Call to Order and Dean’s Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am by the Dean, David Cameron, who also thanked everyone present for giving their time and service to the Arts and Science Council.

Memorial Resolution

The Dean called for the reading of a memorial resolution respecting Professor Emerita Joan M. Bigwood from the Department of Classics. The memorial was read by Professor Ephraim Lytle, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator of the Department of Classics. A minute of silence was observed after the resolution was read. The text of this resolution is included in these minutes at the end of this document.

1. Election of Officers of Council for 2017-18

The Dean called upon Thomas MacKay, Director, Faculty Governance & Curriculum Services, to facilitate the election of Officers of Council for 2017-18. Mr. MacKay first explained the purpose and responsibilities of Proctors and called for nominations from the Council. All four of the members nominated were acclaimed.
Mr. MacKay then articulated the purpose and roles of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and followed with calls for nominations.

Chair:
- Derek Allen

Vice-Chairs:
- Jina Aryaan (Student)
- Gillian Hamilton (Teaching Staff)

The nominated Chair and Vice-Chairs were also acclaimed.

Mr. MacKay explained the role of the Agenda Committee and called for nominations for three Council members, in keeping with the tradition that the three elected members would reflect respectively, students, administrative & technical staff, and teaching staff. Changmo Kim, an undergraduate Sciences student was acclaimed as the student member of the Agenda Committee. Next, John DiMarco was nominated for the administrative & technical staff member of the Agenda Committee. Adam Fox was the next Council member nominated. Mr. DiMarco withdrew his nomination shortly after; subsequently Adam Fox was acclaimed. John Duncan was acclaimed as the teaching staff member of the Agenda Committee.

Once the elections concluded, Derek Allen took the Chair’s seat to continue the meeting of Council.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 19, 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.

3. Report from the Dean

The Dean’s report was deferred to allow item 4 to proceed, with permission from Council.

4. (For Information) Establishment of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan as an Extra-Departmental Unit, Type D

Professor Louis W. Pauly, Interim Director, Centre for the Study of Global Japan and the Munk School of Global Affairs presented background information leading to the creation of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. For some time there has been interest in encouraging studies in this area, and the Government of Japan has been interested in formally endowing research. Over the past year, it was the right time and opportunity to establish an area at the University. There was particular interest as within Canada there is an opportunity to do more in this area; and the endowment will support a rebuilding within the field of Japanese politics.

The University received a $5-million endowment earlier this year to establish the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. The Director appointed to this Centre would be divided between the Department of Political Science and the Munk School of Global Affairs. Last week, the Centre hosted the Japan Studies Association of Canada. Additionally, 15 undergraduate students are expected to participate in a student exchange in Japan during Reading Week.
Furthermore, symposiums, lectures and seminars had already taken place prior to the University’s receipt of the endowment. A search for a Chair had already commenced. Professor Pauly felt that this was fantastic news for the Department of Political Science, the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the Munk School of Global Affairs.

The Dean added a comment to underline the important leadership role played by Professor Pauly in working with the Consul General heading the Consulate General of Japan and the Japanese Government in securing the endowment; and that it was a coup to have the only endowed chair in the country in Japanese studies at the University.

3. Report from the Dean

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

The Dean indicated that preparation was underway for Academic Planning and that Penelope (Poppy) Lockwood would speak to this item later in the Council meeting. The second item conveyed was with respect to the merger between the University’s Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of Public Policy and Governance.

Lively discussions about the potential merits of having the two Schools merge to become one entity had already taken place with faculty and staff from the two units during the winter 2017 term. Diverse views were expressed, with some initially strongly opposing to the idea. However, there was a gradual recognition of this idea being the appropriate direction to proceed.

A formal process has already been launched, with a provision calling for 120 days of discussion of the announced plans. This is a formal opportunity for stakeholders to express their views regarding the proposal. If the results indicate justification to amalgamate the two Schools, formal proposal would be brought forward to governance beginning in 2018.

