Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FACULTY COUNCIL
October 29, 2013
7-142, CCC
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Denise Roy

Attendees: Ray Baril, Lucille Mazo, Kent Sangsler
Craig Brenan, Madison Mitchell, Leslie Sharpe
Allan Gilliland, Eva Revitt, Rachel Smith-Gay
Rose Ginther, Bill Richards, Tom Van Seters
Jim Head, Chandelle Rimmer, Robert Walsh
Iain Macpherson, Peter Roccia, Dianne Westwood
Nichole Magneson, Rey Rosales, Karen Zypchyn

Ex-officio members: John Corlett, Michelle Fraser for Mike Sekulic

Guests: Kathleen Byrne, Sherrell Steele
Kevin Shufflebotham, Alan Vladicka

Regrets: Rose Clancy, Michael MacDonald, Doreen Piehl
Geoff George, Darci Mallon, Hoynne Santa-Balazs
Brian Gorman, Kathy Neiman, Leslie Vermeer
Jim Guedo, Dianne Nicholls, Wayne Williams
Marcel Hamel, Constanza Pacher
Rita Long, James Parker

Minutes: Christine Valentine

1. Approval of the agenda

   The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of September 25, 2013 minutes

   MOTION to approve the September 25, 2013 Faculty Council minutes.

   FFAFC-01-10-29-2013
   Moved by Leslie Sharpe, seconded by Rose Ginther.

   MOTION CARRIED

3. Review of October 17, 2013 Executive Committee draft minutes

   There was no discussion.

4. Chair's update

   Denise welcomed Michelle Fraser, representing the Office of the University Registrar. Denise also welcomed John Corlett, Kevin Shufflebotham, and Alan Vladicka who will present on strategic direction.

   The United Way campaign kicks off October 31, 2013. There will be a special event at FFAC on October 31, 2013 at 12:00 PM outside the Information Centre. More information can be found at MacEwan.ca/UnitedWay.
There is a sessional faculty member vacancy on the Faculty Council. A call for nominations will be sent to all members this week and an election will be held for this position at the November 28, 2013 Faculty Council meeting. There is also a call out for nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Distinguished Citizen Honourary Degree. Members were advised to consult with program chairs to ensure that nominees have not been honoured in a similar way. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2013.

5. Committee reports

5.1 AGC—FFAC representatives

The main items of discussion were strategic direction and the course approval process. A synopsis of the meeting can be found on the AGC website.

5.2 Curriculum Committee – Rey Rosales

The Committee recommended the approval of the AACM to BCS block transfer agreement and discussed interdisciplinary collaboration.

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

Applications for funding were received on Friday and will be adjudicated on November 15, 2013. Five nominations were received for Visiting Scholar, and the Committee has narrowed the list down to two potential candidates: Chip Kidd, graphic designer for Random House and Hal Galper, renowned pianist and composer.

6. New business

6.1 Strategic direction presentation

Introduction

John Corlett presented an overview of the strategic directions and core strategies draft document. He described MacEwan as a university that has undergone many changes, from re-branding to the further development of our programs. He described this as a time where we need to start thinking about the type of university we want to be by defining where certificates, diplomas and degrees fit into our overall identity. The Provost acknowledged that the level of public and government support for universities throughout OECD countries has declined, and in a time of fiscal uncertainty and budget reduction, it is fundamental for the institution to be prepared to use our resources in the most strategic and effective way possible. The government is currently discussing the organization of Campus Alberta and is even considering opening the Post-Secondary Learning Act, in which event it would be critical for MacEwan to have a solid foundational document to guide future decisions and align them with our strategic direction.

Process

The strategic directions document was described as a five-year plan that outlines general institutional directions. It was written in such a way that would elicit broad feedback from the university community. Once the points within the strategic draft document have been decided, it will enter an intermediate phase and an academic plan will be drafted. The strategic plan will also include other foundational plans for external relations, facilities, information and technology management, finance/budget, human resources and student services. A draft of the integrated strategic plan will be approved by AGC and
Board of Governors by June 2014.

**Feedback**

The Steering Committee has organized the consultation process with faculty and school councils and they are responsible for how information is gathered. The Steering Committee is composed of a broad range of members. The feedback collected will be used to guide the development of a definitive institutional strategic document.

John Corlett passed the floor to Alan Vladicka, who invited the Council to provide feedback on the strategic directions and core strategies draft document. The following recommendations were made:

**Key issues of alignment**

- Sustainability is an overarching statement, but there could be more development about how sustainability will be supported in the strategic direction of the university
- Further address the role of technology as it is fundamental to our success
- Explore how to develop degree pathways from non-degree programs within a 2-year timeframe
- Ensure that credit programs in Continuing Education are transferable

**Strategic direction 1**

- The new model should not be looked at as lateral as this implies education is one-directional. Students come to MacEwan at all different points in their education, so it is important to be cautious of terminology. The term ‘linked’ may imply that non-degree programs cannot stand on their own. The strategic direction document should be explicit that degree completion is one of many options for students
- Explore the creation of after-degrees, diplomas, or certificates that feed into graduate programs
- Include more overt mentioning about how our programs might link to external institutions
- Look at ways in which our programs may become minors and majors for the BA degree

**Strategic direction 2**

- Positioning the Alberta College Campus as a professional centre was generally thought to be a great idea that will help MacEwan build mutually beneficial connections in the community

**Strategic direction 3**

- “Knowledge ecology” is a great term that means multi-linear, creating vibrant networks that integrate and which are mutually beneficial and sustaining
- Explore ways in which we can integrate student-engaged research into our ecology
- Describe how students might take courses from multiple disciplines
- Concern was expressed that too much focus might limit
institutional growth as a large part of it will develop organically

Strategic direction 4
- The importance of not sacrificing quality for quantity in our programming was emphasized

Strategic direction 5
- The document does not explicitly state why international learning is desirable. Expand on why this should be an institutional focus and how we might create these opportunities for our students in the future

Strategic direction 6
There was no discussion

Strategic direction 7
There was no discussion

Strategic direction 8
- Clarification is needed about the role of program/department chairs, deans and associate deans and their relationship with faculty and school councils

Additional comments
- The word ‘transparency’ should be included in the document
- Address the health and general well-being of faculty and staff and how they will be supported and sustained
- Make a clear distinction between ‘global’ and ‘international’

Additional feedback can be delivered through the portal. The deadline is November 8, 2013.

7. Open discussion and future agenda items
   The current process will be amended to include a call for agenda items one week prior to the distribution of the agenda.

8. Announcements and program updates
   The Faculty Association pre-negotiation survey closes at the end of the week. Open house is November 2, 2013. David Mach, sculpture and installation artist will be speaking about his work on November 8, 2013. Chandelle Rimmer will be performing in the next Faculty Concert on November 13, 2013.

9. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.