UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Present
David Cameron (Dean)                      Ben Li
Deborah Robinson (Faculty Secretary)       Derek Li
Derek Allen (Chair)                        Poppy Lockwood
Donald Ainslie                              Anastasia Logotheti
Lawrin Armstrong                           Douglas Macdonald
Joshua Barker                               Geoff MacDonald
Jiyai Chen                                 John Magee
Danyal Damroodi                            Tirzah Meacham
John DiMarco                               Dae-Sik Moon
John Duncan                                Teresa Nicoletti
Margaret Ebifegha                          Giancarla Periti
Adam Fox                                   Francois Pitt
Harry Fox                                   Martin Pickave
Lloyd Gerson                               Jay Pratt
Clare Gilderdale                           Yves Roberge
Elaine Gold                                Cheryl Shook
Corey Goldman                              Matt Siemyaticki
Daphne Goring                              Tatiana Smolyarova
Pam Gravestock                             Cheryl Suzack
Paul Gries                                 Franco Taverna
Gillian Hamilton                           Emily Tsui
Kaleen Harva                               Carina Zhang Yinuo
Christine Lehleiter                        Jerry Zhu
                                            Wayne Zhu

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m. with Dean David Cameron in the Chair pro tem.

1. Election of the Officers of Council for 2015-2016

The floor was opened to nominations for the four Proctor postions. Four nominations were received and acclaimed: Danyal Damroodi, Claire Gilderdale, Francois Pitt, Cheryl Shook.
Deborah Robinson, Faculty Secretary, announced that as per Council’s by-laws the Agenda Committee is responsible for putting forward a slate for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Professor Derek Allen was proposed as Chair of the Council and was acclaimed by the Committee. Professor Allen took the Chair.

Professor Allen explained to Council that three positions of voting Council members on the Agenda Committee were to be selected and that these were filled by members of each of the constituencies in previous years. John Duncan was nominated and acclaimed to represent teaching staff, John DiMarco was nominated and acclaimed to represent administrative and technical staff, and Jerry Zhu was nominated and acclaimed to represent students.

2. Approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2015 Arts & Science Council meeting

Approved

3. Arts & Science Council Elections Update

Deborah Robinson, Faculty Secretary, informed Council that all positions had been filled and there was a strong interest among students. She welcomed the new student members to Council.

4. Report from the Dean

The Dean discussed briefly the changes in the various decanal positions in the Office of the Dean and introduced the Vice Deans and Associate Dean: Prof. Joshua Barker, Vice Dean, Graduate Education and Program Reviews; Prof. Paul Gries, Acting Vice Dean, Teaching and Learning; Prof. Poppy Lockwood, Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Prof. John Magee, Vice Dean, Faculty and Academic Life and Prof. Jay Pratt, Vice Dean, Research and Infrastructure.

The Dean gave a brief presentation on the five priority areas of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The first priority is the financial health of the Faculty. The budget is important to ensure the academics continue. The Faculty has gone through several years of financial difficulty, with an accumulated debt of $60 million with an annual deficit of $4-5 million. The Faculty has worked vigorously to address the financial challenges and the Faculty is in a balanced budget position for 2015-16 and will work over the next years to work at eliminating the accumulated deficit.

Second priority is faculty complement and morale. The Faculty will work at ensuring that the renewal of complement is not simply replacing faculty who are retiring or loss through retentions, but increasing the faculty complement year to year. This will increase the student to faculty ratio which is extremely important to faculty morale.

Third priority is graduate student support/morale. The strike during the spring 2015 revealed a cluster of issues related to the support the Faculty provides for graduate students, the way the doctoral program is organized and the fee structure. The Vice Dean, Graduate Education will
work to address these concerns.

**Fourth priority** is internationalization. For the Faculty of Arts and Science, internationalization has meant ensuring incoming international undergraduate students receive the support that they require to flourish at the University and to leave with a fine education. Senior Advisor on International Matters (Prof. Mark McGowan) has been focusing on supporting international students. The past year, the Faculty has focused on the inbound student and will now expand the focus to outbound students, to provide them with international experiences.

**Fifth priority** is the quality of undergraduate education. The Faculty will focus on a student’s experience from recruitment to admission to completion of degree to graduation.

The Dean will speak to the Faculty’s academic planning and how the Faculty will move forward at the next Faculty Council meeting.

Professor Allen opened the floor to comments/questions.

1. The Dean was asked about the Faculty’s debt in relation to the gross budget. Prof. Cameron responded by stating that the gross budget of the Faculty is close to $500 million with an operating budget of $250 million with levies placed on the budget from central.

