



Arts and Science Faculty Council

Minutes of Council

Meeting #: 29
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 5-142 (CN Theatre)
Initial Motion #: 281

Present:

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Monk, C (Chair) | Davies, K | Irwin, B | Nelund, A | Strayer, K |
| Snefjella, B | Davis, J | Islam, S | Norman, J | Strungaru, N |
| (Secretary) | Davis, M | Jeffrey, L | Norrad, T (for M. | Su, W |
| Aaquist, O | Degner, M | Jung, S | Sekulic) | Sullivan, P |
| Amundson, L | Deline, T | Katz, M | Olchoway- | Summers, K |
| Anton, Ca | Digdon, N | Kim-Bernard, K | Rozeboom, G | Sumrain, I |
| Becalska, A | Eberhart, J | Lakowski, R | Pienkowski, A | Suntjens, T |
| Beke, N | Elliott, C | Lee, R | Pollock, C | Swanston, T |
| Bica, I | Falconer, R | Llano, J | Powell, R | Tcaciuc, A |
| Blatz, C | Farvolden, P | Lorimer, S | Prince, P | Thurairajah, K |
| Bott, T | Ferede, F | Lorkovic, E (vice- | Ravagnolo, K | Valdez, L |
| Buro, K | Franczak, B | Chair) | Robinson, J | Wagner, A |
| Cartledge, S | Friesen, K | Macdonell, C | Ruiz Serrano, C | Watson, D |
| de Graaf, J | Gatto, D | Mark, M | Saucier, D | Witherell, R |
| Cobzas, D | Gelmini, L | McFadyen, D | Schalomon, M | Wojtowicz, R |
| Copland, S | Grant, D | McGugan, D | Shaw, R | Zadorozhna, N |
| Corrigall, K | Gulayets, M | McLaughlin, D | Skeffington, J | |
| Coulson, J | Hayman, S | Mensah, C | Stepnisky, J | <i>Members of the</i> |
| Coulthard, R | Honey, L | Mewhort, R | Stieglitz, T | <i>Public</i> |
| Cowling, E | Hu, R | Mills, S | Stock, M | Ristau, K (IAP) |
| | | Milne, E | | |

Regrets:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bailey, C | Hannan, S | Irangu, J | Panjvani, C | Sinclair, K |
| Boers, N | Harcombe, K | Judge, K | Peace, K | Soroski, J |
| Cowling, E | Hollis-Berry, E | Krys, S | Penney, A | |
| Das, M | O'Connor, J | Manouchehri, S | Schmaltz, R | |
| Hamilton, T | Howell, A | Minaker, J | Sibley, L | |

Move into Session: The meeting was called to order by Craig Monk at 4:00 pm

I. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #281 Move that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Tcaciuc/Honey

Motion: **carried**

II. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Council #28, October 26, 2017

Motion #282 Move to approve the Minutes as presented.

Buro/Skeffington

Motion: **carried**

III. Items Arising from the Minutes

- None

IV. Dean's Report

- There was no Council meeting in December, 2017.
- Dean's reappointment until 2024 approved; also, appointed Senior Advisor to Provost.
- Rob Wiznura will seek additional term as Associate Dean, Students.
- Dean will establish Chair Search Committees for Psychology and AEPS, seeking Chairs effective July 1, 2018.
- Completed six tenure cases and two probationary reviews last term.
- Promotion work is ongoing. There is a change to the process, with the University level committee now making simple majority decision.
- Working through an ambitious slate of faculty hiring. Five hired so far, and nine searches ongoing.
- Nine sabbaticals of eleven granted – 82% success rate. This is the first year some were denied. Expect more competition in the future.
- Thrilled that many faculty attended Fall Convocation. Please prioritize attendance, this may include cancelling classes if needed.
- University has centralized management of scholarship and bursaries with the aim of improving strategic recruitment.
- Social Event in December was well attended. In April will have another event and long-service awards.
- University budget process has changed, so no report now. Will bring detailed budget to Faculty Council in the future.
- With respect to decision in October to vote down the proposal to apply teaching credit to Honours coordination: Dean does not dispute Council's decision but wishes more Curriculum Committee members had been present to fight for the proposal they approved.
- Faculty has been allotted 35 Sessional Extended positions this year and there is a call for applications. In future years, additional positions will be added so that there is adequate roll over year to year.
- Recent motion of AGC to have Faculty members sit on other School/Faculty Councils.

Will seek Executive Committee's advice in delegating this service.

- Results from 170 performance evaluations – majority meet expectations, with some exceeding, and a few meritorious.

