

## Arts and Science Faculty Council

### Minutes of Council

**Meeting #:** 45  
**Date:** September 20, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** WebEx  
**Motion #s:** 440-443

**Present:**

Schalomon, M (Chair)	Corlett, H	Hollingshead, D	Miller, J	Swanston, T
Tosh, J (Vice-Chair)	Coulson, J	Howell, A	Mills, S	Symbaluk, D
Bruins-Smith, T (Secretary)	Cowling, E	Hu, R	Milne, E	Tcaciuc, A
Taylor, K (Secretary)	Das, M	Intungane, D	Moscicki, M	Thompson, W
Alam, R	Davies, K	Irangu, J	O'Connor, J	Thurairajah, K
Alati, D	Davis, J	Islam, S	Offrey, L	Vo, N
Amundson, L	Davis, M	Ivanescu, C	Overend, A	Vongpaisal, T
Anderson, N	Einarsson, R	Jarick, M	Pang, C	Wagner, A
Anton, Ca	Elmorsy, M	Judge, K	Panjvani, C	Watson, D
Anton, Cr	Epp, M	Jung, S	Patterson, A	Witherell, R
Avalos, E	Falconer, R	Jyoti, R	Peace, K	Woywitka, R
Badalova, L	Farvolden, P	Kenney, J	Penney, A	Zadorozhna, N
Bailey, C	Ferede, E	Kim-Bernard, K	Powell, R	Zalghout, A
Barran, S	Ferguson, J	Korpesho, E	Prichard, L	Zutter, C
Beauclair, A	Flaherty, L	Krys, L	Prince, P	
Bereska, T	Fong, J	Lawry-Batty, K	Ramsey, C	<b>Other - Voting</b>
Bernstein, N	Forth, A	Lee, R	Rezania, V	Ali, H M A
Bica, I	Franczak, B	Legge, E	Rollings-	Beke, N
Blatz, C	Friesen, K	Llano, J	Magnusson, S	Bratt, S
Boers, N	Gelmini, L	Locky, D	Ross, M	Fritz, T
Bott, T	Giacomin, M	Long, J	Schmaltz, R	Foster, A
Boulianne, S	Gibbs, M	Lorimer, S	Seredycz, M	Lipes, R
Buro, K	Gonzalez-Lucena, F	Lorkovic, E	Sibley, L	Milner, K
Carroll, M	Grewal, S	Macdonell, C	Skeffington, J	Minaker, J
Cartledge, S	Gulayets, M	Martin, D	Skye, A	Saab, N
Cobzas, D	Hackett, E	Malloy, N	Soroski, J	Stewart, A
Copland, S	Haines, J	McFadyen, D	Stepnisky, J	Wiznura, R
Corrigall, K	Hannan, S	McKenzie, H	Striemer, C	
	Hayman, S	McKeown, N	Strungaru, N	<b>Ex Officiis and</b>
	Hills, M	Mewhort, R	Su, W	<b>Delegates</b>
	Hilts, R	Meleshko, R	Summers, K	Kachmar, T

Keiller, K                      Merrigan, M                      Prochnau, C                      Champoux, G                      Li Sheung Ying, M  
McRae, H                      McKenzie, D                      **Public Members**                      Jeffrey, L

**Regrets**

Boag, F                      Garstad, B                      Honey, L                      McLaughlin, D                      Romney, J  
Chartrand, J                      Harcombe, K                      Irwin, B                      Nelund, A                      Ruiz Serrano, C

**Move into Session:**      The meeting was called to order by Melike Schalomon at 3:00 p.m.

**Item I                      Adoption of Agenda**

Motion #440                      Move to approve the agenda as presented.                      **Consensus**  
S.Islam/C.Ramsey

**Item II                      Approval of Minutes of Faculty Council #44, June 24, 2021**

Motion #441                      Move to approve the Minutes as presented.                      **Consensus**  
J.Minaker/V.Rezania

