UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:00 am in the
Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Present

David Cameron (Dean)  Bernardo Galvao-Sousa  Mary Nyquist
Derek Allen (Chair)    Daphne Goring         Mirella Pasquarelli-Clivio
Gillian Hamilton (Vice-Chair)  Paul Hamel       Katherine Patton
Thomas MacKay          Randall Hansen         Francois Pitt
Martha Harris          Vala Holmes           Mary Pugh
Kevin Mak             Kerri Huffman          Michael Ratcliffe
Aqeel Assan-Lebbe     Karen Ing             Branden Rizzuto
Dwayne Benjamin       Rebecca Jockusch       Marlene Rong
Joseph Berkovitz      Peter Jurgec          Jane Seto
Brent Berry           Sharon Kelly          Priyanka Sharma
Alexandra Bolintineanu Changmo Kim          Krista Slade
Randi Boyagoda        Peter King            Tatiana Smolyarova
Tad Brown             Kyoungrok Ko          Thomas Socknat
Samantha Chang        June Larkin            Kaitlyn Nicole Stuckless Simpson
John DiMarco          Christine Lehleiter     Nathan Taback
Suzan Dobrobolsky     Suzi Lima (for Ana Perez-Leroux)  Marie-Anne Visoi
Dan Dolderman         Leonid Livak           William Watson
John Duncan           T. Ephraim Lytle       Art Weis
Björn Ewald           Allison MacDonald      Yanqin Wu
Adam Fox              W. Brock MacDonald     Vicki Zhang
Garth Frazer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 am by the Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Meeting of Council

The Chair called on a motion to approve the minutes, which was carried. There was no business arising from these minutes.

2. Report of the Dean

There were two items that were communicated to the Council in the Dean’s report.

Dean David Cameron informed the Council of the release of a report from the Working Group on Indigenous Teaching and Learning, a group he established in Summer 2016 to answer the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The report contains recommendations, from immediate to larger scale, on initiatives and actions that can be undertaken by the Faculty of Arts & Science. The Dean encouraged Council members to read the report, and suggested the Agenda Committee to make this a discussion item in a future Council meeting.
Addendum: Links to the Working Group webpage and the report itself were made available on the Arts & Science Governance website shortly after this Council meeting.

The Dean also provided a brief update on the self-study currently undertaken by the Faculty. Part of the self-study being prepared is a statement of strategic priorities for the next five years. Discussion surrounding this topic would take place at the Council of Chairs, Principals, and Academic Directors (CPAD) meeting this week. The self-study is to be completed by this summer, followed by an external visit next autumn. The Dean indicated that it would be useful to distribute the relevant documents to discuss in future Council meetings.

The Chair thanked the Dean for his report.

3. (For Recommendation) Amalgamation of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of Public Policy and Governance, and Renaming the Munk School of Global Affairs to the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Professor Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education provided an overview of the proposed amalgamation of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of Public Policy and Governance.

The Munk School of Global Affairs is an EDU:A within the Faculty of Arts & Science. Given the interrelated nature of the subjects in global affairs and public policy, questions surfaced as to whether it would be a better model to keep the two Schools separate or to have them combined.

Formal consultation was initiated with stakeholders from each school since January 2017 with no presupposed final outcome. Consultations were first conducted with faculty members appointed to the two Schools as well as their respective academic leadership. As the consultations progressed, students, members of external boards and other relevant stakeholders participated as well.

Results of the ongoing consultations illustrated an academic rationale for amalgamation, particularly with respect to the ability of the amalgamated unit to maximize the positive benefits for research, teaching and public engagement activities. With the amalgamation, it is expected that the two Schools will converge and transform into an internationally-recognized intellectual and pedagogical powerhouse, further contributing to and enhancing the University’s mission and expertise in research, teaching and societal impact. An earlier version of the proposal being presented was circulated at each school and at the September 2017 meeting of the Council of Chairs, Principals, and Academic Directors (CPAD).

The exact form of amalgamation would involve disestablishing the School of Public Policy and Governance as an EDU:B and moving its programs, faculty, staff and constituent EDUs to the Munk School, which would see its scope expanded. The name of the amalgamated unit is proposed to be changed to the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. The graduate unit would also be renamed Global Affairs and Public Policy.

The Chair thanked Vice-Dean Benjamin and proceeded to summarize the six-stage governance path for this proposal. He indicated that two representatives, one from the Munk School of Global Affairs and the other from the School of Public Policy and Governance, were present to answer questions about the proposal.

Be It Recommended

THAT the proposed Amalgamation of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of Public Policy and Governance, as described in the attached proposal entitled Proposal for Academic Restructuring: The Amalgamation of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of Public Policy and Governance, dated January 29, 2018, be approved effective July 1, 2018.

The motion was moved and seconded.
A member raised a question regarding possible implications for the Munk School of Global Affairs as a result of the proposed amalgamation. Vice-Dean Benjamin indicated that the existing units within the Munk School (e.g. Asian Institute; Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies) would continue to grow, as these units have their own budget and hence would not be affected by amalgamation/integration. The same member clarified that the question previously asked was with respect to funding distribution. Professor Randall Hansen, Interim Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs reiterated that there would be no direct implications. The continued flourishing of the Munk School would be beneficial for its units.

On the vote the motion was carried.

Be It Recommended
THAT the name for the Munk School of Global Affairs be changed to the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, effectively July 1, 2018.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried with one abstention as noted by the Chair.

