



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2014**

Present:

T. McTiernan
D. Saucier
N. Ammar
W. Bartfay
T. Dhar
N. Charewicz
C. Collins
S. de Castell
P. Drayson
M. DiGuuseppe
M. Eklund
F. Gaspari
M. Green
R. Hinch
D. Holdway
F. Jones

H. Kishawy
B. Lewis
R. Machrafi
B. MacIsaac
B. Muirhead
M. Owen
D. Petrarca
P. Ritchie
N. Saniei
H. Scott
E. Vogel
C. Foy

Guests:

S. Rogoza
O. Petrie
S. Van Nuland

Regrets:

P. Beatty
O. Afifi
N. Arafa
B. Campbell
C. Elliott
S. McGovern
N. Molinaro
L. Nacke
N. Molinaro
T. Sidhu
M. Vargas Martin

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Provost called the meeting to order at 2:43 pm. She advised that the President would be a few minutes late as he is attending the visitation for the late Honourable Jim Flaherty.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The President apologized for being late noting that Jim Flaherty's visitation was exceptionally well attended.

The President provided an update on the Honorary Doctorate selection process noting that a pool of potential candidates has been established for future convocation sessions. He advised that the names of the June recipients would be made public shortly.

The President discussed mental health issues on campus and the support systems available to students at the North and Downtown campuses. He advised that the institution will be reviewing these supports very closely over the next few months to determine where additional resources are required. He provided a brief update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement process.

The President responded to questions and comments from Council on his remarks. He acknowledged concerns raised by Council members about mental health issues on campus.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014

A request for clarification was noted for Item 9. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Downtown Security

N. Ammar commented on the security update provided at the February 25th meeting noting that she does not agree that security measures ought to cease because some students feel that they are being profiled. This concern was noted by the Provost.

6. INQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Motion on Conferral of Degrees

The Secretariat advised that the recent electronic vote on the following motion was unanimously approved:

That Academic Council authorize the granting of degrees to those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements at the end of the Fall term 2013 and who have been recommended for graduation by their Faculty.

In response to a question from M. Eklund, the Secretariat advised that, for purposes of this motion, the term "in writing" was deemed to include by electronic means.

7. PROVOST'S REMARKS

The Provost advised that the institution recently received its SMA back from MTCU and has now resubmitted with a number of edits. She noted that further comments are expected from MTCU before the SMA is finalized.

The Provost noted that this is a stressful time for students. Given the recent inclement weather conditions, she asked that appropriate accommodations be granted in the case of weather related examination requests.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Provost presented the Executive Committee report.

8.1.1 Nomination to Academic Council Executive Committee

That Academic Council appoint the following faculty member to serve as an elected member of Academic Council Executive Committee:

MOTION
CARRIED

a) Core Faculty Representative

Hannah Scott, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – March 2014-June 2014

8.2 RESEARCH BOARD

M. Owen presented the report of the Research which contained one item for action.

8.2.1 Dissolving of the Centre for Evaluation and Survey Research

MOTION *That Academic Council approves the dissolution of the Centre for Evaluation and Survey Research*
CARRIED *(CESR) as a university centre.*

N. Ammar noted that while CESR is being disbanded as a university centre, it will continue to operate within the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and will have an expanded downtown presence. In response to a question from M. Eklund, N. Ammar noted that CESR will be renamed. In response to a question from D. Petrarca, N. Ammar advised that CESR will continue to provide services to all faculties.

A typographical error was noted in the first paragraph of the memorandum presented by M. Owen.

8.2.2 Approval authority – Indirect Costs of Research Policy

In response to concerns raised at a previous meeting, the Secretariat advised that she had reviewed the matter and confirms that the Indirect Costs of Research Policy falls within the administrative purview of the institution and was correctly provided to Academic Council for information purposes rather than for approval. In response to a concern raised by H. Scott that the policy has an academic component, M. Owen noted that there was significant consultation on this policy at Research Board and with faculty representatives. In response to concerns raised by H. Scott and M. Eklund, M. Owen clarified that the revised policy came out of his office, not the Research Board (the Research Board played a consultative role only). The Provost noted that this item had been incorrectly identified as a Research Board initiative on the Agenda.

