Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FACULTY COUNCIL
November 25, 2015
440, CFAC
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Denise Roy

Attendees:
- Robert Andruchow
- Ray Baril
- Carole Charette
- Rose Clancy
- Melissa Cuerrier
- Allan Gilliland
- Rose Ginther
- Jim Head

- Paul Johnston
- Michael MacDonald
- Iain Macpherson
- Darci Mallon
- Lucille Mazo
- Bruce Montcombroux
- Sony Raj
- Bill Richards

- Rey Rosales
- Dawn Sadoway
- Kent Sangster
- Leslie Sharpe
- Jennifer Spencer
- Scott Spidell
- Wayne Williams

Ex-officio members:
- Debbie McGugan
- Mike Sekulic
- Dianne Westwood

Guests:
- Ken Ristau
- Alan Vladicka
- Kim Warkentine

Regrets:
- Craig Brenan
- Eric Doucet
- Brian Gorman
- Jim Guedo
- Marcel Hamel
- Nichole Magneson

- Kyle Muzyka
- Kathy Neiman
- Dianne Nicolls
- Constanza Pacher
- Doreen Piehl
- Chandelle Rimmer

- Peter Roccia
- Chris Ryan
- Tom Van Seters
- Leslie Vermeer
- Jocelyn Wedman
- Annette Wierstra

Minutes: Christine Valentine

1. Approval of the agenda

   MOTION to approve the November 25, 2015 Faculty Council agenda.

   FFAFC-01-11-25-2015
   Moved by Allan Gilliland, seconded by Melissa Cuerrier.

   MOTION CARRIED

2. Approval of October 27, 2015 Faculty Council minutes

   MOTION to approve the October 27, 2015 Faculty Council minutes.

   FFAFC-02-11-25-2015
   Moved by Rose Ginther, seconded by Wayne Williams.

   MOTION CARRIED

3. Review of November 10, 2015 Executive Committee draft minutes

   There was no discussion.

4. Chair’s update

   Denise welcomed the new members of the Faculty Council, sessional faculty member Jennifer Spencer who teaches for the Theatre Arts program, and Arts and Cultural Management student Jocelyn Wedman. Michael MacDonald will also be a continuing faculty member as of July 1, 2016.
The pedway has been added back into the plans for the new Centre for Arts and Culture and though it may not be ready for the new building’s opening, it is expected to be completed in fall 2017. Some members of the CFAC Project Communications & Change Management Committee recently had a chance to visit the construction site, and facilities is working out the logistics to arrange further site tours for faculty.

The Letter of Intent for the proposed Bachelor of Music Recording and Production major will go to the board of governors for approval this fall. The Bachelor of Design proposal is out to external reviewers and the BFA proposal is targeted to be completed by the spring. Syllabi have not gone to AGC for final approval in the past but going forward, syllabi will need to be approved by AGC because this is a requirement of the Post-Secondary Learning Act. The syllabi for the 2016-17 academic year will be sent to AGC in January.

The deadline for final grades is either five business days after a student’s final assessment or December 21. Instructors should have course outlines ready before the end of term. January 31 is the deadline for workload assignments. A call will go out shortly to select a pool of seven faculty for the workload review panel, of which three people will serve.

The United Way campaign is underway. The various ways in which individuals can donate are listed on campaign’s website. Everyone is encouraged to participate, however individuals who cannot donate can still click ‘decline’ on the pledge form to increase university participation.

5. Department updates

**Art and Design**
- Carole Charette has a show at CAFÉ until mid-January
- Student show Three Square Meals is currently featured at Gray Gallery
- Visiting artist Dr. Larry Louie is giving a lecture on November 26 at 1:30 p.m. in room 203

**Arts and Cultural Management**
- Three students will be going to Ottawa for a research trip

**Communication**
- Brian Gorman and Roberta Laurie both held successful book launches
- Kim Wheeler from CBC was awarded as a MacEwan Distinguished Alumna at convocation and spent half a day with Communications students
- Rey Rosales was promoted to associate professor

**Music**
- Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker Suite will be performed at the Yardbird Suite by Craig Brenan Band on November 28
- A Tribute to Motown and Soul will be featured in the Haar Theatre on November 29
- Big Band concert with Ray Baril will be featured in the Haar Theatre on November 30
- Tom Van Seters and Mo Lefever are performing Samba at
Café! at CAFÉ on December 2
- Chris Andrew released a cd titled Hollow Trees, produced by Paul Johnston

Theatre
- John Battye was hired as a new Theatre Production sessional faculty member

6. AGC update –Rose Ginther

Rose Ginther gave a brief report on AGC.

Key updates
- The Comprehensive Institutional Plan report was approved, despite some opposition. The report will eventually be available on the public MacEwan website
- The Disability Management in the Workplace diploma was suspended and Holistic Health diploma terminated
- Concern was expressed about the Research Ethics Board’s ability to get through backlog of applications and some suggestions were made to improve the process

7. Committee reports

7.1 Curriculum Committee –Rey Rosales

The committee has concluded its business for the fall and will resume in the New Year.