2. The Dean was asked to address the issue of leveraging the urban area as one of the President’s goal and if the Faculty will look at a similar goal. The Dean responded that the urban question is one that will require a multi-divisional approach.

5. **Updates from the Office of the Dean**

   - Prof. Joshua Barker spoke to the three priorities of his portfolio: (a) graduate funding, (b) graduate student morale, (c) graduate student enrolment targets.

     (a) Prof. Barker will evaluate graduate student funding practices and develop two to three options/models for how the Faculty’s approach to graduate student funding can be improved across the three sectors (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences).

     (b) An identification of the real sources of low morale/frustrations needs to be discussed and the Faculty will begin to view graduate students beyond their work as TAs and return to their role as researchers.

     (c) Dialogue with units will take place to set realistic and achievable targets which will also allow them to improve their programs.

Prof. Barker was asked whether any information currently exists on where students find themselves after graduation. He responded that no current data exists, but that this is a priority of the Faculty and consultation with units is taking place on how best to retain this information.
• Prof. Paul Gries spoke to his portfolio as Acting Vice Dean, Teaching and Learning and Decanal Liaison for online learning.
  o Course Evaluations: Students are requesting more details beyond numerical information. Piloting of new questions in the fall 2015.

Priorities (Student Initiative Funds):
  o ATLAS – Fund for pedagogical studies
  o STEP Forward – Fund for student transitions connecting academics and life goals
  o LEAF – Fund aimed at innovations in teaching (Two categories: 1st – seed project = $15,000 and 2nd – impact project = $100,000). This fund is run through the Provost Office
  o Lecture Capture – lecture is recorded and posted.

1. Prof. Gries was asked what protocol will be taken with posting student comments. Prof. Gries responded that consultation will take place with various groups (UTFA, students groups etc.) to ensure that all are in agreement before moving forward with posting any comments online in relation to course evaluations.
2. Prof. Gries was asked to whether STEP Forward funds would at some point become part of base budget or would availability to funds end. Prof. Gries responded that funds will not be put into base budget at this time, but a streamlined procedure for reapplication is being considered.
3. Prof. Gries was asked whether lecture capture would be expanded to smaller classes as well. He responded that a huge infrastructure would need to be built and that the Faculty is slowly working on expanding this initiative.

• Prof. Poppy Lockwood spoke to the priorities of her portfolio which are the WIT program, the ELL program, FLC, and Research Opportunities Program.

Prof. Lockwood was asked whether the ELL program will be expanded to graduate students, which the Faculty has not considered at this time. Prof. Lockwood was asked whether the apparent shift from the approval of ROP proposals from the Humanities to the Sciences will continue. Prof. Lockwood responded that it may be a higher number of proposals are coming from the Sciences, but would look into whether this is the case.

• Prof. John Magee spoke to the priorities of his portfolio. Prof. Magee outlined his priorities as working to understanding the various commitments. A revision of the OTO funding formula in conjunction with DACCA will also take place.

• Prof. Jay Pratt spoke to the priorities of his portfolio. Two categories of priority are Infrastructure and Research.
o Infrastructure - There are currently four projects that the Faculty is concentrating on: 1) 90 Queen’s Park; 2) Renovation of labs in Ramsay Wright 3) MRI Research Lab in the Cognition Lab 4) Ongoing work on the academic tower of the Goldring Centre.

o Research - The Faculty is focusing on its market share of Tri-Council funding (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR). These funds are important to keep labs and research programs going. The market share of Tri-Council funding determines the Faculty’s CRC allocation and the John Evans leadership fund allotment from CFI which go to the start-up package for Principal Investigators. To keep these active and healthy, the Faculty has instituted a bridge funding program. This bridge program allows PIs who do not receive their SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR funding, a PI can ask their Department for funds which the Faculty will match with the requirement that the PI reapplies to the same fund the following year.

Post-Doctoral Fellows – a resource the Faculty will work with units to find ways to integrate them further into research.

1. Prof. Pratt was asked about the fragmentation of certain departments in A&S, which Prof Pratt responded by saying that no current short-term solution exists as it requires the construction of new buildings or reallocation of current spaces. This issue is on the Faculty’s radar and will continue to be worked on to resolve.

2. Prof. Pratt was asked about possible plans for classroom space. Prof. Pratt responded that a plan for a student centre is being considered, but that any future building plans will take into consideration adding space for classrooms.

6. Report Item from April 17, 2015 meeting – CR/NC / Late Withdrawal


A question was asked on whether the use of CR/NC will be possible for future use. The Committee on Teaching and Learning will review this option, as requested at the Faculty Council meeting on April 17th and will be reported back to the Committee by the Acting Vice Dean, Teaching and Learning at a future meeting of Council.

7. Other Business and Adjournment of Meeting

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.