

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 26, 2022

2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Videoconference

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Azad, Nader
Barber, Wendy
Bliemel, Michael
Bradbury, Jeremy
Davidson, Catherine
Eklund, Mike
Elliott, Laura
Felder, Ruth
Fernando, Shanti
Frazer, Mitch
Hogue, Andrew
Hoorweg, Daniel
Jacobs, Les
Kay, Robin
King, Alyson
Kishawy, Hossam

Leishman, Jessica
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
MacMillan, Patricia
Murphy, Bernadette
Naumkin, Fedor
Rahnamayan,
Shahryar
Rodgers, Carol
Rastpour, Amir
Roy, Langis
Sankarlal, Joshua
Serenko, Alexander
Slane, Andrea
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe

Staff & Guests:

Boujos, Kristen
Bruno, Jamie
Callahan, Stephanie
Cantrell, Sarah
Crichlow, Wesley
Gottlieb, Sara
Hester, Krista
Lin, Sylvia
Livingstone, Clarissa
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney,
Kimberley
McLaughlin, Christine
Nickle, Joanne
O'Malley, Grace
Scanga, Franco
Shah, Alena

Regrets:

Barari, Ahmad
Crawford, Greg
Dubrowski, Adam
Duff, Ana
Easton, Brad

Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jones, Ferdinand
O'Rourke, Nicholas
Partosoedarso, Elita
Ruttenberg-Rozen,
Robyn

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by S. Rahnamayan and seconded by A. King, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for their resilience and perseverance coming through the Winter term. He reminded members that we are keeping our mask mandate on campus and will continue to do so as we monitor the ongoing health situation. He noted that we have paused the vaccine mandate as of May 1, however, keeping the directive in



abeyance means that we have the full ability to bring it back if the need arises. We will be monitoring things and see how it progresses over the summer and into the fall.

He thanked everyone for their participation in the Experience Days held on campus in March and reminded members of the upcoming Spring Virtual Open House on April 30.

Regarding Convocation for June 8-10, the Chair announced that the intent is to celebrate with graduates outdoors, safely, in person and masked appropriately, however, this is completely dependant on public health measures closer to the time. We are hoping the trend continues downward for the sixth wave, but at this time it is still too soon to confirm. More details will follow in the coming weeks as we continue to watch the wave very carefully to keep the safety of our community as the top priority.

(a) 2022 Honorary Degree Recipients

The president explained that at Convocation, we will confer honorary doctorate degrees to recognize outstanding individuals who inspire others and embody the university's vision and mission. Recipients will have made an outstanding intellectual and/or scholarly contribution in their chosen field of academic eminence, or provided outstanding service and/or contributions to greater society through non-academic achievements and/or public service.

This year the university will proudly present six honorary degrees to the following individuals:

Mr. Jeffrey Boyce and Mrs. Julia Boyce, President of Evsam Holdings and Philanthropist, for their strong commitment to volunteerism and philanthropic contributions to the communities of Durham Region, for their championing of education, of young women pursuing education and young women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), and for their steadfast ambassadorship of Ontario Tech University.

Dr. Naheed Dosani, Palliative Care Physician and Ontario Tech class of 2008 alum, for his relentless advocacy for health and human rights, his trailblazing achievements in delivering community-based hospice palliative care to society's most vulnerable individuals regardless of their housing status or factors such as poverty, mental health or substance addiction and his ongoing commitment to humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Christian Lassonde, Founder and Managing Partner, Impression Ventures and Director, Lassonde Family Foundation, for his outstanding work as a business leader and entrepreneur, his dedication as a mentor for the next generation of professionals, and his commitment and support to education and health care through philanthropy and volunteer activities.



Ms. Rania Llewellyn, President and Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of the Laurentian Bank of Canada, for her significant business successes, her leadership in driving growth and change, and for promoting diversity in the workplace, and her continuing commitment to supporting new Canadian immigrants.

Mr. John Tavares*, Captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs, for his outstanding work as a Canadian athlete, his dedication as a role model to aspiring young athletes, and for inspiring the next generation to build a better world for themselves and the generations. [*To be conferred in Fall 2022.]