7.1.1 Bachelor of Music major in Recording and Production Letter of Intent –Rey Rosales

The Bachelor of Music major in Recording and Production Letter of Intent was presented for information and will go to the Board of Governors for approval in December.

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

Adjudication for project applications has been completed. The Committee will meet on December 8 to look at priorities for next year’s funding. Applications for use of individual allocations can now be completed by faculty members on the website.

7.3 Visiting Scholar and Artist Committee –Rey Rosales

The Committee is finalizing arrangements with a recording artist from Quebec and a distinguished professor from CNN.

8. New business

8.1 Institutional Learning Outcomes Working Group update –Rose Ginther

The working group meeting was canceled because the APPC Learning Outcomes Working Group will be reconstituted as a separate working group, distinct from the working group that looked at the co-curricular record.

8.2 Blended Learning and Community Engagement Working Group update –Bruce Montcombroux

The Blended Learning/Community Engagement Working Group expressed concerns about both sets draft definitions. The Working Group chose not to approve the motion from APPC because they felt that there was too little background and resources with nothing specifically stated about faculty roles or consultation. There were also problems with the discussion around the status of faculty who teach online. The proposed blended learning courses will require professors to teach both online and in the classroom, which creates problems because teachers are not paid for full workload for online supervision.

The Working Group considered APPC’s proposal for Community Engagement and asked how they define community learning when
there is no process to identify and support community engagement. The report does not mention diversity and comes across as a business model for the university rather than addressing how we support and develop sustainable models. The Working Group suggested that there are a number of successful models this institution could use for reference. The Working Group suggested that it is important to engage our downtown community in lieu of this faculty’s to the new campus.

These reports will be forwarded to the APPC Blended Learning and Community Engagement working groups.

8.3 FFAC Marketing Task Force update – Melissa Cuerrier

Recruiters are currently on the road all over the province. In addition, faculty are being recruited to offer short classes to high school students and expose them to professionals in the industry. More information is available on the [website](#).

Web services has begun contacting departments to update their websites, and expect to be able to make minor changes relatively quickly. A reported 77% more guests came to open house compared to last year and attendance had improved for CFAC.

8.4 BCS request

8.4.1 Ad Hoc Review Committee minutes

The October 21 Ad Hoc Review Committee minutes were presented for information. There was no discussion.

8.4.2 Ad Hoc Review Committee final report – Alan Vladicka

Alan Vladicka gave a brief summary of his final report on the Ad Hoc Review Committee.

**Overview of committee process**

- The committee reviewed, revised and endorsed their terms of reference with the mandate to examine the department’s request to move to Art and Science based on cognate disciplines and other factors
- Financial implications and organizational issues were out of scope for this committee
- The committee received a presentation from Communication members outlining the reasons for the department’s request to move to Arts and Science
- The committee reviewed and discussed IAP report
- Generated and worked through issues and questions list
- There was no emphasis on reaching consensus as this was not a part of the committee’s mandate

**Feedback on IAP report**

- It was evident from the environmental scan that communications programs were usually housed in an arts and science faculty
- Communication faculty believe that a number of academic benefits can be drawn from moving to Arts and Science, namely working with more closely aligned academic-peers and interdisciplinary collaboration with cognate disciplines

**Cognate disciplines**

- Cognate discipline was essentially defined as a disciplinary
Communication faculty expressed concern around facilities and staffing, particularly for the Journalism major, which they suggest is connected to disciplinary misalignment and misunderstanding of program needs within FFAC. The concerns expressed were not disputed, and a number of questions were asked about whether there was any guarantee that this situation would improve within Arts and Science. Communication faculty acknowledged that moving to Arts and Science would not guarantee an improvement but suggested that disciplinary alignment would be a great benefit. Members of the committee also observed that curriculum concerns are the responsibility of program faculty.

The Committee addressed operational issues and obstacles that faculty and students face in regards to course development. No tremendous barriers were found to exist, but Communication faculty suggested that they would benefit from interdisciplinary research partnerships. An observation was made that interdisciplinary relationships already exist within this faculty and that difficulty enrolling in cognate discipline courses is a university-wide phenomenon and not a barrier caused by residing within FFAC. Communication faculty felt that students would thrive in Arts and Science because of access to research and project funding and believed that faculty would receive more robust feedback from like-minded peers, as was suggested in the IAP report.

Though it might have made sense to wait for the next program review to consider Communication’s request to leave FFAC, the next review is scheduled for the 2018/19 academic year and the contention was that it is too long to wait.

The committee’s work is summarized based on the questions posed by the Terms of Reference.

