Sciences is in the process of firming up the Teaching Assistants and Sessionals who will serve on Faculty Council.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, Academic Council hereby approves the following 2023-2024 Faculty Council membership lists, as presented:

- *Faculty of Business and Information Technology*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences*
- *Faculty of Science*

(b) Faculty Council Vice-Chair Nominations

L. Livingston presented the Faculty Council Vice-Chair Nominations noting that nominations from all Faculties have now been received.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Livingston and seconded by P. Stoett, Academic Council hereby approves the appointment of the following individuals as Vice-Chair of their respective Faculty Council for the term of October 24, 2023 until September 30, 2024:

- *Faculty of Health Sciences – Nooshin Rotondi*
- *Faculty of Science – Kimberly Nugent*
- *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities - Kanika Samuels Wortley*

9. Research Committee

L. Jacobs congratulated all Research Excellence award winners and new Research Chairs.

(a) Intellectual Property Policy Update

L. Jacobs provided an update on the Intellectual Property Policy (Policy). He advised that the Policy has been brought to the Senior Leadership Team for feedback as well as the Research Committee. The Academic Leadership Team (ALT) was consulted, resulting in minor revisions which were returned to the Policy Committee. Over the next month, the following consultations are planned: ALT, online consultation with the whole University community, Faculty Association, Academic Council, and the Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. L. Jacobs shared his objective of moving through these points of consultation by December and returning to Academic

Council for approval in 2024. He thanked all those who have participated in consultation thus far. In response to a question, L. Jacobs confirmed that there are no substantive differences between the current draft and the draft last seen by the Faculty Association.

10. Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2023

Two corrections were requested to the minutes: (i) terminology and a date in the discussion about a Faculty re-naming; (ii) marking S. Vettor present.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Eklund and seconded by T. Bryant, the Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2023 were approved as amended.

11. Policy Consultation

(a) Endowment Policy and Procedure

P. Onsiong presented the Endowment Policy and Procedure (P&P), advising that the proposed revisions do not impact the University's general operations, but will be meaningful for donors who wish to understand the principles guiding the disbursement of their donations and will be used and applied by officers in the Advancement, Finance and Financial Aid Offices. She then commented on economic volatility over the last two years including high levels of inflation and relatively lower net investment returns. Responding to such volatility is part of the proposed revisions which contemplate various scenarios. In response to a comment, P. Onsiong confirmed that endowed funds are disbursed for scholarships (25%) and bursaries (75%) only. In response to a question about potential impacts on gift agreements, P. Onsiong advised that the P&P pertains to the administration and disbursement of endowed funds, not specific gift agreements. Finance is, however, working with Advancement to ensure that future gift agreements reference the P&P.

12. Consent Agenda

(a) Minor Program Adjustments from GSC

- a. Doctor of Education
- b. Master of Engineering and Master of Applied Science in Automotive Engineering
- c. Master of Engineering Master of Applied Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering
- d. Master of Applied Science in Nuclear Engineering
- e. Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering

(b) Cyclical Program Reviews from USC (I)

- a. 18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies and Digital Technology (ESDT) and Designing Adult Learning for the Digital Age (ALDA)
- b. 18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Engineering in Automotive Engineering
- c. 18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering

- d. **18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering**
 - e. **18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Engineering in Software Engineering**
 - f. **18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Science in Applied and Industrial Mathematics**
- (c) Approved Exception to Residency Requirement – Faculty of Health Sciences**
(d) 2023-24 Academic Schedule Update – New Deadlines for Spring/Summer Application to Graduate

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

(a) Land acknowledgement for November Academic Council meeting

D. Simmons volunteered to do the land acknowledgement for November. Following this, a discussion ensued about the use of consent agendas at Academic Council. There was a lack of consensus on the matter, with some concerns raised about meetings ending too early and the contrasting view that it signals good governance also voiced. The University Secretary confirmed that the 18-month reviews were given significant discussion time and were the subject of thoughtful debate at USC at its September meeting.

14. Termination (M)

Upon a motion made by S. Nokleby, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Lauren Turner, University Secretary