Arts and Science Faculty Council

Minutes of Council

Meeting #: 24
Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 5-142 (CN Theatre)
Initial Motion #: 221

Present:
Monk, C (Chair) Coulthard, R Kim-Bernard, K Olchowy- Stock, M
Snefjella, B Davis, J Lakowski, R Rozeboom, G Su, W
(Secretary) Davis, M Lee, R Overend, A Swanston, T
Aaquist, O Degner, M Legge, E Penney, A Symbaluk, D
Amundson, L Deline, T Lepp, R Pollard, M Thompson, W
Angus, F Digdon, N Llano, J Pollock, C Thurairajah, K
Bailey, C Eberhart, J Lorimer, S Pitcher, A Toth, J
Beke, N Ferede, E Lorkovic, E (invited) ValdezCardenas, L
Bernstein, N Franczak, B MacDonald, C Powell, R Vongpaisal, T
Biglands, A Franke, E Macdonell, C Ruiz Serrano, C Walton, E
Boag, F Friesen, K Mark, M Sayed, A Watson, D
Boers, N Hannan, S Martin, P. Schalomon, M Witherell, R
Buro, K Harcombe, K McGugan, D Shaw, R Withey, J
Braun, D Hohn, T McKenzie, H Shulist, S Wiznura, R
Brouwer, D Honey, L McKeown, N Sibley, L Wojtowicz, R
Cameron, K Howell, A McMann, D Sinclair, K
Cartledge, S Hu, R Mensah, C Skye, A Members of the
Christrensen- Indratmo Mills, S Smith, M Public
Dalsgaard, K Irwin, B Nelund, A Sorosi, J
Copland, S Islam, S Norman, J Stift, S (invited)
Corrigall, K Jeffrey, L

Regrets
Alam, R Falconer, R Jarick, M O’Reilly, J Solez, K
Becalska, A Farvolden, P Knos, R Osborn, T Striemer, C
Bereska, T Flaherty, L Korpesho, E Pienkowski, A Sullivan, P
Blatz, C Gulayets, M Krys, S Prichard, L Zutter, C
Das, M Hamilton, T Manouchehri, S Sander, B
Davies, K Hayman, S Martin, D Schmaltz, R
De Graaf, J Hills, M McFadyen, D Seredyucz, M
Enggist, A Hollis Berry, E Minaker, J Skeffington, J

Members of the Public
Ristau, K (IAP)
Move into Session: The meeting was called to order by Craig Monk at 4:00 pm

Item I  Adoption of Agenda
Motion #221  Move that the Agenda be approved.
A. Skye/L. Honey  Motion: carried

Item II  Approval of Minutes of Faculty Council #23, October 27, 2016
Motion #222  Move to approve the Minutes of Faculty Council #23, October 22, 2016.
K. Buro/A. Overend  Motion: carried

Item III  Items Arising from the Minutes
- None

Item IV  Dean’s Report
- Dr. Melike Schalomon, Associate Dean, Administration, has indicated that she wishes to be considered for a second term. We will form a reappointment committee next term.
- Dr. Ed Lorkovic has expressed a desire to seek a second term as Chair of the Department of Humanities.
- Dr. Orla Aaquist will serve as Interim Chair in the Department of Physical Sciences, and, Dr. Indratmo will serve as Interim Chair in the Department of Computer Science. We will undertake a Chair appointment search for those units next term, as well as the Department of Biological Sciences, with terms beginning July 1, 2017.
- We had six applications, this year, for Continuing Status. In the New Year, we will consider applications for promotion. Thanks to Members of the Appointment Review and Promotion Committees who have demonstrated commitment to self-governance in career progression.
- Faculty searches are going forward in Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, English, and Spanish.
- The Faculty presented at the end of the University Budget Advisory process this year, and so we will not be able to share with Council until the first meeting of Winter Semester.
  - The Faculty submitted the outline for a program of course release for researchers as a basis for discussion. While the proposal is costed, it is not budgeted nor identified in MacEwan’s Integrated Strategic Plan.
  - All units on campus were required to model potential reductions of 1% and 3%. This exercise allows units to prove that they are not over-resourced.
  - There is no budget crisis, but there are challenges. A wage freeze for employees without a binding wage concession remains. Tuition and fees are frozen for next year without commitment from government to replace these funds or increase base funding. Hopefully, the Spring budget will provide more clarity from government.
- 160 Performance Evaluation reports for 2015-16 have been submitted. The University, with the support of the Faculty Association, continues to work on a new form for next year.
The new Dean of FFAC will be announced within the next couple of weeks.

Arts and Science recommended the eight sabbaticals it received, and they have been reviewed by the University Sabbatical Leave Committee. Our faculty will continue to push for a revision to the current, deficient Sabbatical Policy.

Professional development funding will increase by $100 to $1,100 for 2016-17. And, more money is also available for the sessional allocation.

The change of vendor for computer hardware has been challenging as Dells are replaced with Lenovos. The Dean’s Office is trying to address specific problems on an individual basis, while passing along larger issues to ITS.

The University is open to our Accountant completing financial claims for faculty and staff. Please suggest ways that we might improve your PeopleSoft experience.

Thanks to those who were able to attend Convocation in November. Please plan to make yourself available for both fall and summer Convocation ceremonies.

The University had its first Fall Reading Break. Hopefully, it was a benefit to students and instructional staff.

We have signed a partnership agreement with Yellowhead Tribal College to facilitate credit for their students transferring to MacEwan. A key to our indigenization efforts is found in small, but critical, changes to the way we do business, in response to requests from our indigenous partners.

Arts and Science is moving towards a potential credentialing partnership with NAIT.

Q: follow-up request for more information on the Sabbatical Policy.