**Questions**

- How does the discipline of communication align with the disciplines within Arts and Science?
  - Communication faculty asserted that they are more closely aligned with Arts and Science disciplines and the relationships with FFAC were seen as less vital
- Other than disciplinary alignment, what other factors or criteria should be considered in making the decision about which faculty is the best fit for the communication department?
  - Disciplinary alignment was the primary rationale for leaving FFAC
  - The needs of the program were addressed, such as adequate facilities and equipment
- What are potential benefits/opportunities for the Department of Communication and FFAC if Communications were to
move to Arts and Science? How could these benefits/opportunities be maximized?
  o Few benefits were mentioned
  o FFAC faculty expressed that they aspired for our campus to become a world Centre of Communication Excellence, but Communication faculty did not see this as a part of their vision
  o Communication would benefit from closer peer-alignment, interdisciplinary relationships, resource allocation, and student advising
  o IAP report also suggests that FFAC could re-brand with a more specialized focus

• What are potential risks for the Department of Communication and FFAC if Communications were to move to Arts and Science? How might these risks be mitigated?
  o Communication would have a reduction in program representation on governance bodies and may be subsumed into a larger department, but the faculty maintained that the benefits were considered to be worth the risk

• What are potential risks for the Department of Communication and FFAC if Communications were to stay with FFAC? How might these risks be mitigated?
  o Concerns of disciplinary misalignment might be addressed by creating an autonomous school of journalism and communication

The final Ad Hoc Review Committee report was constructed on the basis of the committee’s discussions. The report is organized around the questions posed by the terms of reference, the case presented by Communication to move to Arts and Science, the issues list and the committee minutes. A draft report was circulated to committee members for review and some revisions were made based on their feedback. One additional meeting was called subsequent to the circulation of the draft report to deal with remaining issues on the issues list, and the final report was revised to include all of the highlights from the discussions. The Committee has agreed that it has met its mandate and recommends its dissolution.

MOTION to accept the Ad Hoc Review Committee final report.

FFACFC-03-11-25-2015
Moved by Ray Baril, seconded by Lucille Mazo.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4.3 Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Review Committee

MOTION to dissolve the Ad Hoc Review Committee, effective November 25, 2015.

FFACFC-04-11-25-2015
Moved by Bill Richards, seconded by Allan Gilliland.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4.4 Consideration of the Department of Communication request

During the discussion, the following questions arose:
  • There is research to support new interdisciplinary
approaches to configuring faculties and departments. Is there academic research that supports the proposed disciplinary alignment with Arts and Science?
  - Interdisciplinary can occur at different levels and in different ways between cognate disciplines

- Has the Communication department considered a vision for the future that might move beyond traditional cognate disciplines?
  - Communications cannot figure out future alignment until they know if they will move to Arts and Science. Alignments were looked at in terms of future alignment with Arts and Science cognate disciplines, but this issues was largely out of scope for the Ad Hoc Review Committee

- Are there any impediments to students and were they consulted?
  - Communication will have a town hall meeting and will bring discussion points to Faculty Council
  - Classes have been surveyed and students expressed an interest to moving to Arts and Science

- How might communication students be provided with more robust feedback from like-minded peers?
  - Faculty also wish to have this kind of feedback and believe that closer alignment and collaboration on courses with Arts and Science will enable them to receive it
  - United Nations Club is a possible way for students to receive input

Concern was expressed that Communication appears to have presented a selective program history, particularly by suggesting that few collaborative projects were realized, which is untrue. For example, there were many projects with Design that were not mentioned. It was emphasized that after Communication moved downtown, it was more difficult to realize collaborations. Some of the statistics around enrolment were also questioned. It was observed that the report does not address personality issues and/or hurt feelings about some of the things that occurred over the past decade. The Ad Hoc Committee considered these out of scope and focused on cognate discipline argument presented by Communication. Members from the Ad Hoc Committee emphasized that the history of the program was presented by Communication faculty and no alternative was presented from other members.

A concern was also expressed that there may not be enough information to vote on this issue in January. It might be useful to have a presentation from the non-Communication departments, more financial analysis and further information on the strategic direction of the whole university.

Next steps

After the vote in January, this request will follow the normal channels of academic governance (i.e. APPC, AGC and Board). The vote will demonstrate to the institution that this faculty has done its due
diligence and will provide an indication as to what direction this body is leaning. A process is also underway for Communication to begin discussions with Arts and Science. No institutional policy exists to provide guidance on this matter and the Provost will be invited to join the meeting in January to provide further clarification.

The Communication presentation that was circulated to the Ad Hoc Review Committee will be distributed to Faculty Council members, with slides pertaining to financial information removed.

Questions and comments that may come up after the meeting adjourns can be sent to members of the Executive committee via Denise or Christine.

8.4.5 Notice of Motion for January 20 Faculty Council meeting from Department of Communication

The following Notice of Motion was given to be voted on at the January 20 Faculty Council meeting:

MOTION that, as per its request, the Department of Communication leaves FFAC.

9. Open discussion and future agenda items

There was no discussion.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.