Ms. Phyllis Webstad, Founder and Executive Director of the Orange Shirt Society and Author of Phyllis's Orange Shirt, for her profound storytelling and raising awareness about the residential school system, her advocacy for Indigenous Peoples, and her commitment to providing Indigenous Peoples with a platform to having their voices heard.

4. COU Academic Colleagues Exchange

A. King referred to her written report submitted and highlighted the following:

Dr. Barham spoke to the Colleagues about strategies for bringing the community into the classroom. The traditional method of taking students out into the community can be challenging with the volume of students in large Faculties. Traditional strategies suit small cohorts and tend to serve the strongest students the best, rather than those who could benefit the most. The research demonstrates the importance of things like co-op placements, volunteerism and the like, but many students from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with work and family commitments are the least likely to be able to participate. Dr. Barham told us that the model needs to be flipped; we need to bring the community into the classroom, rather than the classroom into the community.

Further, at the April meeting, there was a conversation with Sheila Côte-Meek, Vice-President Equity, People and Culture, York University, regarding De-colonizing Academia.

Dr. Côte-Meek presented an overview of the dimensions that informs her work on colonization and decolonization, noting that colonization has led to extreme inequities and ongoing violence. Going back to the work of Franz Fanon whose work linked colonialism with violent states, colonization has been linked to the land. Education is one of the primary tools of colonization. The structures that hold together the academy are colonial and influence what and how subjects are taught in universities. While culturally-based education is important, it does not address the ongoing forms of violence the continue to exist in mainstream institutions of education. Dr. Côte-Meek discussed the principles and practices of decolonization, indigenization and equity, noting that decolonization is about the land, ideology, and violence, and looking for ways to create alternative methodologies and worldviews. Indigenization is about the process of working with Indigenous peoples to support a deeper understanding of Indigenous worldviews and methodologies, but it is

not as deep as a decolonization process. Equity is the process of creating equivalent outcomes.

A. King also updated Council to inform that the Ministry has sent an MOU regarding implementation of a revised program approval process. This change will make the approval process quicker without losing the quality assurance.

A. King noted that further details can be found in her full written report.

Questions from Council included:

R. Liscano questioned if administration could provide feedback on the report. He noted that COU comments are very interesting (i.e. changes to program approval, pressures from other institutions/colleges, etc.). The president replied that he would be happy to talk about the issues, however, the topics are very broad. He suggested that he and A. King sit down to figure out a solution for this.

M. Eklund inquired about the program approvals process and that it seems like a significant change. Members from CIQE were available to answer the question and noted that the change is actually trying to optimize the process by shortening the processing time and that it is meant to streamline things. In the past it could take up to a year to hear back from the Ministry on an approval and with the new process most will take between 3-5 months.

5. Provost's Remarks

The Provost thanked students, staff and faculty for finishing off a trying term and thanked everyone for their efforts and for supporting each other over the past two years. She also thanked C. Davidson and the library staff who have been on site through the last few months as a requirement. She further thanked the Registrar's Office for supporting students regarding finances, awards, inquiries, recruitment, etc.

The Provost reminded AC members that it is important that we all take a deep breath and decompress: Next week is Mental Health week and there are a series of events taking place including online webinars and other activities available to all at Ontario Tech. More information can be found on the events and initiatives webpage.

She further noted that the Moose Hyde Campaign starts May 2 and the official event is on May 12. The Moose Hyde Campaign started 11 years ago with a small gathering of men and boys intent on raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous woman and children, and has now become a national ceremony inviting all Canadians to join together to end violence against all women and children.

(a) Senior Academic Administrator Search Update

The Provost noted that the Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Search Advisory Committee kicked off last week with search firm (KBRS), lead by Jennie Massey. The timeline is a bit longer than originally planned, however, she is pleased to report that that advertisement should be posted by mid-May. The Committee is expected to start considering candidates in mid-August.

