Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

1. **Approval of the minutes of the December 2, 2015 Arts & Science Council meeting**

   Approved

2. **Introduction: Thomas MacKay, Director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services**

   Dean Cameron introduced and welcomed Thomas MacKay, newly-installed in a new position in the Faculty of Arts and Science as Director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services. His mandate is to serve and support the machinery of Faculty governance, from Arts & Science Council to all the Standing Committees, and will take special focus in developing not only a smooth cycle of meetings,
but developing support materials for members, especially those newly joining or elected to governance roles. He will also manage the Petitions unit and the Office of Student Academic Integrity, and ultimately oversee the production of the Faculty Calendar.

3. **Report from the Dean – David Cameron**

Dean Cameron began by addressing why there is currently an Associate Dean, Undergraduate (Anne-Marie Brousseau) as well as an Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate (Poppy Lockwood). He explained that Prof. Brousseau recently returned to her role and is taking up the portfolio again in a graduated way. Prof. Lockwood, meanwhile, has been asked to keep performing certain duties not yet resumed by Prof. Brousseau, as well as to take up special projects.

Dean Cameron then turned to the budget. While numbers are still being put together, the indications are promising and the Faculty is coming along well, with no plans for any imposed cuts on academic units for 2016–2017, which is a welcome change from the previous half-dozen years. Accumulated debt has been reduced substantially from $60 million to $50 million, and so many of the Dean’s own priorities can be met. Specifically:

- **Academic Positions** – The Budget Committee will meet to determine how many academic positions can be approved, though a 100% replacement of current positions lost to retirement or retentions, are assured, plus a great deal more.
- **Graduate Student Support** – Prof. Josh Barker is currently working on questions around student support and matters related to graduate education. Budgetary resources will be able to be set aside to permit moves on this front.
- **Capital Projects** – Capital needs are great; moves to address these needs are expensive but the effective function of the Faculty demands action. Currently, for example, lab renovations are underway, and building projects are in planning. Budgets, year after year, have set aside funds to ensure projects move forward. To give an example, Dean Cameron made reference to the recently-announced signature project, a “gateway building” on the site of the old Planetarium (90 Queen’s Park Crescent) that will predominantly house Arts and Science programs, along with offices for Law and the Royal Ontario Museum, and a multi-purpose concert hall/conference space.

Prof. Allen opened the floor for questions, and one question came regarding this last item, concerning the height of the new building and whether it would occupy Faulkner Hall. Dean Cameron confirmed the new building will not occupy Faulkner hall, and that the height is not determined, but could be guessed to be 11 to 13 storeys. Many options are still to be presented and considered.

4. **Approval of proposed undergraduate program major modifications – Anne Marie Brousseau, Associate Dean Undergraduate**

The Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Prof. Brousseau, introduced a proposed five combined degree programs that would draw together the Master of Teaching (MT), offered by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education’s (OISE), and programs offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science, the core program being the Minor in Education and Society offered by Victoria College. With the Concurrent Teacher Education Program (CTEP) discontinued, this proposal, in the work for two years, can be
seen to occupy a similar place. The resultant Honours Bachelor degree (Arts or Science) would be defined with: the core minor program (Education and Society); a major program corresponding to a teachable area; and one minor program corresponding to a second teaching subject.

The combination of programs will allow students to become acquainted with teaching skills and needs earlier; in third year, a student would be offered conditional admission to the MT and be offered special courses. Upon graduation, and meeting the conditions of admission, the student would move straight into the MT. The proposal has been approved at OISE Council.

**Notice of Motion**

*THAT the proposed new Combined Program: OISE Master of Teaching and Faculty of Arts and Science Minor in Education and Society (Victoria College), as described in the distributed proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2016/17.*

The motion was moved and seconded, and Prof. Allen opened the floor to discussion.

Questions all focused on how the current five combined programs were decided, and in particular there were many questions on the absence of a life science option, especially as Science – Biology exists as a Teaching Subject in the MT program. Concern was expressed around what message this might send in terms of options at the University. Prof. Brousseau first emphasized that the decision of the current five programs were influenced by discussions with OISE that included the current job market conditions and the teachable options. She also stated that the list is not closed, that the hard work has produced what is a starting point. A further question around life science and biology asked how such a program option might be created added to the roster; Prof. Brousseau encouraged that interested parties start by approaching the Faculty to consider options and planning through the governance process.

In addition to life science and biology, a question was asked around absence of a French as a Second Language option. Prof. Brousseau explained it will exist but at the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses, to replace the lost CTEP options there.

On the vote the motion was carried.

