

Arts and Science Faculty Council

Minutes of Council

Meeting #: 51
Date: March 6, 2022
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: 9-323 (Kule Theatre)
Motion #s: 468 – 478

Present:

Schalomon, M (Chair)	Davis, J	Irwin, B	Peace, K	Wright, J
Martin, D (Vice- Chair)	Dawson, L	Islam, S	Penney, A	Zalghout, A
Bruins-Smith, T (Secretary)	El-Hajj, M	Ivanescu, C	Powell, R	
Cott, A (Secretary)	Elliott, C	Jarick, M	Prince, P	Other - Voting
Alati, D	Elmorsy, M	Kenney, Janice	Ramsey, C	Friesen, K
Anderson, N	Epp, M	Kim-Bernard, K	Romney, J	Gilmour, L
Anton, Cr	Farvolden, P	Lee, R	Ross, M	Jung, S
Avalos, E	Fong, J	Legge, E	Ruiz Serrano, C	Lipes, R
Beltaos-Kerr, E	Forth, A	Llano, J	Schultz, W	Minaker, J
Bica, I	Franczak, B	Long, J	Seredycz, M	Mugo, S
Blatz, C	Giacomin, M	Lorimer, S	Sibley, L	Robertson, S
Bott, Tina	Gibbs, Matt	Lorkovic, E	Skye, A	
Boyd, B	Gulayets, M	McFadyen, D	Soroski, J	Ex Officiis and Delegates
Buchanan, D	Haines, J	McKenzie, H	Stepnisky, J	Keiller, K
Carroll, M	Harcombe, K	McKeown, N	Striemer, C	Khinkanina, N
Cobzas, D	Hatherly, Celia	Mensah, C	Strungaru, N	McKenzie, D
Copland, S	Hayman, S	Mewhort, R	Su, W	McLaughlin, D
Cowling, E	Hills, M	Mills, S	Swanston, T	
Davies, K	Hollingshead, D	Moscicki, M	Tessier, A	Public Members
	Honey, L	Overend, A	Toth, J	Champoux, G
	Hu, Rui	Pang, C	Towle-Straub, K	Korpan, R
	Indratmo	Patterson, A	Watson, D	

Regrets

Alam, R	Buro, K	Hackett, E	Locky, D	Summers, K
Amundson, L	Cartledge, S	Hamilton, T	Milner, K	Svitlana, K
Bailey, C	Croxen, H	Hannan, S	Panjvani, C	Symbaluk, D
Barran, S	Das, M	Howell, A	Perschon, M	Thurairajah, K
Bereska, T	Digweed, S	Intungane, D	Rezania, V	Trimbee, A
Bernstein, N	Falconer, R	Irangu, J	Schmaltz, R	Wagner, A
Blittner, K	Flaherty, L	Lakowski, R	Shaw, R	
Bratt, S	Gelmini, L	Lavania, D	Skeffington, J	

Move into Session: The meeting was called to order by Melike Schalomon at 3:01 pm.

Item I Adoption of Agenda

Motion #468 That the agenda and consent items be adopted.

- Minutes of November 21, 2022 Faculty Council
- Executive Committee Minutes Nov 3, 2022, and Jan 10 and Feb 7, 2023

Honey/Bica

Adopted

Item II Reports:

a) Update from the Office of Research Services

- Dana Chamot provided an overview of available supports from the Office of Research Services (ORS).
- Reviews are available for internal grants. External grant review requests must be received 4-6 weeks in advance of the submission deadline.
- For current supports and opportunities, it is encouraged to sign up for the newsletter on the ORS website.
- A Knowledge Mobilization Form is also available on the website and is intended to assist ORS in understanding the research members are engaged in.
- Slides were provided, question can be directed to research@macewan.ca.

b) Dean's Report

- With the rate of illness still being high, methods of dealing with related absences with continue to evolve in hopes of finding a balance between having rules and being flexible.
- Tenure and Promotion Committee reviews are concluded. All cases for Extension of Probation and Tenure were granted, congratulations were shared. 13 applications for promotion were recommended to the University Promotions Committee, which meets in late April.
- This year's record-breaking recruitment season is ongoing: 14 Teaching, Research, and Service position hires across 9 Departments were approved, 9 of these searches have been completed resulting in 10 hires across 7 Departments. Additionally, a minimum of 7 hires were approved for the internal teaching focused positions introduced by the current Collective Agreement. An over 10% growth in the faculty complement is expected this year.
- May 15-17 – The Canada wide Science Fair is being hosted in Edmonton. Judges are sought in the natural and social sciences. Questions regarding this unique opportunity can be directed to the Dean.
- There was significant interest in course releases this year. Arts and Science had the largest proportion of applications, receiving 59 from all Departments. No additional budget was available, and the existing budget was stretched to grant 20 releases. Historically, about 4-6 releases were granted per year.

