Faculty of Arts and Science Council

Minutes of Meeting #9, September 30, 2013

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

2.0 MOVED THAT the Agenda circulated be approved, subject to the addition of item 6.0, Budget Update, and moving former item 8.0, Question Period, to the end of the Agenda following the adjournment of the meeting (Carolee Pollock/Karen Buro). CARRIED

3.0 MOVED THAT the Minutes of the Council meeting of April 4, 2013 be approved as circulated; the record shall show that no quorum was reached for the Council meeting on June 3, 2013 and therefore there are no Minutes to approve (Benjamin Garstad/Lynne Honey). CARRIED

4.0 Dean’s Report

- Goals over the next 12 months will be to:
  - Understand the nature and mandate of the Faculty of Arts and Science Council;
  - Review the processes by which the Faculty of Arts and Science Council operates;
  - Examine the processes underlying programming and curriculum matters, and ultimately the Master Course Syllabi.
- Faculty members may bring issues to the attention of the Faculty of Arts and Science Council through its Executive Committee.
- At July 1, 2013, twelve members achieved the rank of Assistant Professor, 29 achieved the rank of Associate Professor, two achieved the rank of Associate Teaching Professor and two achieved the rank of full Professor.
- During the most recent performance evaluation, 125 faculty members were evaluated; four members earned a meritorious designation and one member received an unsatisfactory designation.
- October 16, 2013 is the deadline for departments to submit any proposed new or changed titling standards for review by the Arts and Science Standards Approval Committee.
- Faculty Commons has been renamed the Centre for Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ); this is a fresh opportunity to move forward with excellent programming for faculty members.
- Requests have been advanced to hire 12 new members to replace retiring and/or departing members and for new positions. Discussions will take place with the Arts and Science chairs to justify requests for new faculty members and to consider succession planning. While it is not clear how many of these 12 positions will be approved, it is important to move forward quickly with the requests.
- Five new colleagues have joined the Faculty this year: Matt Ross (Chemistry), Jacqueline Baker (English), Jeff Andrews (Mathematics and Statistics), Jean-Christophe Boucher (Political Science), and Katie Corrigall (Psychology). As well, five colleagues have retired or resigned.
With respect to external funding, Hugh McKenzie and Craig Monk have received SSHRC Insight Grants, Chris Striemer has received a grant from Alberta Health Services, and Sam Mugo has received a grant from Parks Canada.

5.0 University Strategic Plan – John Corlett, Kevin Shufflebotham, Alan Vladicka (regrets)

John Corlett noted that there is a connection between the branding pillars and the strategic plan. He explained that the first phase of MacEwan University’s transition from a college to a university has been very successful and that the timing is excellent to define the next phase.

It is important to clarify the relationship between research, teaching and service, and, given the budget cuts, it is also important to examine the impact of the cuts on those areas. There is a possibility that the Post-Secondary Learning Act will be opened this fall, which may well result in changes to Campus Alberta and which may provide MacEwan University with an opportunity to define itself in this next phase of its institutional life.

The Strategic Plan itself has three stages: the current strategic and directional phase, followed by the creation of foundational plans designed to measure our success and our academic and enrolment plans, and finally the creation of a central integrated strategy for the institution as a whole. It is hoped that this final phase will be in place by graduation in the spring of 2014.

Each of the eight strategic directions and their key issues of alignment, as outlined in the draft document Strategic Directions and Core – Strategies for MacEwan University 2014-2019, was briefly explained. Faculty members were asked to consider what they liked, what they did not like and what they would change, and they are encouraged to offer their input through several avenues.

A Steering Committee consisting of the President, Provost, representatives from all stakeholder areas, as well as Alan Vladicka and Kevin Shufflebotham will help manage the consultation process.

Faculty members posed a number of questions. Kevin Shufflebotham made note of the comments, concerns and suggestions for further consideration and analysis.

6.0 Budget Update

In the interests of transparency, budget matters will be brought forward at each Council meeting; specific questions may be sent to Heather Pick to be addressed at the next meeting.

Heather Pick reported that MacEwan University currently follows an incremental budget model which bases its current year's allocations on the previous year, plus or minus new circumstances; it is not a results-based budget model. For the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the
budget for the Faculty of Arts and Science, excluding the Department of Physical Education, was $33.3 million. As a result of the budget cutbacks imposed by the provincial government and the measures undertaken by the Faculty to meet those cutbacks, the Faculty budget for the current fiscal years has been reduced by approximately 5% or $1.37 million. The measures were achieved primarily through consolidation of services, reducing the number of sections, eliminating or not filling vacant positions. More than 90% of the budget is allocated to salaries and benefits.

7.0 Approval of Department Council Terms of Reference, Sociology

MOVED THAT the Department Council Terms of Reference for the Department of Sociology be approved as set forth in the document circulated with the Agenda (Jeff Stepnisky/Jillian Skeffington). CARRIED

8.0 Approval of Department Council Terms of Reference, Humanities

MOVED THAT the Department Council Terms of Reference for the Department of Humanities be approved as set forth in the document circulated with the Agenda (Robert Irwin/Ian Armour). CARRIED

9.0 Adjournment

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned (Jillian Skeffington/Melike Schalomon). CARRIED

10.0 Question Period

No further questions were posed.