MINUTES
December 6, 2016 – 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.
Robbins Health Learning Centre Room 9-215

Attendees:
Adrian Popescu  Derek Chewka  Jiu-Lin Wang  Michelle Andrews
Brenda Heffernan  Donna Jamieson  Jody Marshall  Mike Sekulic
Cassie Prochnau  Erin Gray  Ken Ristau  Nancy Thomas
Catherine Hedlin  Fred McGinn  Kerry Heaney-Dalton  Paul Chahal
Cynthia Puddu  Fons Chafe  Kevin Hood  Sandra Alton
Danielle Campbell  Heather Pick  Lisa Shamchuk  Sharon Hobden
Dave Kato  Hongmei Tong  Lois Wihlidal  Tara Winsor
David McLaughlin  Jack Deol  Margaret Mykietyszyn  Terri Yaremko
Debbie McGuigan  Jeff Moggach  Maria Smyth  Tricia Lirette

Kathleen Murphy(recording)

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda
The Chair presented the agenda/consent agenda for approval. The following item was approved on the consent agenda:

2.1 Draft Minutes of Faculty Council meeting, October 26, 2016
2.2 Program admission criteria – Social Work

Moved by K. Quinn/T. Winsor to accept the agenda/consent agenda as presented.

Carried

3.0 Dean’s Report
Focus Group – In follow-up to the Faculty Council meeting, Alan Vladicka has been hired to facilitate four focus groups to discuss and identify categories of service. Please sign up to participate in 1 of 4 groups.

Research Chair – Position will be advertised shortly with a proposed start date of July 1, 2017. Position is tied to Department of Public Safety & Justice due to the funding agency’s requirement and the nature of the research – behavioural patterns that impact traffic safety.

Research Committee – First meeting of new committee was held. Would like to develop lunch and learn sessions for specific areas of research. Faculty asked to submit their suggestions.

Budget Presentation – will be made Wednesday, December 7th. HCS ask is for faculty positions to support BSW and to replace positions reallocated to SW in the interim.

Sessional survey – almost complete. Results will be shared with Sessional Working Group and future Faculty Council meeting.

Little Red River Cree Nation – contract to deliver SNEA programming to currently employed educational assistants starting in January.

4.0 Library Subscription – The fluctuating buying power of the American dollar and inflation costs are affecting annual budget. Faculty asked to notify Library of any underutilized or discontinued resources, or
any other materials that can be removed from the collections. This includes annual subscriptions, online databases, journals, and other resources. Cancellations may affect course materials on e-reserve or BlackBoard. Library will distribute potential cuts to resources sometime in April 2017. Faculty expressed their appreciation to Debbie and all Library staff for their commitment to student learning.

5.0 Internal Transfer – the course designation on all Master Course Syllabus are being updated to RD 1, 2, 3, 4 to identify them as university level courses. This change will not affect transfer credit within MacEwan or other post-secondary institutions. This change may impact student advising between Faculties.

FHCSC-02-12-06-2016
Moved by D. Kato/S. Alton THAT Health and Community Studies Faculty Council recommend that courses offered within FHCS are designated as undergraduate RD 1,2,3,4 in the Master Course Syllabus system.

Carried

6.0 Open Discussion – Mental Health

This topic was identified at a recent Management Advisory Council and Visiting Lecture Series meetings. Stress levels among students is rising incrementally each year. What supports are needed, how does this affect both full-time and sessional faculty and staff, and what do we as a Faculty need to address this issue? Comments from faculty who shared their perspective include:

• Shift in students’ work/school/home balance.
• Increased social issues observed during practicum visits.
• Lack of knowledge of available resources for students.
• International students have different needs and have insufficient resources.
• Course content can often trigger underlying student mental health issues. Faculty called upon to address during class time.
• What supports exist for faculty dealing with students issues? What is the impact on faculty?
• Relational curriculum draws students to faculty for support.
• Mental health funding inequities exist between MacEwan and other institutions.
• Program graduates continue to look for support from faculty.
• Should faculty be dealing with students’ mental health issues?
• Issues affect student placement at practicum, and faculty/course evaluations.
• Suggested solutions include – staff and faculty training and resources for crisis intervention; provide small group, drop-in lunchbox sessions in Robbins for students on coping with stress/anxiety; partner with external agencies to provide resources; develop peer support initiative; create Research Chair to promote research in mental health; texting support; increasing self care and/or mindfulness training in existing coursework and student orientations; invite Student Affairs to speak at Faculty Council.
• Alberta Health primary care centre will be moving into the empty storefront on 109 Street & 105 Avenue.

Meeting Adjourned