(b) Teaching Award Recipients

The Provost announced the awards recipients for the 2021 Teach Awards that were presented on March 30:

Award for Excellence in Teaching - Diana Petrarca, Faculty of Education

Early Career Teaching Award - Jane Breen, Faculty of Science

Learning Reimagined Award - Alvaro Quevedo, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

Openness in Education Award - Elita Partosoedarso, Faculty of Health Sciences

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award - Shanelle Racine, Faculty of Health Sciences

Tim McTiernan Student Mentorship Award - Janette Hughes, Faculty of Education

Student Choice Award - Syed Qadri, Faculty of Health Sciences

She congratulated all winners and nominees and thanked all instructors and teachers for their hard work and dedication. She noted that we saw incredible degrees of innovation to create community amongst the most trying times. We celebrate everyone's efforts.

6. Conferral of Degrees – Winter Term 2022

Upon a motion duly made by R. Kay and seconded by A. King, that pursuant to the recommendations of each Faculty and the Registrar, Academic Council hereby confirms the eligibility for graduation of those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements at the end of the Winter Term 2022 and recommends the conferral of degrees by the Chancellor.

Committee Reports

7. Research Committee (Les Jacobs)

L. Jacobs noted that this is always the time of year where we get results back for grant applications and that it is another stellar year for the university. Notably for SSHRC there was a 67% success rate (being the highest in the university's history). Discovery grants had a 50% success rate and we are now at the highest dollar we've ever achieved.

He stated that the waste water testing team has now received a significant grant and it is important to recognize how substantial their contributions are. He shared his appreciation for all those that submitted applications and that we are always very keen to support faculty developing grants over the summer.



L. Jacobs further updated on the CFREF application that many individuals had been involved in developing the NOI. Overall there are 40 industry partners on the application. The University of Toronto joined as junior partners and there is a great synergy to build on. Further, there are 70 researchers identified in grant. Over the summer we are focused on developing the full application with a detailed action plan.

He noted that there is a posted invitation regarding Canada Excellence Research Chair for researchers at other universities to show interest. He commented that these are very well funded opportunities and our allocation (which doesn't mean success) is \$1M per year (including two junior or one senior Tier I). The criteria are as follows: 1. There has to be a stellar applicant who fits with our current research strength; 2. There is an expectation/high desire to see this as being an international recruitment opportunity. The federal government is not looking for us to recruit from other universities in Canada; and 3. EDI and Indigenous considerations. He encouraged members to pass the advertisement along to individuals that meet the criteria.

J. Jacobs further noted that provincial government has put a heavy emphasis on Vice-Presidents of Research to focus on commercialization of research. He stated that there are many pieces to that, most notably that this month they have mandated that every university VPR post a statement of the institution's commercialization framework. He confirmed that this will be going up in the next week and there are no surprises in the framework. He further stated that an inventory of invention disclosures has by completed and we've had the most invention disclosures for more than a decade. He concluded by noting that it is a very good year in terms of inventions and movement to commercialization.

Questions from Council included:

- Why are some Committee reports verbal and some are written?
 - Written reports are provided to members of the Research Board. Each Faculty has a representative on the Research Board that is expected to share those written reports. The summary provided at Academic Council by L. Jacobs is a summary of those reports that go to Research Board. Members should find the full details from your Faculty representative on the Research Board.

8. Consent Agenda:

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of March 22, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by J. Sankarlal and seconded by J. Stokes, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

9. For Information:

(a) UNENE Program Review

(b) USC Report – April 2022

M. Eklund highlighted to things from the UNENE report: The size and viability of the program and about the concerns expressed regarding EDI in the program going forward. He asked how those two items are being addressed. L. Roy responded that the UNENE program is delivered jointly with five schools and it is doing well for what it was set up to do. The other universities are happy to partner but each institution has their own respective programs so the observation on the number of students going through UNENE is modest. There are suggestions to make better. It is incumbent on member institutions to say that they want to strengthen it. We are a faithful partner and we are doing our part. J. Jacobs also noted that UNENE is looking to us as a vehicle to strengthen EDI. There is a central EDI commitment in our IAEECC in nuclear, including women in nuclear. This has been developed since the report was written.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by H. Kishawy, the meeting terminated at 3:27 p.m.

Krista Hester, Acting Secretary