4. (For Approval) – Major Modifications to Undergraduate Programs – Mary Pugh, Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

The Chair called on Professor Mary Pugh, Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International to present major modifications proposed to a number of undergraduate programs. Before presenting details of the major modifications, Vice-Dean Pugh thanked all of the departments that submitted details of the program modifications.

a. Actuarial Science Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

Changes to the Actuarial Science Specialist were proposed based on the results of a self-study conducted, which identified the need for students to be equipped with more sophisticated knowledge. The updated program requirements not only include the introduction of a mandatory first-year course, but also reflect changes in the professional curriculum, to be effective this July. It is hoped that the proposed program changes would create a stronger foundational path for students, as well as the ability for students to choose different options to fit their professional goals.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the Actuarial Science Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

b. Actuarial Science Major Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

The motivation behind the proposed changes to the Actuarial Science Major was similar to that of the Actuarial Science Specialist. Among the changes is the required completion of an introductory course in Computer Science. While introductory courses in Economics and Accounting are no longer required for the Major, students would most likely still take them due to accreditation requirements.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the Actuarial Science Major program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

c. Christianity and Culture Major Program, St. Michael’s College

The proposed changes to the Christianity and Culture Major would see the restructuring of course offerings to simplify paths for students. This is in response to feedback received from the most recent external review, as well as extensive consultation conducted with a broad range of stakeholders. A single second-year course will act as a gateway/core course. In addition, four thematic areas are being introduced: Christianity and the Arts; Varieties of Christian Community; Christianity and Education; and Christianity and Science. It is hoped that the proposed changes would reduce duplication in second-year courses as well as provide students with more flexibility in upper years.

Be It Resolved

THAT the proposed changes to the Christianity and Culture Major Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

d. Digital Humanities Minor (New Freestanding Minor Program), Woodsworth College

Digital Humanities is an emerging interdisciplinary area that involves examining the impact of the usage of digital platforms, tools and techniques in a humanistic perspective. This new freestanding Minor, to be offered by Woodsworth College, will feature a full-credit capstone course in research and integrative thinking. It is hoped that this program will offer a perspective that would enable students to analyze their “home” disciplines.

Be It Resolved

THAT the proposed new freestanding Minor Program in Digital Humanities, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

e. English Specialist Program, Department of English

The proposed modifications to the English Specialist originated from a two-year curriculum review plus extensive consultation with faculty members and students. Previously, requirements were distributed among five groups. The new set of requirements would include: common core courses at the 200-level to ensure students develop a foundation in the major fields of English literature; an increase in elective freedom from 2.0 FCE to 4.5 FCE which was desired by program students; and the decoupling of Indigenous literature from Canadian literature.

Be It Resolved

THAT the proposed changes to the English Specialist Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.
The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

f. English Major Program, Department of English

The proposed changes to the English Major were similar to those of the English Specialist. Again, there would be the common core courses required at the 200-level, as well as more elective freedom for students.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the English Major Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

g. French Language Learning Major, Department of French

Changes were proposed to the French Language Learning Major to reduce the emphasis on linguistics and the teaching of the French language. Course offerings have been restructured to focus on core French skills, vocabulary, grammar, history and origins of the French language, francophone culture, and language acquisition. It is hoped that students wishing to develop to French fluency would find the program more accessible. In addition, it is expected that teaching resources would be optimized in upper year courses.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the French Language Learning Major Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

h. Slavic Languages and Literatures Specialist Programs (Russian Language and Literature, Ukrainian Language and Literature), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

The goal behind the proposed changes for the Slavic Languages and Literatures Specialist and Major programs was the same, which was to reduce the boundary between students and faculty. In the existing arrangement, students did not get to meet and interact with peers studying languages outside of their own; and faculty members were limited to teach a language specific to their area, despite everyone being in the same department. The proposed changes would merge two existing Specialist programs into one, with the inclusion of three other languages as part of the completion requirements. Students would develop proficiency in two of the five language areas offered by the department. This new Specialist program is expected to be a transnational and comparative experience which seeks to foster collegiality and community.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the Specialist Programs of the Slavic Languages and Literatures, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.
i. Slavic Languages and Literatures Major Programs (Czech and Slovak Studies, Polish Studies, Polish Language and Literature, Russian Language and Literature, Ukrainian Language and Literature, South Slavic Studies), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

The proposed changes to the Major programs offered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures would see the restructuring of six existing Majors into one Major program with five streams. The intention of the stream structure is to establish a clear path for students completing the Major, at the same time promoting cross-cultural exploration through the introduction of interdisciplinary courses. It is hoped that students studying different languages would be able to meet one another through these interdisciplinary courses.

Be It Resolved
THAT the proposed changes to the Major Programs of the Slavic Languages and Literatures, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion arising from the motion. On the vote the motion was carried.

The Chair thanked Vice-Dean Pugh for presenting all of the major undergraduate program modifications.

5. Other Business

Mr. Thomas MacKay, Director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services at the Faculty of Arts and Science talked briefly about the upcoming elections of the Arts and Science Council and its sub-committees. He encouraged Council members to get the word out and get teaching staff involved.

A member asked if there was an update with respect to the issue of postdoctoral fellows being excluded from the “Teaching Staff” definition in section II-3 of the Constitution. Mr. MacKay responded that this issue was still being reviewed and would require additional consultation with the University’s Office of Governing Council.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.