**Item III                      Items Arising from the Minutes**

- None

**Item IV                      Presentations:**

a) **Dean's Report**

- Faculty members remembered Roxanne Tootoosis, MacEwan's indigenous knowledge keeper who passed away in late August, with a moment of silence.
- The new sessional and tenure track faculty members who joined Arts and Science this summer were welcomed to the faculty.
- The provincial government allowed post-secondaries to continue to operate with an exemption provided they implement a vaccination program. This means MacEwan can operate with classrooms and labs at full capacity and research continues while the university implements the program.
- The provincial work-from-home advisory is still in place. Non-essential staff such as advisors and administrative staff are allowed to work from home on some days. Faculty members also have the flexibility to work from home when they do not teach, hold office hours, or conduct on-campus research.
- The only accommodations faculty need to provide for students are those approved by ADR. Students were given additional time to request late course withdrawal. All students who do not have an accommodation from ADR are expected to participate in classes in the scheduled modality.
- The Dean's strategic goals for this academic year include:

1. **Strategic implementation of face-to-face/hybrid and online offerings.** Over time, FAS aims to offer approximately 10% online, 30% true hybrid, and 60% face-to-face programming. There will likely be disciplinary variability.
  2. **Increase applied learning opportunities** across all disciplines.
  3. **Integration of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles** into processes and decision making.
  4. **Reduce reliance on internal sources of funding.**
  5. **Strategic Enrolment Planning** to support growth in the Faculty and the university.
- The Dean has spoken with Tim Tang, MacEwan's new Associate Vice-President, Students, about actively engaging faculty members from the outset when considering ADR accommodations to balance the needs of students and faculty.
  - A process has been initiated to select a new Associate Dean, Operations. Applications will be accepted until mid-January.
  - Kudos were shared with Dr. Jeff Stepnisky from the Department of Sociology for his three-year appointment as the Kule Chair of Ukrainian Community and International Development Research. Dr. Sandy Jung was congratulated on winning the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations Distinguished Academic Award.
  - New Faculty Council Co-Chair Josh Toth was welcomed to his first Council meeting.

**b) Answers to immediate questions following the Dean's Report**

***Questions about implementation of vaccination status screening.***

- The university will follow-up with everyone who has not self-declared their vaccination status by October. Everyone who has not supplied a vaccination status to provide negative COVID-19 tests every 72 hours to continue to attend classes. It is up to students to get vaccinated, to get tested or withdraw from the university.

***Question about pedagogical support for online and hybrid courses.***

- Given our current footprint, it is impossible to grow further unless the Faculty has some true hybridity and more online courses. Most of the hybrid and online targets will be met by offering hybrid and online classes for 100 and 200-level courses.

***Question about increasing class size***

- Class sizes in Arts and Science, with very few exceptions, are as high as they can be. The Dean is not planning to increase the class size any further. FAS fill rates are the highest at the university. The only way to grow is by adding more sections.

**c) Associate Dean, Centre for Teaching and Learning (Sharon Bratt)**

- The Office for E-Learning and Office Teaching and Learning Services have combined to create the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The Centre's services will be accessible online only (via MacEwan.ca/Teaching) for the

Fall term. Faculty liaisons Geneve Champoux and Melissa Li Sheung Ying were also briefly introduced to Faculty.

**d) Interim Associate Dean, Office of Research Services (ORS) (Sandy Jung)**

- Dr. Jung’s goal is to facilitate researchers to develop and maintain the sustainability of their research. Dr. Jung is looking forward to supporting seasoned researchers in advancing their research including applying for internal funds, seeking out funds for student RAs, engaging and sustaining community partners, applying for external funding, or addressing concerns about different research methodology and ethics
- It is helpful for faculty to be better aware of some of the roles and work being done in ORS.
- Dr. Jung would like to hear from faculty on how to establish an Institutional tactical plan. ORS needs plans that align with the institution’s plan, that have useful, effective, and measurable deliverables. ORS offers several workshops each year. Dr. Jung would like to go beyond to build the community with researchers. She is starting to lead one-hour brown bag lunches.

