Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FACULTY COUNCIL
June 25, 2014
FFAC, 440
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Chair: Denise Roy

Attendees: Raymond Baril
Craig Brenan
Carole Charette
Allan Gilliland
Rose Ginther
Rita Long
Iain Macpherson
Darci Mallon
Lucille Mazo
Doreen Piehl
Bill Richards
Rey Rosales
Kent Sangster
Leslie Sharpe
Tom Van Seters
Dianne Westwood
Wayne Williams

Ex-officio members: Debbie McGugan for Jane Duffy
Mike Sekulic

Guests: Kathleen Byrne
Ruth Freeman
Melike Schalomon
Sherrell Steele

Regrets: Rose Clancy
Melissa Cuerrier
Brian Gorman
Jim Guedo
Marcel Hamel
Jim Head
Michael MacDonald
Nichole Magneson
Madison Mitchell
Kathy Neiman
Dianne Nicholls
Constanza Pacher
Eva Revitt
Chandelle Rimmer
Peter Roccia
Hoyne Santa-Balazs
Rachel Smith-Gay
Leslie Vermeer
Robert Walsh
Karen Zypchyn

Minutes: Christine Valentine

1. Approval of the agenda

The Theatre Arts action plan was moved to item 7.2.

MOTION to approve the June 25, 2014 FFAC Faculty Council agenda as amended.

FFACFC-01-06-25-2014
Moved by Carole Charette, seconded by Bill Richards.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Approval of May 22, 2014 Faculty Council minutes

MOTION to approve the May 22, 2014 Faculty Council minutes.

FFACFC-02-06-25-2014
Moved by Rey Rosales, Tom Van Seters seconded.

MOTION CARRIED
3. Review of June 4, 2014 Faculty Council Executive Committee DRAFT minutes

There was no discussion.

4. Chair’s update

An offer has been made to a new BCS faculty member, more details to follow. There are 2-4 student vacancies and up to 2 sessional faculty member vacancies on the Council. Denise has been in touch with SAMU to start recruiting student members. Members will be asked to nominate sessionals in the fall.

The institution will look at financing future curriculum development by looking at surpluses within the faculties. The current collective agreement negotiations may have an effect on salaries.

Denise acknowledged the many accomplishments and challenges of the faculty over the past year. The plans for the new Centre for the Arts and Culture are very close to being signed off. Communication around the new building, particularly about it being more than a performing arts centre, continues to be a challenge. Collaborative discussions about curriculum between faculty members have opened up tremendous potential in terms of what kind of future programming the faculty will be able to offer. New faculty members have brought with them ideas that have given the entire Faculty a sense of growth and renewal. There are continuing challenges with marketing and enrolment. The faculty continues to be visible in the public eye.

5. Program updates

Arts and Cultural Management

- The Program will host one of the visiting scholars
- Field placements are coming to an end and students and have been successful at finding jobs

Communications

- There is a new hire within the program
- Iain Macpherson recently returned from serving on the Board for the Canadian Communication Association
- Iain Macpherson attended a conference in Japan and inquired about their interest in expanding to Canada
- Three Communications students were recipients of awards at convocation
- Faculty will be participating in the Ukraine International Conference on June 26
- Charlotte Nesbitt will be featured on MacEwan’s website for winning an international content strategy competition

Design Studies

- Tyler Bartoshyk won the Stephen Mandel scholarship at The Works

Fine Art

- Two recent graduates have internships: Melissa Cayford as Coordinator for The Works and Dryden Reich at Latitude 53
- Alumnus Brenda Draney won the Eldon & Anne Foote
Edmonton Visual Arts Prize

- Dacci will be featured in a show at AGA in the fall

Library

- There is a current vacancy for a campus librarian that will be filled soon

Music

- Craig Brenan, Jim Head, and Bill Richards have new albums that will be donated to the library
- MacEwan graduates and faculty will play at an upcoming jazz festival
- The Big Band played at convocation last week