8.3 CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

B. Muirhead presented the report of the Committee which contained one item for action and one item for information

8.3.1 Bachelor of Education – Major Program Modification

MOTION *That Academic Council approves the major program modifications to the Consecutive BEd*
CARRIED *program at UOIT to create a four-semester program.*

B. Muirhead described the modification and rationale. He noted that the changes were directed by MTCU and the Faculty has worked tirelessly to make the required changes by revising operations and curriculum. S. de Castell and D. Petrarca responded to questions from Council regarding the additional human resources required for the modification and the appropriateness of sessional instructors. P. Ritchie requested clarification on the projected losses for the program over the long term. The Provost noted that certain of the requested information is beyond the scope of our current projection abilities. S. de Castell noted that the required cuts represent a program loss of approximately 33%. She noted that the profound question for Council is whether the Government should dictate the programs offered by the University. She asked that Council approve the modification without restriction.

S. Van Nuland entered the meeting

In response to a question from H. Scott, the President advised that every post-secondary institution in the Province with a faculty of education has signed a letter speaking out against the MTCU restrictions. S. Van Nuland noted that the Faculty Associations are also lobbying MTCU on this issue.

8.4 GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE/CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

B. Muirhead presented the report of the Committee which contained one item for action.

MOTION *That Academic Council approves the move from a 64 to 60 day term commencing in the 2015-16*
CARRIED *academic year.*

B. Muirhead discussed the rationale for the change noting that it will bring UOIT in line with the majority of postsecondary institutions in Ontario. M. Eklund commented that the shortened term length is putting pressure on the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and the Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science due to course hour requirements imposed by accrediting bodies. The President noted this concern.

9. ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE TO THE COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES UPDATE

M. Green provided a COU update. He discussed the SMA process noting that it is expected to occur again in three years. He advised that there was significant discussion about putting a significant number of courses online, particularly large, first year courses. F. Gaspari noted that while there is some indication that offering niche courses online may be useful, there has been little study of the pedagogical impact of large online courses. M. Green also discussed proposed legislative changes to further restrict the authority of public sector boards.

10. RATIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC APPROVAL OF CONFERRAL OF DEGREES FOR FALL 2013

B. MacIsaac requested that Council ratify their prior electronic approval.

MOTION *That Academic Council ratifies the unanimous electronic approval of the following motion:*
CARRIED *That Academic Council authorizes the granting of degrees to those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements at the end of the Fall term 2013 and who have been recommended for graduation by their Faculty.*

11. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES FOR JUNE 2014 CONVOCATION

B. MacIsaac advised that this request is being made in advance for administrative reasons due to the necessary timeline for moving forward on this process occurring prior to the next meeting of Academic Council.

MOTION *That Academic Council authorizes the granting of degrees at the University's convocation on June*
CARRIED *5, 6, 2014 to those students who have fulfilled all degree program requirements at the end of the 2014 winter semester and who have been recommended for graduation by their Faculty; and those students who, pending submission of incomplete grades or payment of outstanding financial obligations, will fulfill the degree program requirements and receive a recommendation for graduation from their Faculty between the date of this meeting of Academic Council and Convocation on June 5,6, 2014.*

12. 2014-15 ACADEMIC CALENDAR DATES

B. MacIsaac presented the proposed 2014-15 Academic Calendar dates and advised that they have been already approved by Academic Council Executive. He noted that due to the placement of the January 1st holiday, the Winter 2015 term begins on January 5 which is also the first day back for faculty and staff. There was discussion of the potential implications of this schedule for exam deferrals. It was agreed that CPRC would look into this issue.

13. OTHER BUSINESS <moved from item 14>

13.1 Academic Council Elections

M. Eklund introduced three motions relating to Academic Council elections. A friendly amendment was made to Motion 3 below to specify dates.

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council recommend elections held to fill vacancies for the coming year be held in March each year with at least the first round of nominations and voting completed by the last day of classes in Winter term each year, and that the complete process be completed no later than April 30.*

MOTION CARRIED *That the university secretariat will organize an orientation session for the new AC members at least two weeks prior to the first regularly scheduled meeting each September, which shall include a session to which all members of Academic Council and the Board of Governors are invited to meet with the new members.*

MOTION CARRIED *That the election process for 2014-2015 vacancies begin on May 15 and conclude no later than July 1.*

N. Ammar commented that the orientation should not be a passive process.

14. COLLEAGUES EXCHANGE <moved from item 13>

The President introduced the Colleagues Exchange as a new standing agenda item. The Secretariat provided an overview of the proposed scope of this item noting that it is intended as a time to address items that are not for action. She asked that Council members continue to put items on the formal agenda wherever possible so that other members have the opportunity to consider issues in advance. It was agreed that this item would always follow Other Business on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Cheryl Foy, Secretary