**Item V Items for Action**

**a) Ratification of Tenure and Promotion Committee Common Externals/Alternates**

Motion #442 That Arts and Science Council approve the following common external members and alternates to serve on Tenure and Promotion Committees, for the 2021-2022 academic year:

	<b>External Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>Humanities</b>	Jillian Skeffington Associate Professor, English	Cyrus Panjvani Associate Professor, Philosophy
<b>Natural Sciences</b>	Vahid Rezaia Professor, Physical Sciences	Mohamad El-Hajj Associate Professor, Computer Science
<b>Social Sciences</b>	Kristine Peace Associate Professor, Psychology	Ergete Ferede Professor, Economics

A. Skye /A. Overend

**Consensus**

**b) Student Advisory Committee Procedure Endorsement**

Motion #443 That Faculty of Arts and Science Council endorse the change to the Faculty’s Student Advisory Committee Procedure.

- R. Wiznura/I. Bica **Consensus**
- Concern about student engagement was raised as the procedure states a minimum of two students will represent the students from the nine departments within the Faculty. A suggestion was made to form department-level committees, when possible, to provide more opportunity for student

engagement. Additional committees will be formed if a sufficient number of students step forward.

- A recommendation was also made that students' time on the committee be recognized. As the intent of the policy is to receive student input, students will be recognized, but not paid.
- Another concern was that the policy and procedure redirect recruitment of volunteer names from the department Chairs to the academic advisors. This does not preclude Chairs from putting forward names as well.

## **Item VI**      **Items for Information**

### *a) New policy on assessments (R. Wiznura)*

- Two important things to note about the new policy:
  1. students must have 15% of their course grade before 60% of the semester is done.
  2. Reassessments are being removed from the appeal process.
- Acceptable appeals are now in response to a student being removed from university, non-academic misconduct, or academic misconduct.

### *b) Update on Bachelor of Arts Action Plan implementations (M. Schalomon)*

- Areas highlighted as providing specific deliverables have until 2022 to do so.
- There has been significant movement on several items including the Ad hoc Committee on Teaching and Learning finishing their work. They completed degree-level Learning Outcomes. Using this to start discussions on department-level outcomes.
- Competitive admission in BA means we are now admitting students based on their averages coming out of high school.
- Report on Teaching and Learning is completed. Hard copies and electronic copies will be made available.

### *c) Report on Teaching and Learning (M. Hills)*

- Written by Faculty of Arts and Science for faculty, this report is meant to promote transparency in teaching and to stimulate meaningful dialogue.
- This report includes recommendations to improve faculty experiences in teaching and to enhance the presentation of teaching.
- Report concludes with 16 recommendations to:
  1. strengthen communication about program delivery within and between departments,
  2. provide more consistency and clarity around the evaluation of teaching,
  3. ensure more access to formal teaching mentorship and support,
  4. expand opportunities to share and celebrate teaching success, and
  5. continue to document teaching in Arts and Science.
- The Teaching, Research, and Faculty Development Committee have been tasked with implementing the report's recommendations.

### *d) Access and Disability Resources (ADR) Fall updated (J. Minaker)*

- Students are eligible to apply for accommodations, based on religious beliefs or disability. Applying for an accommodation does not exempt a student from following the health protocols. To enter a MacEwan building a person needs to be vaccinated or tested.
- Faculty members cannot ask if someone has been vaccinated or has a negative test, cannot remove someone from their classroom as removal is handled at the university-level, and cannot disclose if a student has an accommodation as that is a breach of confidentiality. Any problems regarding accommodations should be referred to Dr. Joanne Minaker in the Dean’s Office.
- Faculty and students looking for more information are asked to go the ADR website or MacEwan Coronavirus webpage for the most up-to-date information.

e) *2021/22 Staff List – provided for information*

f) *Past Executive Minutes – provided for information.*

**Item VII Other Business**

- *None*

**Item VIII Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.