

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Present

David Cameron (Dean)	Adam Fox	Katherine Patton
Derek Allen (Chair)	Martha Harris	Francois Pitt
Deborah Robinson (Secretary)	Franz Huber	Mary Pugh
Mounir AbouHaidar	Beatrice Jauregui	Michael Ratcliffe
Derek Allen	Robert Jerrard	Branden Rizzuto
Joshua Barker	Rebecca Jokusch	Manuela Scarci
Dwayne Benjamin	Sharon Kelly	Bogdan Smarandache
Brent Berry	Deborah Knott	Simon Spichak
Sarah Cooper	Rachel Kulick	Cheryl Suzack
Keerat Dhami	Christine Lehleiter	Nathan Taback
John DiMarco	T. Ephraim Lytle	Sali Tagliamonte
John Duncan	Geoff MacDonald	Michael Thompson
Essyn Emurla	Thomas MacKay	Anne Urbancic
Bjeorn Ewad	Dae-Sik Moon	Sydney Vennin
Beth Fischer	Morris Moscovitch	
	Nakanyike Muisi	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 pm by the Chair, Derek Allen

Memorial Resolutions

The Chair called for the reading of a memorial resolution honouring the victims of the attack at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec. This motion was read by read by Bodgan Smarandache, Graduate Student Member of Council. A minute of silence was observed after the resolutions were read.

1. Approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting of Council

The Chair called on a motion to approve the minutes, which was carried.

2. Business Arising

There was no business arising from these minutes.

3. Report from the Dean, David Cameron

Dean Cameron spoke to two remarks. First was an update about the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) discussions following the previous Council meeting. The University has submitted proposals this week which will lead to conversations with Provincial government representatives, and several parts will be subject to discussion. One is the desire for more resources for recruiting international doctoral students, a provision for expansion of professional masters programs, and a proposal for securing more PhD spaces for the University. There is also a provision for a noticeable but manageable decrease in domestic undergrad enrolment, which will affect all Divisions but with the majority being in Arts & Science. There will be multiple opportunities for review and it is subject to ongoing discussions with the government.

The second item the Dean spoke to was to announce that Suzanne Stephenson, Vice-Dean Teaching and Learning, will be stepping down from this role at the end of this year. The Dean acknowledged the many achievements and initiatives she has presided over as Vice Dean in the last 8 years, having made an outsized contribution to faculty. Vice-Dean Stephenson oversaw the curriculum renewal process begun in 2007, which involved a reconsideration of every program in the Faculty, and has supported innovation in teaching and curriculum advising through the CRIF, FOIL, and ATLAS initiatives. In this role she has seen \$10 million invested in new courses, and growth in co-curricular and professional development activities for students. Vice-Dean Stephenson has been committed to engaging with teaching stream faculty and enabling them as ambassadors of the Faculty. She has developed teaching practice and innovation with the Step Forward Program, which provides advice and support for students at each step of their program, and is now being translated at the graduate level. The Dean acknowledged the large contribution Vice-Dean Stephenson has made to the Faculty. The Office of the Dean is beginning a review of the Vice Decanal portfolios in light of her departure, taking the opportunity to reflect and ensure the Office functions effectively.

There were no questions following the Dean's remarks.

4. Consultation regarding the University's Strategic Research Plan – Vivek Goel, Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Vice-President Goel thanked Council for the opportunity to present on the Strategic Research Plan, which the University is in the process of reviewing the Strategic Research Plan. Vice-President Goel provided an overview of the full research and innovation ecosystem of the University, which involves over \$1.1 billion coming in every year to University for research funding through a complex ecosystem. From the Annual Report, the level of activity for research involves the administration of 9000 research funds, 3000 principal investigators, and 1700 funding programs to manage research accounts for. Each program has their own rules and regulations about what's eligible, which makes reporting and accountability very important. In the last few years the University has been working to support a broader range of priorities, involving the creation of a working group on research ethics, an advisory committee on divestment from fossil fuels, a focus on equity and diversity, and the development of the RAISE platform, a suite of online tools to enable research administration. With RAISE the University has moved to a fully automated process rather than paper-based grant administration, which has resulted in a \$500,000 savings. In the past, research grants have needed to demonstrate how grants fit with the institutional SRP. With a robust SRP in place the University can now incorporate grant proposals with operational properties and the many ways to support research enterprise. It has evolved as a very good tool for communicating what we do. The current Institutional Strategic Research Plan focuses on 1)

broad research thematic areas, 2) strategic objectives, and 3) enabling actions (what we do collectively to support the research enterprise). An online survey is being released this spring, followed by town hall consultations, preparation of a draft document, which will be presented in its final stages to University governance at the end of calendar year.

Vice-President Goel shared the website and email for more information about the ISRP:

www.research.utoronto.ca/ISRP
vpri.reports@utoronto.ca

The Chair thanked Vice-President Goel and opened the floor to questions.

A member asked about an impression that funding for basic research has been declining. Faculty work at teaching but if there are no funds they can't do research. The member suggested that the role of universities should be to work together to lobby the government for more basic research funding. Vice-President Goel said he does not disagree, and reassured that the University spends considerable amount of time lobbying. It had been challenging with the previous government to make the case for basic science. David Naylor has recently made a passionate case for reinvestment in science and the SRP lays out the value of investing in fundamental research. They make the case of why science is good for society, health and social benefits, and then the commercial benefits. Vice-President Goel is hopeful that with the current government they will see some actions.

A member asked about equity in funding. Many students are international and don't have access to same opportunities as domestic students who can get NSERC grants, funding for summer research, or Professional Experience Year placements. In Mathematics, about half the students are losing opportunities in that sense. Prof Goel thanked the member for the comment, and said that in the programs we bring in to the University we can advocate for funded programs for these students.