- The following criteria was applied: Validity (no retroactive release requests), whether applicant already received another release (no stacking of releases was granted), urgency, and budget.
- 39 applications, including strong ones, were denied. Six appeals were received, the Panel's recommendation goes to the Provost for final decision.
- Workload Review Panel members voiced concerns about the language in the collective agreement and its interpretation. JCMA will review and it will be addressed during the next bargaining round.
- An analysis was completed on the alignment of our IH in 100-level courses with comparator institutions for courses that are directly transferrable. It was noted that in some cases MacEwan's IH allotments are higher. Discussions have started in the Departments to if alignment can be achieved. If successful, implications could mean freeing up budget to support the increase of administrative resources and more course releases. Any changes would not take effect until 2024-25, depending on timelines at the Department level, Faculty Council might see some changes by June.
- Questions:
 - Releases were not granted proportionally by Department. Only the merit of the application was considered. By chance, at least one release was granted in each Department.
 - Availability of funds for course releases and number of new hires are not connected. Hires are paid out of the Provost's budget, and budget lines are added to the FAS budget for each hire. The process for course releases will likely change for next year. We are not anticipating a change in budget, and we have to look for funds inside the Faculty if more releases are needed, but the process will be reviewed. Releases can be requested at any time during the year. The goal this year was to get the bulk of requests before Chairs had to finalize course assignments.
 - Can grant funding be used to buy out course releases? SSHRC no longer allows this. Question could be brought to the AVP Research.

Item III **Items for Action:**

a) **Environmental Sciences Minor – Physical Sciences Curriculum**

Motion #469 That Arts and Science Faculty Council approve ENVS 300, ENVS 398, ENVS 492, ENVS 495, and ENVS 498.

Bott/ Ross

Adopted

- Overview provided, no discussion.

Motion #470 That Arts and Science Faculty Council approve and recommend to Academic Planning & Quality Assurance the proposed Environmental Sciences Minor.

Bott/McKeown

Adopted

- Member noted that CHEM 261 was not listed as a course credited towards the minor even though it is a pre-requisite for some. The Minor will not be equally accessible to majors from all disciplines due to required pre-requisites. While a BA student could complete it, all their option credits would go towards the pre-requisites needed for the Minor.
- Within CIM, courses can only count towards one program. This is an issue any interdisciplinary minor faces.
- Students sometime choose challenging discipline combinations and go beyond the credit requirement, but this is their choice to make.
- Specifically, lab and tech skills are being taught, which is in demand from employers. This could have maybe been described more clearly.

b) **Revision of Faculty Council Bylaws**

Motion #471 That Faculty Council approve and recommend to General Faculties Council the revised Arts and Science Faculty Council Bylaws as presented.

Martin/Bica

Adopted

- It was noted that quorum being only 1/3 seemed low. The quorum was not changed during the revision. The risk of rising quorum is not having enough members present to conduct business.
- 7.2 gives authority to Executive Committee to make decisions about the election process. In practice, Executive Committee would not make significant changes without consultation at Faculty Council.
- Concern was raised about votes of members not present not counting. Robert's Rules dictates a simple majority of members present and voting. In rare occasions, including the approval of these bylaws, 2/3 of members present and voting are required.
- Faculty Council has the authority to overrule Executive Committee.
- Attendance at Faculty Council is encouraged.

c) **Approval Delegation**

Motion #472 That Faculty Council approve the additional curricular delegations and the definition of "minor changes" as listed below:

- Minor Changes: Minor changes constitute typographical errors and terminology changes which do not change the content of the item.
- Approval Delegation to Department Councils:
 - Long and Short title – minor changes
- Approval Delegation to Program and Curriculum Committee:
 - Calendar Description – minor changes
 - Repeat for Credit
 - Programs of Study with no changes

Bica/Overend

Adopted

- It was acknowledged that this change will reduce the need to vote on minor changes in Faculty Council.

d) Revised/New Terms of Reference

Motion #473 That Faculty Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Funding and Awards Committee, pending approval of the Faculty Council Bylaws at General Faculties Council.

Martin/Minaker

Adopted

- The Bylaws already stipulate that membership is elected. The Bylaws supersede the terms of reference.
- In the future, it is suggested to reiterate that the faculty co-chair normally presides over meetings.
- Committee will strictly focus on opportunities at the Faculty level.

Motion #474 That Faculty Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Teaching, Research, and Faculty Development Committee with a name change to Teaching and Scholarship Committee, pending approval of the Faculty Council Bylaws at General Faculties Council.

Martin/Peace

Adopted

- No discussion

Motion #475 That Faculty Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Program and Curriculum Committee.

Martin/Ramsey

Adopted

- No discussion

Motion #476 That Faculty Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee.

Martin/Toth

Adopted

- Recommendation: For the next revision, the exit clause, in case a member is absent for two consecutive meetings, should be included.

e) Humanities Curriculum

Motion #477 That Arts and Science Faculty Council approve HIST 395 and HUMN 203.

Bott/Carroll

Adopted

- No discussion

Motion #478 That Arts and Science Council approve changes to HUMN 101, HUMN 201, HUMN 202, PHIL 205, and PHIL 265.

- No discussion

Item IV **Items for Information:****a) GFC Update**

- Presented by K. Harcombe, GFC Vice-Chair
- GFC met twice since the last Council meeting.
- GFC was given the opportunity to comment on the budgeting process.
- A new processes for teaching awards was developed and implemented this past January. There are now additional teaching awards.
- The Death of a Student and Posthumous policy was replaced with a procedure. The previous process caused delays and was restrictive. The new process is faster and more meaningful.
- The Tactical Plan for Scholarship was presented after feedback was incorporate and is expected to go to GFC for approval later this year. Tactical Plans for Facilities/School will be approved by APQA.
- Lots of feedback was received about the exam schedule and ASCC was asked review the issue. A report back to GFC is expected later this year.

b) Creating Connections

- Presented by J. Minaker, Chair, Teaching, Research and Faculty Development Committee
- Workshop applications are sought by March 27th

Item V **Other Business**

- N/A

Item VI **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.