Theatre Arts

- Jim Guedo is participating in a musical theatre training school conference
- Former student Damien Atkins recently won a Dora Award for his performance in Angels of America Part II: Perestroika

Theatre Production

- Melissa Cuerrier is organizing the wardrobe over the summer

6. AGC update

6.1 AGC report – Rose Ginther

There was a presentation on technology and it was recommended that staff and faculty who are experiencing issues should log them through technology support so that changes can be implemented. Faculty were encouraged to reach out for Blackboard training. A new program review policy was brought forth for a vote, the implications of which would be no comprehensive look at diplomas that do not ladder into degree programs. The policy was not passed. The terms of reference for the Student Success Committee were approved. The full AGC report can be found here.

7. New business

7.1 Survey results and response – Rose Ginther

Rose highlighted the results of the survey on the functioning of the Faculty Council. The Executive committed to working on a mechanism to ensure that all faculty feel that their voices are heard. Surveys will be distributed annually to gather faculty feedback on Council operations. Another survey was circulated at the meeting to collect opinions on potential presentations at future Faculty Council meetings.

7.2 Theatre Arts action plan – Rey Rosales

Rey Rosales introduced the Theatre Arts action plan, which was approved unanimously by the Curriculum Committee.

Doreen Piehl gave an overview of the process, which involved an initial self-study and a rigorous analysis of the program. The program was reviewed by Neil Donohoe from the Boston Conservatory, renowned for their excellence in musical theatre. Donohoe reviewed the program during a site visit and was impressed. The self-study and the external
review resulted in five distinct action items:

1. Implement a recruitment and enrolment strategy, which involves an audition across Canada

   Currently, the program only conducts in-person auditions in Edmonton, which deters students from provinces outside of Alberta from auditioning.

2. Increase the number of full-time faculty

   Ideally, the program would like to add 1-2 new full-time faculty members; one to teach vocal music and the other to teach acting.

3. Adjust current program curriculum and learning outcomes

   The program’s current learning outcomes do not embrace music theory and ear training. As well, the learning outcomes will be revised to encourage an analytical and critical thinking skillset. Mr. Donohoe advocated that students wanted more training in dance. Analysis of the actual curriculum content reveals that the instructional hours in dance outnumber those in acting and vocal music; in addition, other student feedback indicates that students want more singing over dance. Mr. Donohoe further recommended an increase in non-musical acting training. Scrutiny of the content in Acting Skills courses reveal that students receive a total of 330 contact hours in their Acting Skills; of these, 30 are music theatre related.

4. Increase alignment with other FFAC programs

   The self-study and the external reviewer recognized the importance of coordinating actively between Theatre Arts and Theatre Production. Discussions are currently underway with both programs as to the possible merger of both programs under one umbrella with two streams: actor training and technical training.

5. Create a BFA degree for Theatre Arts

   The practicality and insightfulness of Neil Donohoe’s recommendations provided the Program with direction and momentum to start making changes to the current curriculum as a result of the review process.

   **MOTION** to approve the Theatre Arts action plan.

   **FFACFC-03-06-25-2014**

   Moved by Rose Ginther, seconded by Lucille Mazo.

   **MOTION CARRIED**

   **7.3 Honours designation –Melike Schalomon**

   Melike Schalomon presented on honours designations, an initiative which began at APPC. A working group was formed to draft a proposal for AGC including general guidelines, goals of the program and
characteristics of an honours designation. The institution chose to offer honours designations rather than honours degrees because degrees require full degree proposals that would need to go to Alberta Quality Council. This was considered to be too time consuming and unnecessary given that honours designations are accepted by graduate schools and are offered by many other universities. The intent was to develop general guidelines about how each faculty conceptualizes an honours designation and to create some courses that would be specific to the honours program that might involve a thesis or final project. The framework for the designation was written in such a way as to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of different faculties.