5. Report on Council Elections – Thomas MacKay, Director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services

Mr. MacKay gave a brief report to indicate that Elections were held through the month of April for voting members of council, including students, teaching staff and administrative staff. Election was needed for only Undergraduate student positions since Graduate student positions and staff positions were acclaimed. For these elections for student positions, voting increased from last year. We are still under 10% eligible voter turnout but any increase is good. This year there were fewer candidates so we will run Fall elections to cultivate first year student positions and and fill out vacant seats. Results have not yet been published since one coin toss to break a tie result is still to come. Teaching staff representatives prove to be more of a challenge since the staff who are put forward and invariably acclaimed are a small percentage of the full expected membership. The remaining steps to complete membership are to reach out to units over the summer to confirm representatives to serve as teaching representatives for Council. It is an important responsibility, which we know because quorum is important and there was stress this past year for many departments putting forward major changes needing to be approved. For many units there is likely an assumption that the same member is carried forward from one year to another. So there is a need to reaffirm every year so message gets on books and assure appropriate reps.

There were no questions.

6. Approval of new Master's Collaborative Specialization: Psychology and Engineering (Major Modification) – Joshua Barker, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Before the Motion was presented, the Chair noted that there was a quorum as confirmed by the sign in sheets. The Chair noted the way to proceed would be for Vice-Dean Barker to introduce the motion, followed by the Chair reading the motion, followed by discussion and voting.

Vice-Dean Barker introduced the Collaborative Specialization proposal, noting that the nomenclature has changed, from Collaborative Program to Collaborative Specialization. This proposal has been led by Engineering and has been approved by Engineering Council. The new program harnesses many areas of research where Psychology and Engineering intersect, such as how human beings strive to design, and how objects in the social arena may be improved. The program aims to establish a robust community of research and learning, to develop unique expertise and present career paths. The enrolment is forecast to be 10 students split between two units. It is expected to attract high quality students, as there are comparable programs in the United States but none in Canada. Professors will contribute by teaching courses and developing seminars. The program will have a director and committee to manage candidates. There is not expected to be a significant workload addition for faculty.

MOTION THAT the proposed new collaborative Master's specialization in Psychology and Engineering, as described in the attached proposal, be approved with an anticipated start date of September, 2017.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member asked how this program relates to similar Computer Science programs in human and computer interaction. A representative from Psychology said it is related to developing cognitive aspects such as simulations. They have reached out to Computer Science and discussed a slightly larger program that could include them as well, but wanted to start with a small program with some collaborations and then build on that.

On a vote the motion was carried.

7. Approval of Revised Policy Concerning Second Undergraduate Degrees for Arts & Science Graduates – Joshua Barker, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Before the motion was introduced, Deborah Robinson, Secretary and Faculty Registrar, made some remarks on the background of the motion. The motion originated from the Committee on Admissions, a standing committee chaired by Vice-Dean Undergraduate Pamela Klassen, who is currently out of the country, which is why the motion is proposed today by the Vice-Dean Graduate. The Chair noted this was the reason why Vice-Dean Barker is introducing the motion even though not a graduate item.

Vice-Dean Barker introduced the motion by explaining that currently if a student has degree from the Faculty of Arts & Science, they can pursue a second degree but only if it is a different name. For example someone with a Bachelor of Arts can pursue a Bachelor of Science. This motion seeks to remove that provision. The first reason is that current degrees hinge on the program of study, of which there are many, rather than the degree name. The second reason is that it is fair to faculty graduates since other graduates can apply with no restriction. The change will not affect rule that no second degree student will be admitted to the Bachelor of Commerce.

MOTION THAT the proposed revision of policy concerning second undergraduate Arts & Science degrees for Arts & Science graduates be approved for September, 2017.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member asked if a minimum gpa was required for second degree entry. Thomas Mackay, Director, Faculty Governance and Curriculum Services, answered that the expectation is yes. The Faculty is trying to align the process to be an admissions decision, so that there would be the same criteria as for external degree holder. This dates back to when second degree admission used to be a decision by petition. This didn't make sense. So the action is effectively applying the admissions process to second degree applicants, and aligning with academic expectations.

A member asked why Commerce is not included. Mr. Mackay answered that Commerce does not admit transfer students. They focus on direct entry from high school.

A member asked what is driving the decision, is there an increase in requests. Mr. MacKay answered yes, not a huge interest, but there is particularly an interest in Computer Science coming from the Bachelor of Science program. To be admitted they would have to craft a story about wanting to do an Arts degree but also a Computer Science major. So it was an artificial restriction.

A member asked why students would not be advised to take a Master's program. Mr. MacKay agreed, answering that when students go to University they face a barrage of advising to consider other options like a Master's or taking courses as a non-degree student, or training on a path to industry. But the basis of the issue still holds and it seems to be an outdated policy. A second degree is not a substitute for other studies. The member asked a follow up question to ask if student could then have three or four degrees. Mr. MacKay did not think it was restricted to only two, but it would be difficult to imagine such a student who would take more than two.

On a vote the motion was carried.

8. Other Business

A member asked if he could still ask a question about the Strategic Research Plan, based on a recent report on Infosource about research at Canadian institutions. The member asked if measures in the SRP would be based on publications, since he would have concerns about that even if they were peer reviewed publications. The Chair noted that Professor Goel was not there to answer, but the question would be recorded in minutes and can be directed to his office.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn, was made and seconded. On a vote the motion was carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.

Next meeting: Fall 2017 (TBA)