1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes

MOTION to approve the September 26, 2012 Faculty Council minutes.

FFACFC-01-11-22-2012
Moved by Allan Gilliland, seconded by Leslie Sharpe.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Chair’s update

New building update: There is a possibility of building the new Centre for the Arts larger than what is currently required to allow room for growth. The option of adding a fifth floor to give the university additional space is a decision that is currently pending additional government funding. Design development should be completed in mid-February and building completion is currently scheduled for Fall 2015.

Faculty evaluations: The challenges presented by low student response rates were discussed. Some suggestions to improve these rates included: communicating with students in the classroom and offering incentives. Denise asked that any additional suggestions be e-mailed to her.

Enrolment: The CFAC enrollment target of 894 students was not reached this year. This target will increase to 1,170 once the new building is constructed, so there is a university-wide focus on attracting and retaining students. Denise will bring this item forward for further discussion at the next meeting.

Re-branding: The focus is on re-branding MacEwan as a different kind of university. To support institutional re-branding, funding is coming
from existing marketing budgets, which means we will have 20% less to spend on CFAC marketing and recruiting next year.

4. Committee reports

Committee reports will now be included in Faculty Council agendas as a standing item so that committees can share updates on a regular basis.

4.1 AGC – Lucille Mazo and Janet Paterson-Weir

Lucille Mazo gave a brief report on AGC.

Key updates
- Re-branding: a MacEwan manifesto (available January 2013) was presented that identifies the 8 key pillars for which MacEwan will be known:
  1. Students first
  2. Personal learning experience
  3. Quality education
  4. Engaged university
  5. The heart of the city
  6. Sustainability
  7. Student engagement
  8. MacEwan spirit

Janet Paterson-Weir also announced that the review on MacEwan’s psychiatric nursing program was excellent. Positive reviews of our programs help reinforce the university’s exceptional reputation. Suspension of the golf management post-diploma certificate program was approved to be followed by program closure. Several other programs may be suspended in the future.

Janet gave a report on the Rank and Titling Committee. An additional AGC meeting in December may be called to approve a revised model, although no date has been announced. The committee is currently in the process of approving standards for counselors and librarians. The deadline for submission of individual applications was originally January 25, 2013, but will be pushed back to February 2013.

4.2 Curriculum Committee – Rey Rosales

The Curriculum Committee has been meeting once per month since the beginning of the term. The committee has completed the review of all BCS courses, and is on track to finish all the Bachelor of Music courses. Between February and June 2013, the committee plans to review 38 new courses and renew 28 existing courses.

The Curriculum Committee participated in a discussion led by Dr. Fred Fletcher about diversity and internationalizing curriculum. At their most recent meeting on November 22, 2012, the committee discussed the benefits of peer-to-peer learning. They also reviewed the employer report provided by Institutional Research and Planning and determined from its results that there may be room for improvement in our graduates’ critical thinking, research and interpersonal skills. The Curriculum Committee revised their Terms of Reference and will submit them to the Faculty Council for final approval.

4.3 Faculty Development, Research, and Sabbatical Committee – Rey Rosales

The Faculty Development and Research Committee met once this term and revised their Terms of Reference. They have updated the call for CFAC funding documents, which will be released in February 2013.
$700 is currently allotted to term faculty funding and $940 is allotted for full-time faculty. The MacEwan committee will soon be adjudicating an application for supplemental funding from the university-wide Faculty Development fund. Results of the research and dissemination funding competition will be available soon.

4.4 Standards Approval Committee – Allan Gilliland

The Committee has had three meetings this term. They are currently in the process of determining the standards for associate and full-time professors for CFAC, which has been challenging since the requirements for scholarly activity are difficult to define. In the future, it may be necessary to start making finer distinctions between activities, e.g. shows at certain musical venues, art galleries, etc.

5. New business

5.1 New members

MOTION to elect Hoyne Santa-Balazs, John Montague and Robert Walsh as sessional faculty representatives on the Faculty Council.

FFACFC-02-11-22-2012
Moved by Jim Head, seconded by Bill Richards.

MOTION CARRIED

The Student Association put forward two students: Amanda Sampson and Sylvia Douglas, who were welcomed to the Council. Sylvia shared information about an exhibit she is curating at the Gray Gallery titled “Urbanites” which opens next Thursday. An invitation will be distributed to Council members via e-mail.

5.2 Faculty naming options for consideration

- Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications
- Faculty of Visual, Performing and Communication Arts
- Faculty of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

The three short-listed names were recommended by the program chairs to the Executive Committee, who sanctioned and brought them forward for approval by the Faculty Council.

The last two options, ‘Faculty of Visual, Performing and Communication Arts’ and ‘Faculty of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts’ were removed from the list; there were objections to the term ‘communication arts’ and their lengthiness. The Council added ‘Faculty of Creative Arts’ and ‘Communications and Faculty of Communications, Fine and Performing Arts’ as potential names.

Results

Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications won a majority vote and will be recommended to AGC.

5.3 Update on performance evaluations

There has been a significant change in the collective agreement to provide more accountability in the reporting and evaluation process.

A new committee with a total of six members needs to be created to support this process. This committee will not be formally associated with the Faculty Council, nor will it be a sub-committee. The role of this committee is twofold: to engage in defining the criteria for assessment and to make recommendations on exemplary or unsatisfactory faculty performance.

Faculty members will submit their annual reports and supporting
The chair will review their work and decide if the member is unsatisfactory, satisfactory or meritorious. Those in the unsatisfactory or meritorious categories will then be reviewed by the committee which will make recommendations to the Dean. Feedback will be provided to the individual once this process is complete.

Program chairs report directly to the Dean, and the Dean will conduct their review. To avoid conflict of interest, the peer-review process will also vary for members on this committee. Further details on this process will be forthcoming.

In the future, there will be open sessions for faculty members and program chairs to demonstrate how this process will work. The due date for annual reports is April 15, 2013.

5.4 Selection of members for sub-committees

The process of nominating and populating committees for the Centre for the Arts and Communications will mirror the method followed by the AGC. On an annual basis, sessional and full-time faculty will be invited to identify which committees they are interested in joining and what expertise they may contribute as a member. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Faculty Council based on the information they receive, at which point committee membership will be ratified.

There was a consensus that this process would encourage membership since it is more inclusive.

6. Open discussion and future agenda items

No topics were discussed and no items were added for future agendas.

7. Update from the Provost – Janet-Paterson Weir

There is a fundamental shift of governance at the university. AGC passed a motion last year to collapse three existing committees: MacEwan Curriculum Committee, Strategic and Resource Planning Advisory Committee, and the Distance and Distributed Education Committee, to create one governing body called the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee. The success of the APPC relies strongly on university memory and standing expertise to inform it. The APPC will approve new academic and inter-disciplinary programs, and the creation, suspension and retirement of old programs, including the re-distribution of funds. The APPC will be responsible for the academic health of the university and its resources as well as all academic delivery and resourcing.

The university will depend on the advice of APPC for all future academic programming. The emphasis on this committee is shared governance for the academic delivery of university programs. Interested faculty members will be asked to come forward in February 2013 and the first official meeting of the APPC will commence in September 2013.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.