Feedback

The honours designation was thought to be a great asset for students wanting to continue with graduate studies. Students in our faculty would graduate with more research experience and would have more experience producing bodies of art. Concern was expressed about complications in enrolment management, but so far students have had few issues being admitted. In future years, the program may become more competitive. Some programs have such competitive entrance requirements that all students could be considered honours students, but specific programs will be able to decide how they want to handle their own designations. There is an opportunity to create an interdisciplinary honours degree.

7.4 FFAC academic plan

Denise presented a summary of progress to date and next steps.

To view the presentation, please visit myShare.

A number of possible models for degrees are being considered, including a 1+3 with a common first year for degree and diploma students. There is interest in retaining a diploma exit after year two.

Arts and Cultural Management

The Program is keen to pursue a degree. Other arts programs recognize that the management and entrepreneurial side of the arts is very important. All programs may adopt an arts management minor.

Design Studies

The program recently completed the 1st year of the new 3-year diploma. Currently, there is no common structure between the diploma and other programs. The program emphasized the importance of maintaining the diploma exit because of industry demand. More research will be required to determine the structure of a future degree. The 3rd and 4th years of a degree could potentially be filled with options and liberal arts courses to keep it flexible in a rapidly expanding industry.

Fine Art

The Program is currently writing their action plan, so there are no concrete ideas yet. There is interest in exploring interdisciplinary
programs, like public art or niche programs. The Program would like to maintain their diploma exit, but would also consider intake in the 3rd year to invite students who are transferring from another diploma program.

**Theatre Arts**

The program foresees a BFA degree in Theatre with two majors: one in performance and another in production.

**Theatre Production**

There is an interest in widening the definition of what students are being trained for. There are many types of productions that students are involved in and the current description is very specific to theatre.

**Music**

Students currently enrolled in the music diploma may have the option of pursuing another type of degree after its completion.

**Discussion**

The development process will begin with the draft letter of intent for the Design Studies degree in the fall with a full proposal likely taking about one year to complete. The demand for programming will be determined as part of the proposal process. There are majors and minors that are a natural fit for our faculty. A myShare group will be created to share notes and ideas.

### 7.5 Program Peer Committee terms of reference

**7.5.1 MUSC Program Peer Committee – Allan Gilliland**

MOTION to approve the Music Program Peer Committee terms of reference.

**FFACFC-04-06-25-2014**

Moved by Allan Gilliland, seconded by Bill Richards.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7.5.2 BCS Program Peer Committee – Lucille Mazo**

MOTION to approve the Bachelor of Communication Studies Program Peer Committee terms of reference.

**FFACFC-05-06-25-2014**

Moved by Lucille Mazo, seconded by Rey Rosales.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7.5.3 Program Equivalent Title Committee – Denise Roy**

MOTION to approve the Program Equivalent Title Committee terms of reference.

**FFACFC-06-06-25-2014**

Moved by Leslie Sharpe, seconded by Rose Ginther.

**MOTION CARRIED**
7.6 DRAFT 2014-15 Faculty Council schedule  

**MOTION** to approve the 2014-15 Faculty Council schedule.

*FFACFC-07-06-25-2014*

Moved by Rey Rosales, seconded by Rose Ginther.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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<tr>
<th>8. Committee reports</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8.1 Curriculum Committee – Rey Rosales</strong></td>
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<td>The Committee approved a number of syllabi with minor changes for Music and Fine Art.</td>
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<td><strong>8.2 Faculty Development Committee – Rey Rosales</strong></td>
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<td>The Committee provided an opinion about instructor’s workloads in relation to research. They will meet early in the fall to revise and refine the application for the travel process and research.</td>
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<td><strong>8.3 Visiting Scholar and Artist Committee – Rey Rosales</strong></td>
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<td>Two visiting scholars have been selected for the 14-15 academic year. There may be more competitions in the future if the budget allows for it.</td>
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<th>9. Open discussion and future agenda items</th>
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<th>10. Adjournment</th>
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<td>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM</td>
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