

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – Special Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 2, 2020

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

Present:

Murphy, Steven (Chair)
Barari, Ahmad
Bliemel, Michael
Crawford, Greg
Davis, Owen
Davidson, Catherine
Frazer, Mitch
Gaber, Hossam
Habibi, Sarah
Heydari, Shahram
Hogue, Jessica
Hossein Nejad, Mehdi
Jacobs, Les
Jones, Ferdinand
Kay, Robin
Kishawy, Hossam
LeSage, Ann
Liscano, Ramiro
Livingston, Lori
Lloyd, Meghann
Mahmoud, Qusay
Marques, Olga

Murphy, Bernadette
Partosoedarso, Elita
Petrie, Olivia
Pierce, Tess
Roy, Langis
Scott, Hannah
Shon, Phillip
Stoett, Peter
Stokes, Joe
Tokuhira, Akira
Woolridge, Lyndsay
Wu, Terry

Staff & Guests:

Babb, Shay
Dinwoodie,
Becky
Foy, Cheryl
Maclsaac, Brad
McCartney,
Kimberley
Molinaro, Nichole
O'Halloran, Niall
Pitcher, Cathy
Secord, Krista

Regrets:

Desaulniers, Jean-Paul
Khalid, Osama
McCabe, Janet
Mostaghim, Amir
Mohany, Atef
Naumkin, Fedor
Nugent, Kimberly
Rahnamayan, Shahryar
Rinaldi, Jen
Williams, Alyssa

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. Agenda

An informational item was added under the Graduate Studies Committee Report.

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

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and ensuring the continued academic governance of the university. He noted that Academic Council had not yet had to rely on the delegation of authority to the Steering Committee. The Chair discussed the recent unrest in the United States precipitated by the death of George Floyd and referred to the statement that was issued by the university the day before. He welcomed Council members' thoughts and ideas on how to address these matters.

4. Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

(a) Graduate Calendar to Policy Migration Project (deferred from May meeting)

- i. Graduate Admission and Application Requirements
- ii. Graduate Categories and Decisions Policy
- iii. Graduate Program Changes and Transfers Policy
- iv. Graduate EDI and Non-Standard Admission Policy

L. Roy presented the policy documents for approval.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Roy and seconded by F. Jones, pursuant to the recommendation of the GSC, Academic Council unanimously approved the following policy documents, as presented:

- i. Graduate Admission and Application Requirements Policy*
- ii. Graduate Admission Categories and Decisions Policy*
- iii. Graduate Program Changes and Transfers Policy*
- iv. Graduate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Non-Standard Admission Policy*

(b) 2020 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award Guidelines (deferred from May meeting)

L. Roy provided an overview of the changes to the administration of the awards. He informed Council that getting financial support to students is a priority and effective April 1, 2020, the Travel Award is no longer being considered as a reimbursement of related expenses and will be considered award income instead. There will be no changes to the criteria, selection process, or timelines. L. Roy responded to questions from Council members. He clarified that although travel will be limited, the award still applies to

registration fees for conferences at which students present. L. Roy invited members with more operational questions to contact him directly following the Council meeting. He confirmed that the amount available for the travel awards is \$10,000 and most awards vary between \$300-500. A suggestion was made to request supporting documentation to confirm the student's use of funds.

5. Policy Consultation:

(a) Code of Ethics (continued from May meeting)

N. O'Halloran reviewed the feedback received on the draft policy documents, so far. Academic Council had a robust discussion about the policy documents, which included the following comments/feedback:

- discussion relating to s.10 of Code of Ethical Conduct Policy – Concurrent Employment and Conflict of Commitment – Council members asked for creative ideas where balancing competing obligations;
- purpose of policy instruments is to set clear guidelines as to when members of the university community can accept gifts and be transparent about it – ensure that gift acceptance doesn't result in improper influence;
- should consult with our Indigenous colleagues to determine how the policy documents would apply to the practice of tributes;
- discussion of the test for conflict of commitment in s.10.1 of Code of Ethical Conduct Policy;
- discussion regarding the consultation process during policy development and the approval path for the documents – since the policy documents are categorized as Legal, Compliance and Governance, the policy documents will be presented to the Audit & Finance Committee for recommendation and approval by the Board;
- for some more significant policies, a one-year review period is set instead of the standard 3-year period – this allows the policy to be tested out and any challenges that to need to be addressed to be identified – suggested that a one-year review period would be appropriate for this policy;
- policy should distinguish between a gift and reimbursement of expenses for logistics for providing a service;
- too much authority given to VPs in the policy documents – suggestion made that a deliberative body be established with the relevant VP as Chair, who would vote in case of a tie;
- Western and philosophical mode of ethical decision making – framing ethics as individual choice and morality – ignores structural aspects of ethical decision making;
- educational framework and training plan should be developed;
- confusion associated with definition of “university gift”;
- should clarify that the policy documents do not restrict academic freedom and do not interfere with existing Collective Agreements;

If Council members had further comments on the policy documents, they were asked to e-mail them directly to C. Foy and N. O'Halloran.

6. Other Business

7. Termination

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by T. Pierce and seconded by H. Gaber, the meeting terminated at 3:38 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary