Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FACULTY COUNCIL
September 25, 2013
440, CFAC
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Denise Roy

Attendees: Raymond Baril Nichole Magneson Kent Sangsler
Allan Gilliland Darci Mallon Hoyne Santa-Balazs
Rose Ginther Lucille Mazo Leslie Sharpe
Marcel Hamel Madison Mitchell Tom Van Seters
Jim Head Eva Revitt Robert Walsh
Rita Long Bill Richards Dianne Westwood
Michael MacDonald Peter Roccia Karen Zypchyn
Iain Macpherson Rey Rosales

Ex-Officio members: Mike Sekulic

Guests: William Thompson

Regrets: Craig Brenan Kathy Neiman Rachel Smith-Gay
Rose Clancy Dianne Nicholls Leslie Vermeer
Geoff George Constanza Pacher Wayne Williams
Brian Gorman James Parker
Jim Guedo Doreen Piehl
John Montague Chandelle Rimmer

Minutes: Christine Valentine

1. Approval of the agenda
The agenda was approved with one addition. Election of additional members to the Standards Approval Committee was added to item 6.4.1.

2. Approval of May 9, 2013 minutes
MOTION to approve the May 9, 2013 Faculty Council minutes.

FFACFC-01-09-25-2013
Moved by Rita Long, seconded by Tom Van Seters.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Review of Executive Committee minutes
3.1 August 28, 2013 minutes
There was no discussion.

3.2 September 12, 2013 draft minutes
There was no discussion.

4. Chair’s update
Denise welcomed new members Craig Brenan, Michael MacDonald, Madison Mitchell, Eva Revitt and Rachel Smith-Gay.

Denise provided an overview of some of the ways in which FFAC can enhance academic culture:
• The Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning is available, deadline December 31
• Visiting Scholar or Artist nominations, deadline October 11
• MacEwan Research, Scholarly Activity and Creative Achievement Fund, deadline October 26

Operating on two campuses poses challenges, which need to be addressed.

There has been progress in facilitating internal transfers between diploma and degree programs with a recent step being taken by Arts and Science.

There is energy to build the new CFAC building. The architects are moving ahead with construction drawings. There is currently a proposal to expand the retail space to increase revenue.

The Executive Committee recently reviewed the Bond report, which offered feedback and recommendations for ways in which the overall structure of AGC could be improved. While the Executive chose not to issue a formal response at this time, they highlighted areas in the report that focused on the relationship between Faculty Council and AGC and hope to be involved in future decisions that impact this relationship. The Executive flagged the topic of the overall allocation of seats on committees for further discussion.

The nominations committee for AGC asked faculty and school councils to respond to the question of whether it would be advantageous to combine the nomination call for both the AGC university-wide committee and the FFAC Council. The Executive Committee responded in the affirmative.

There is a proposal for a change in how the Research Council adjudicates applications, addressed further in item 6.1. The AGC Research Council currently has a call out for nominations, due September 30.

There will be ongoing issues with performance review and titling in the coming year. Last year, FFAC faculty members underwent their first round of performance review and there was dissatisfaction with the process. Since the committee must operate for one more year as per the Collective Agreement, there will be further discussion about ways in which to improve this process. The department level review for academic titling went well and was thought to be a great addition to the process. In the future, it may be beneficial to hold an open workshop for faculty to share their experiences.

5. Committee reports

5.1 AGC—Peter Roccia

John Corlett delivered his VP Academic report. He emphasized that he would like to work with faculty to find ways to abridge the current 160 policies to just the fundamental policies. He also emphasized that academics should be involved in decisions regarding the creation and approval of courses and programs. The Provost expressed a desire to develop policies and principles to encourage interdisciplinary studies.
Valerie Henitiuk announced the new brand of Faculty Commons, CAFÉ: Centre for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence.

Ryan Roth discussed ways to increase student engagement. Last year, AGC had 5 student positions, but since the Terms of Reference stipulated that these positions be divided equally across different faculties, the position reserved for an FFAC student remained vacant.

In the future, students who express interest from other faculties will be invited to fill empty seats. Cathryn Heslep is working on ways for students to receive recognition for their committee participation, either on their transcripts or by awarding them with a certificate in leadership. The Student Success Committee will be re-constituted and will reveal their Terms of Reference soon.

The Bond report was presented to AGC for feedback. The Review Task Team will be reviewing the recommendations and breaking them down into motions. Membership for AGC may be expanded and the formula for representation from each of the faculties and schools may be re-examined. The Teaching Excellence and Innovation Committee will be re-activated to show the balance between teaching and research in the institution. Other committees may be combined.

The motion that was put forward by the Admissions and Selections Committee to remove the written assessment exam from the Bachelor of Communication Studies degree was rejected on two grounds. The first was that it violated academic governance because there was no faculty input in the decision before it was presented to Admissions and Selections. The argument that it provided an academic barrier to students was also rejected because other universities, specifically Concordia, Ryerson and UBC, which offer 4-year Bachelor of Communication degrees, all have written assessments, in addition to other entrance requirements. The decision was sent back to be considered by BCS faculty and the process will be reviewed next year.

5.2 Curriculum Committee – Rey Rosales

The committee has reviewed several Design and Theatre Production courses. Minimum grade requirements will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

Calls are currently out for the Innovation in Teaching and Learning award, and the Visiting Scholar or Artist fund.

6. New business

6.1 Research Council – William Thompson

The Research Council has asked faculty sub-committees to participate in a pilot project to help with the adjudication of applications before they come to the Council. This will accomplish two things, 1) it will save the Research Council valuable time, and 2) it gives an opportunity for the people that have the most expertise to review and rank applications. The FFAC Faculty Development, Research, and Sabbatical Committee would be expected to make recommendations to the university-wide committee by assigning applications a specific rank using an existing rubric. Rankings that fall below a score of 75% will not be considered. The pilot project would apply to the October and March funds. The Research Council is meeting tomorrow to finalize details.
6.2 FFAC strategic statement

The ideas formulated during the FFAC open forum can now be part of the strategic planning process for institutional direction. Regardless of institutional process, FFAC requires a clear vision and strategic plan. There will be an open forum at FFAC on October 8 at 12:00 PM and the October 29 Faculty Council meeting will be devoted to specific discussion around the Strategic Directions and Core Strategies document. The Faculty Council has the option of issuing a formal response after this discussion.

6.3 Title standards

The Academic Title Committee built on the work that they did to define Assistant Professor standards, and extended these standards to Associate and full professor levels as well as bipartite roles. In terms of process, the committee also looked at standards set by other MacEwan faculties, specifically Arts and Science, for consistency. These standards will go to the Standards Approval Committee in early October before they are vetted institutionally to become the final standards. Individuals will be able to apply for titling next semester.

The fourth bullet on page 16 should be changed from ‘extremely’ to ‘externally’.

6.4 Terms of Reference

6.4.1 Standards Approval Committee

Until recently, the committee operated with informal Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference set today will govern the meetings for the coming year. The Terms of Reference will be re-visited once the committee is merged with the Academic Title Committee next year.

Leslie Sharpe reported that the Executive Committee had considerable debate on the role of the Dean and decided to bring this issue to Faculty Council for resolution.

The Executive identified these points to the Faculty Council for consideration, before asking them to vote on the issue:

- The Dean or designate is present either as the chair or an ex-officio member on other similar committees in the institution
- The Dean could provide valuable information on related processes in other faculties
- The committees are providing substantial documentation and the Dean’s Office is providing support to produce these documents
- These committees are part of the peer-review process, and the Dean represents administration, not faculty
- The Terms of Reference are not clear whether the Dean is a voting or non-voting member

It was agreed that the Dean should be listed as a non-voting member and ‘designate’ should be removed.

MOTION to approve the Standards Approval Committee Terms of Reference.
MOTION CARRIED

There was a suggestion to increase the membership to the Standards Approval Committee. Jim Head volunteered to join the committee.

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There was agreement to remove ‘the Committee is not a Standing Committee of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications Council’ from the committee’s accountability.

MOTION to approve the Performance Evaluation Committee Terms of Reference.

MOTION CARRIED

There was no discussion.

Announcements and program updates

Jason Malenko and Michael Ali from library technology support will be providing information on classroom and lab support, enterprise application support, and other topics at an information session on October 8 at 5 – 6 p.m. in lab 347. Interested faculty should e-mail Jason at malenkoj@macewan.ca to book a place in this session.

There will be student presentations to celebrate the launch of Earth Common journal in the Paul Byrne hall on October 3 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Karen Zypchyn offered to act as a liaison between the Research Ethics board and FFAC faculty.

Call for nominations for the Distinguished Teaching Award. The new nomination process can now include current students, alumni, and faculty peers. The deadline for nominations is November 1.
Call for student nominations for the President's medal. The deadline for fall convocation is October 1.

Eva Revitt will be at FFAC on Wednesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays. Scanning, e-reserves and other requests can be sent to the central depository by e-mailing collections@macewan.ca. The library also has a Learning Commons with drop-in workshops for students that can assist with citation, apps, e-books, etc. There is a learning essentials workshop on November 6, 7, and 7. The library now has access to CRKN content, which gives us access to thousands of online journals, but there are challenges with making all of this content visible. If there is an important journal that cannot be found through the library database, contact Eva Revitt at revitte@macewan.ca

Leslie Sharpe is in an exhibition at Whitemud Park which ends tomorrow. Leslie is taking data around bird sightings and converting them to colours. Tweet #ramblebirds about any birds seen in the region to assist her with the installation.

The first Music faculty concert of the year is October 2.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.