A: the 2009 Policy is broad. It doesn’t give good mentoring guidance on how to put together applications, nor does it clearly prioritize criteria for recommending or ranking applications. We’ve been fortunate to have enough resources that we had not had to make hard decisions. But in the future we will need more guidance.

Q: Would a partnership with NAIT potentially cut into our existing programming?

A: No, not necessarily, we are looking for areas we can leverage. We would not develop a joint program, but might offer some cross-programming to students.

**Item V**

**Items for Action**

a) *Curricular Report (Encl. 2 and Appendix A – Environmental Geosciences Major)*

**Motion**: That Arts and Science Council approve and recommend to Academic Governance Council or its designated subsidiary body the Program of Study for the Environmental Geosciences Major.

_N. Beke/J. Withey_  

Motion: **withdrawn**

**Discussion:**

- Inconsistencies between different parts of document in terms of required courses, for example, are EASC 401 and EASC 399 required? Or only EASC 401? (appendix A, pg. 32)
- The Program of Study in the package is inaccurate, EASC 399 was part of the previous incarnation, not this proposal.
- There are other inaccuracies that need to be addressed (flow of prerequisites, senior requirements) and there’s a number of way of resolving them, so further
review is required. Corrections may engage other changes, so need to postpone until the New Year.

b) Terms of Reference, Teaching, Research and Faculty Development Committee (Encl. 3&4)

Motion #223 That Arts and Science Council approve changes to the terms of reference for the Committee on Teaching, Research, and Faculty Development.

J. Toth/E. Ferede Motion: carried

Discussion:

- (Dr. Melike Schalomon) The terms of reference have been reviewed intensively by the Committee. The primary change in mandate is that is focused on the integration of teaching and research. In the past focused on research, now it is a combination.
- Any funding for the Committee to undertake projects would be contingent on it having a solid plan.
- (Dr. Edvard Lorkovic) Executive Committee asked whether this document provides sufficient direction to the Committee to do work. We were not convinced by the first version we saw, so we asked for further work, evident here.
- The mandate has significantly changed, and the name doesn’t seem to fit anymore as it now has little to do with Faculty Development.
- Should a member of Café be included in the Committee membership? It was discussed composition of the committee is set out by Council, and terms here for consistency and parallel structure. Would certainly involve collaboration

Item VI Items for Information

a) Presentation – Sandy Stift, Associate Dean Library, and Allison Pitcher, Librarian – Library subscription cancellation project (Encl. 5)

- The Library is struggling to maintain subscriptions due to the CAN/US exchange rate and needs to reexamine its subscriptions to save costs. The Library is meeting with Faculty Councils to engage with faculty stakeholder, provide information, and give an opportunity to ask questions.
- The Library provided an overview of their budget as well as background. The Library has a $2.5 M collections budget, which has grown incrementally. Approximately $200-250 K needs to be cut by 2018.
- The process required to make decisions will initially involve collection of information of on current holdings and costs (October 2016 to January 2017), gathering data into subject clusters, and rating academic databases. Between February and April the Library will be coming to Faculty members to consult on uses and identification of resources which could be cancelled with minimal impact. In March and April 2017, the Library will make decisions, with cancellations occurring during the summer.
- As much as possible the Library would like to Support finding alternate resources for those who may be affected.
- Q: Is it possible to make a sharing deal with other institutions?
A: Academic publishers tend to be against sharing their digital content, however if there is any chance, we should explore it.

Q: are databases the same thing as a subscription to a set of journals?
A: we subscribe to both finding tools and subscriptions to journals. We are not looking at journal packages now as they are often three year commitments due at 2018.

Q: How does NEOS (inter-library lending program across Alberta) fit in?
A: Most academic publishers don’t allow access to non-authorized users to access through affiliations like NEOS. Being part of NEOS means quick access to library loans for items like books.

Q: If we are moving towards Campus Alberta integration, could we argue for access similar to the Ontario Council of University Libraries?
A: It’s a good idea, but coming to that kind of arrangement takes will and commitment of time.

Q: Will you try to mitigate impacts by spreading the cuts across disciplines?
A: Yes, absolutely. Want to make sure no one discipline is penalized, and analyze by subject matter.

b) Budget Update

Josh Eberhart, Manager, Finance, made a brief presentation on what it means to have a “cost budget,” i.e. a single sum of money is allotted at the beginning of the year, and almost all financial activities are spending from this allotment. Arts & Science receives approximately $490,000 a year in revenues, largely from fees. No tuition money is earned, meaning that additional students/course sections are only a cost, not a revenue generator. Also, we cover incremental cost increases.

Q: what is the relationship to Open Studies? (i.e. when Arts and Science provides seats to students from elsewhere in the institution).
A: There no entrepreneurial opportunity to offering seats, though we continue to do so where it is possible.

c) Academic Governance Council update

AGC took place November 22, 2016. The AGC continued to hear reports and review work plans from its Committees, but they are not generally discussed in detail. Many Arts and Science representatives are serving on the institutional level on these bodies.

AGC Executive now has a process for nominations along the lines of that used in Arts and Science, it is hoped that the easier process will facilitate more participation

One of the interesting items arose in comments from President David Atkinson, who was frank with AGC about the difficulty engaging the Ministry of Advanced Education. He also commented that desire of the provincial government does not appear poised to move MacEwan to Section I of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, likely for the reason that they do not want mandate drift – that is, they want MacEwan positioned as a teaching institution.
d) Minutes Executive Committee #14 (Encl. 6)
   • Executive Committee may move to approval by email to stop lag in what set of Executive Minutes Council receives.

Item VI          Other Business
   • None raised.

Item VII         Adjournment
Motion #224      Move that the Faculty Council adjourn.
L. Honey/K. Friesen
               Motion: carried

Item VIII        Question Period (not minuted)

Future meeting dates: February 8, 2017 at 4pm