V. Address from President Saucier

- Dr. Saucier provided a brief address and Q and A session with regrets for not being able to attend as scheduled in the Fall. Dr. Saucier indicated her interest in understanding faculty member views on MacEwan, areas and strength and weakness.
- Q: What is the new approach to budgeting?
- A: Intent to create a more transparent process where discretionary decisions reflect the strategic plans of the University. Move away from incremental budgeting. Need to be strategic in the of possibility of austerity and support the academic mission, but also corporate services.
- Q: Would we go to a zero-base budget?
- A: Currently getting advice on how to change from incremental budget. Modified zero-base or Responsibility Centre Management is possible. The aim is to maintain control so we can better see costs of decisions.
- Q: What does it mean to be a BASI – and to be a community oriented, urban university?
- A: The ministry is committed to MacEwan remaining a BASI. There is something virtuous and good about quality in undergraduate education. We will keep doing diplomas, transfers, and degrees but can make a case to government to remove programs that are no longer viable or add ones that are reflective of us. What I believe differentiates MacEwan from other institutions is our overwhelming optimism. We're special and attractive and what we give our students is huge. We are going to be engaged in developing a Strategic Plan and there will be an opportunity to have input. Currently, our pillars speak to vision, mission and values more than the Strategic Plan. There's a continuing question about undergraduate research and what it means in this context.
- Q: How do you see the role of faculty research?
- A: Scholarship is essential to a university. I'm not an active researcher right now, but some of the finest work I've done involves undergraduates. There's opportunity to make a difference in their lives. They ask different questions.
- Q: How might student involvement look in fields that don't lend themselves as easily to collaborative work?
- A: I admit, I'm not a social scientist and so my experience different, but I understand that there are instances where it can work well and others where it doesn't. There may be opportunity to let students pursue things through Honours, or where work doesn't always result in a tangible product. Looking to challenge them and get them out of their comfort zone allows you to excel as a scholar.
- Q: In the natural sciences, there's limitations to providing the space for students to be creative - is that being looked at part of the larger space planning? How do we make space a priority?
- A: This term you will see townhalls on the Campus Master Plan – a 25-year plan with mid and long-term goals. I commit to find you more space. Part of this work is being out there and raising our profile, telling our story, to help engage funding. The space

issue will not be solved next year but right now we can be creative, while recognizing the limitations. Natural science labs are expensive and difficult to retrofit so we should look at how we develop purpose-based spaces.

VI. Items for Action

a. Proposed Policy on Demonstrations on Campus

- Michelle Plouffe, General Counsel and Vice President, Governance, Diversity and Inclusion, and Ian Hanson, Counsel brought a proposal for a policy on Demonstrations on Campus for consultation.
- Intent is to develop a policy that provides authority to have a safe space for discussion. The policy proposal went to Deans' Council and the direction was that it guided by academic considerations and input because of academic freedom. This consultation is an initial step.
- The proposal encourages a permissive environment providing one registers (i.e. if protesting). If someone did not register, they would be asked to leave. Designated demonstrated spaces are being considered but there are continuing questions related to these.
- A number of questions and issues were raised by the plenary, including: management of counter-protestors and protestors blocking certain areas of campus; the need to carefully define "demonstration" and what is included to clarify, for example, right to spontaneous expression; handling of expressions or activities which go against MacEwan's policies or values vs. hate speech; mindfulness that policies are applied differently in different situations, and whether differential application could be assessed after implementation to ensure fairness; clarification of consequences to students or faculty who do not abide by the policy but who are not breaking the law; plan to inform and notify students; and rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedom to peaceful assembly.

b. Program and Curricular Items - Suspension of General Studies

Motion #283 That Arts and Science Council approve and recommend to Academic Governance Council or its designated subsidiary body the suspension of the General Studies program.

- Package provides explanation for recommendation to suspend.
- Q: Clarification of reference to easing the BA admission criteria?
- A: Decision at AGC not Faculty level. Easing was at the request of the Provost to allow "Group D" high school subjects to be considered in admissions generally, which resulted in wider BA admissibility.

Beke/Honey

Motion: **carried; 1 against**

c. A&S Elections - Recommendation to Introduce Score Voting

Motion #284 That Arts and Science Council approve the implementation of score voting on a trial basis in the 2018 Faculty Council elections.

- Hopefully the approach will limit strategic voting/vote splitting. Scholarly research shows better at measuring what people want because it's a more sensitive instrument than first-past-the-post.
- Would require each voter to rank each candidate from weakest to strongest support (on a 1 to 5 scale). The candidate with the highest average score would be elected.
- To work, voters must be informed, so nominees would need to provide a bio or similar (will try to provide pictures as well).
- Would be reviewed by Executive Committee after test year and brought back to Council for decision whether to continue.
- Questions raised by Plenary related to methodology (average vs. median); scoring options and why ranking does not start at zero; and whether it will lead to election of "safe" candidates.

Buro/Honey

Motion: **carried; 3 against**

VII. Items for Information

- a. *Academic Policy Committee Review*
 - Document provided as an update. No questions or comments.
- b. *BA Review Process*
 - Jeff Stepnisky, Chair of the BA Self-Study Committee, spoke briefly about progress on the review. To date, the Committee has met three times and has started the process of identifying key questions and data needed. Jeff will be speaking with Department Chairs, and the first round of data collection will take place by May. This is a program level, not a departmental level review, and so information will be rolled up into an overall picture.
- c. *AGC Report*
 - Revisions to the Academic Integrity Policy were approved.
- d. *Budget Update*
 - Currently overspent as of Q2 because of money waiting to be used towards new hires. Moving into Q3 now. Focus on hiring more.
- e. *Minutes Executive Committee Nov. 2017 and Jan. 2018*
 - No comments or questions

VIII. Other Business

- None raised.

IX. Adjournment

Motion #285 Move that Faculty Council be adjourned.
Macdonell/Friesen

Motion: **carried**

Future meeting dates: Apr 24, 1:30pm in 9-323