5. **Fall Reading Week – Poppy Lockwood, Acting Associate Dean Undergraduate**

Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Prof. Lockwood informed Council that a working group to examine the viability of a full Fall session “reading week” has been established. A recent student poll indicated overwhelming support of the option, and so the working group will be primarily focused on how the timing would work. The working group represents all major stakeholders in the timing and implementation of such an idea, including students, administration, and Faculty. Since sessional dates for 2016/17 are established, the group will be looking ahead to 2017/18.

Prof. Allen opened the floor for questions, and one question asked if attaching the new reading week to the Thanksgiving holiday Monday were possible, as the loss of another Monday in the semester, especially with lab courses, would be a huge problem. Prof. Lockwood agreed this would definitely be considered.
6. Infrastructure Planning – Vice Dean Research and Infrastructure Jay Pratt

The Vice Dean, Research and Infrastructure, was pleased to take this opportunity to present on this topic, since the work does not involve programs so much, and thus gives more visibility to the hard work being done by a team that includes Lucy Chung, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, and six more. The team works a daunting portfolio, covering the Faculty of Arts and Science which alone is equivalent in scope to a medium-sized university.

Prof. Pratt focused on two parts: current ongoing projects, and future “blue sky” options.

Regarding ongoing projects, Prof. Pratt highlighted work including upgrades to aquatic facilities and greenhouses; placing expensive Cryostat machinery in Earth Sciences; and decommissioning a linear accelerator. Work on departmental spaces included work on student spaces and a boardroom for Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations; a more defined space for Slavic Studies; a massive and long-needed overhaul of the teaching labs in Ramsay Wright through three phases; an undergraduate teaching lab for Physics; heritage work at University College around the Croft Chapter House and the return of the East and West Halls to be reading rooms and (once again) a library; and creating a central study space at the Koffler Scientific Reserve (in the Township of King) surrounded by “bunkies” for sleeping.

“Blue Sky” planning involves making a portfolio of plans for the ready to take advantage of funding opportunities, whether government grants or large-scale donations. The long term consideration is to add buildings to the inventory of what the Faculty has, but to be strategic in placement, especially if geographical identities can be created to offset a diffuse spread of current holdings. The site at 99 Queen’s Park (old Planetarium site) was an example of a building whose occupants would form a fluid relation to ROM, to the Gardiner Museum, and nearby Classics and Medieval Studies. Another example was the creation of a Woodsworth “Precinct” with infill between the “mansions” to create a space for Criminology, to supplement space for Rotman Commerce, and create a link to the Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources.

Many plans were shared around sites in the Faculty “Core” region: a Ramsay Wright north building for further teaching/lab space as well as possibly an active student location; a new plan for Sidney Smith Hall to make better use of the space and add to classrooms, offices, and student space; an extension to Lash Miller to create more fumehoods; a rework of 50 St. George (the old Nursing building) to create better space for Astronomy and Astrophysics, including a modest teaching planetarium to replace a small “inflatable” planetarium currently in use; and even 215 Huron Street – perhaps to replace the building and make a “computational cluster” for Math, Computer Science, and Statistical Sciences.

Prof. Allen opened the floor for questions. The first question concerned how sites were classified in terms of belonging to the Faculty by the term “primary occupant” and how constituent Colleges fit in that scheme. Lucy Chung noted that a “heat map” present regarding the Faculty stakeholdings did not, indeed, include Colleges, and the point was made by the questioner that integrating the Colleges into the plan would be a great opportunity, and as the Faculty pays for much college space, they do make the case for making such sites part of Faculty holdings. Prof. Pratt confirmed there are consultations, including recent talks with New College.
A further comment engaged in the question around the building of Residences, which would tie into the President’s priorities around undergraduate education, perhaps offer a welcoming option to new international students, and with expansion, and as spaces, costs are defrayed by students. Parking was also discussed as plans around the landscape project in King’s College Circle will create a stress need for more spaces. Prof. Pratt noted this was not a direct focus, but some plans will recover more parking options.

Several questions concerned principles in play, including environmental sustainability and the creation of multi-/mixed-use buildings. Prof. Pratt confirmed both are a priority in all planning, and multi-use building is essential to integrate student life within plans to build intensely.

A question asked how a list of priorities (and the specific academic communities that benefit) is generated. Prof. Pratt indicated that a combination of high need and strategic grouping come into play, but also emphasized that projects create corroborative opportunities indirectly for other units. A move out from a building may open space for renovation and upgrades to welcome a new unit moving in.

Two other focused questions emerged. One asked about the fate of the Canadiana Gallery (the hope is it can return to the Centre). The other asked after the possibility of more performance spaces (may come with opportunities to rework spaces, or other secondary effects – but government money, for example, is not likely to prioritize such projects directly).

7. **Other Business**

   There was no other business.

8. **Adjournment**

   The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.