Faculty of Arts and Science Council

Minutes of Meeting #11, February 27, 2014

1.0 The Chair, Craig Monk, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2.0 It was requested that future agendas make clearer which items are for discussion and which are for approval.

   MOVED THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated (Lynne Honey/Aimee Skye). CARRIED

3.0 MOVED THAT the Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Science Council Meeting #10, December 17, 2013, be approved as circulated (Jeff Stepnisky/Nancy McKeown). CARRIED

4.0 Dean’s Report

   • As reported in the Minutes of the December 17th meeting, the Faculty has received approval to hire six faculty members, one each in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, English, Psychology, and Sociology. Shortlisting for those positions will be completed by February 28.
   • Two new full-time limited term faculty positions have also been approved, one in History and one in Engineering.
   • The Provost has accepted the Dean’s recommendation that Dr Ed Lorkovic be appointed Chair of Humanities and that Dr Melike Schalomon be reappointed as Chair of Psychology, both effective July 1, 2014.
   • There has been movement on a wide range of international issues; further details will be forthcoming.
   • The Faculty of Arts and Science is looking to increase its Spring and Summer term offerings by 70%, and, to that end, a wide range of courses has been scheduled. Institution wide, the Provost would like to increase the Spring and Summer offerings to 15% of our total offerings. During the process of establishing a fuller set of offerings, the courses will be staffed by sessionals and through overload appointments. It is intended that workload determination be broadened to a two-year cycle and that the staffing information be made available to students with registration information as much as is practical.
   • The Dean’s Office would like to make as many Sessional Extended appointments as is prudent. There is no hiring freeze to prevent increasing the number of appointments, and accordingly the Dean’s Office will begin consulting with department chairs after March 15 to determine who might be able to advance to this category.
   • The Report on Research and Scholarly Activity is impressive and demonstrates the commitment to a wide range of activities. Some types of scholarly activity are clearly more beneficial for matters of performance assessment and rank and title, but, for the purpose
of demonstrating scholarly activity, faculty members are encouraged to engage their audiences in any fashion they believe relevant and appropriate.

5.0 Academic Technology Coordinator (Presentation)

Trudi Ohki, Academic Technology Coordinator for the University, offered an explanation of the role of her office, namely, that it is intended to be a bridge between pedagogy and technology for face-to-face and on-line instruction. A wide range of technology from PowerPoint to fully on-line classes is available to faculty members. The office offers new ways to work with students and assistance with new technology and media. Ms Ohki invites contact with faculty to improve the interface between technology and the classroom.

6.0 Changes to Academic Schedule (Presentation by University Registrar)

Mike Sekulic, University Registrar, spoke to the practices expressed in the academic schedule and the proposed changes. The changes are intended to make the academic schedule and the processes behind it better for students and faculty members; the improvements would be effective with the 2015 – 2016 academic year at the earliest. The proposed changes are outlined in a document included with the agenda package; among them are a defined instruction and examination period, better January start dates, better management of drop, add and pay deadlines, a later withdrawal date and the elimination of the graduated refund, and perhaps changes to the New Student Orientation dates. A number of questions were raised, and additional comments and questions may be submitted by e-mail to Mike Sekulic.

7.0 Terms of Reference – Department Council – Computer Science

MOVED that the Terms of Reference for the Departmental Council for Computer Science be approved as distributed (Ron Meleshko/Shahid Islam). CARRIED

8.0 Proposal to Amend BSc Program of Study and to Approve Psychology Honours

Four proposals were brought forward by the Program Committee. The first proposal would change the English core requirement from three credits in writing plus three credits in literature to six credits of junior level English. The rationale for this amendment was explained and questions were answered.

MOVED that an amendment to the Bachelor of Science Program of Study as it concerns the description of the English core requirement be recommended to APPC (Melike Schalomon/Lynne Honey). CARRIED

It is proposed that PSYC 104 be permitted as a core Social Sciences course in the Bachelor of Science program of study. The course is currently an option for science students, which
requires science students to complete an additional core requirement if they have taken PSYC 104.

MOVED that the amendment to the Bachelor of Science Program of Study to permit the utilization of PSYC 104 as a core Social Sciences requirement be recommended to APPC (Melike Schalomon/ Lynne Honey). CARRIED

There was extensive discussion and a number of questions were posed about the differences between science and arts courses and the advisability of the changes.

The remaining proposals would establish a general shell structure for an Honours stream associated with the Bachelor of Science and approve a specific proposal for a Psychology (Science) Honours stream.

MOVED that the proposal for the structure of an Honours stream in the Bachelor of Science be recommended to APPC and that Psychology be listed as a discipline in which Bachelor of Science students may seek to acquire an honours designation (Melike Schalomon/Lynn Honey). CARRIED

9.0 Terms of Reference – Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre

During the summer, the Dean’s Office received a request from the Research Council for Terms of Reference to help run the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre, and a committee to review the mandate and existing terms of reference was struck. Revised terms of reference were included with the agenda package, and Roman Petryshyn, Executive director of the URDC, spoke to the update.

MOVED that the Terms of Reference for the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre as distributed be recommended to AGC (Ben Garstad/Jeff Stepnisky). CARRIED

10.0 Discussion of the Terms of Reference of the Program Committee

Numerous changes are proposed to the Terms of Reference of the Faculty of Arts and Science Program and Curriculum Committee, including an expansion of the name to more clearly reflect the change in duties and to align with AGC governance principles. The Committee would appoint its chair, and a member-at-large position would provide opportunity to involve more junior faculty members in order to afford them more experience. The proposed changes have been discussed within the Dean’s Advisory Group. Faculty members are asked to submit their comments on the changes to the Dean’s Office. This matter will return to the Council at the next meeting, at which time a motion to adopt the changes will be requested.
11.0 Faculty Budget

The second quarter results review has been completed, and there are no significant changes. Planning is underway for the 2014 – 2015 budget. It was noted that no cuts or changes to workloads are planned, that there will be no reduction to the departmental discretionary budgets, and that the cost of the July 1 increment must be managed within the current budget. As well, no changes to class sizes are planned. Some portion of the revenue from the expanded Spring/Summer Sessions is expected to be returned to the Faculty of Arts and Science. Many variables are still in play at this time, but by the next Council meeting a draft of the Faculty’s 2014 – 2015 budget should be ready to be presented, although final approvals will still be pending.

12.0 Committee Member Elections for 2014 – 2015 (Information)

A list of committee vacancies for the upcoming academic year was provided in the meeting package. Faculty members should expect a call for nominations in the very near future, with elections to take place in March.

13.0 NSERC USRI Awards (Information)

Information about the awards and the role of the committee was provided by Jonathan Withey. This is the first year that MacEwan University has been eligible for these awards, and faculty members are asked to encourage their students to consider applying.

14.0 Adjournment

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned (Lynne Honey/Karen Buro). CARRIED

15.0 Question Period

An unminuted question period was available for interested faculty members.