A member of the Council asked about the restructuring process taking place in the Faculty of Forestry and its impact on the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Dean did not have a report at this time since the process was still unfolding.

The Chair thanked the Dean for his report.

5. Self-Study and Academic Plan for the Faculty of Arts and Science

Penelope (Poppy) Lockwood, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning & Strategic Initiatives, provided an overview of two separate but related projects.

The first project was the commissioning of an external review of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Extensive consultation is taking place as part of the drafting process for this self-study. It is expected that the self-study would be drafted by March 2018 and finalized by Summer 2018, followed by a site visit to take place in Fall 2018.

Vice-Dean Lockwood is also embarking on a new academic plan. This time around, the process will involve the creation of a higher level plan that lays out strategic directions for the Faculty. It is expected that the academic plan will not be finalized until the recommendations from the external review have been received.

6. Abbreviated Orientation for Council Members

Thomas MacKay returned to conduct an abbreviated orientation for Council members, due to the fact that a formal orientation for new members had already been held in September.
He first provided a distinction between the Dean and the Council and its delegated responsibilities. He then gave an overview of the structure of the Arts and Science Council and its standing committees, further explaining the governance stages of academic change. Mr. MacKay stressed the significance of the Arts and Science Council as members were brought forward by their constituents to provide balance and to be a good governor. He also emphasized the importance of attendance at Council meetings as votes were delayed last year due to a lack of quorum. He encouraged people to come to exercise their democracy. An RSVP form via Google Docs is being introduced this year to encourage Council members to attend and name an alternate to attend on one’s behalf if necessary. His Governance and Curriculum unit is working continuously to systematize processes relating to academic change, ensuring that they are vital and engaged.

A member asked if Mr. MacKay would be able to make his presentations slides available, to which he agreed and confirmed.

7. Membership Update (Elections and Appointments) for Arts & Science and Standing Committees

Thomas Mackay continued to the next item to give a brief overview of the ex-officio and voting representatives of Council, followed by an update on the Elections to Council. The most recent set of Elections took place this past Monday, October 16. Teaching and administrative staff positions were acclaimed. Three new members joining the Committee on Admissions include:

- Andre Schmid, Chair of Department of East Asian Studies
- Allison Gibbs, Associate Chair of Department of Statistical Sciences
- Gillian Hamilton, Associate Chair of Department of Economics

Currently, one Council member position representing part-time students remains unfilled. In addition, one student member position for the Undergraduate Social Sciences Curriculum Committee remains unfilled. That student member must be registered in the Bachelor of Commerce program. Furthermore, there are several teaching staff member positions that remain unfilled. There is a mandate to run by-elections in January 2018 to complete these unfilled positions. There are also two unfilled positions for the Academic Appeals Board which have yet to be filled by teaching staff members. Voter turnout was low in these Elections: less than 1% for undergraduate students, about 3% for graduate students, and roughly 31% for administrative and technical staff members. The Governance unit continues to look for ways to improve engagement and interest.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.
Joan M. Bigwood, 1937–2017
Professor Emerita of Classics
Victoria College
University of Toronto

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science deeply regrets the passing of Associate Professor Emerita Joan M. Bigwood, a member of the Victoria College Department of Classics, on Thursday, 16 February 2017, at the age of 80.

Born in Scotland in 1937 into a musical family, Joan was the third of four children of a Presbyterian minister, and grew up in Stonehaven (Aberdeenshire). An accomplished cellist, she played in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in her youth. She received her M.A. (1st Class Honours) in Latin & Greek in 1958 from the University of St. Andrews. After a year at the Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh (1958-1959), she went to Cambridge MA on a full scholarship from Radcliffe College to pursue doctoral studies in Classics (Latin & Greek) at Harvard University. She completed her Ph.D. there in 1964 with a dissertation entitled “Ctesias of Cnidus (a study in Ionian historiography),” under the supervision of Herbert Bloch. She was hired forthwith by Victoria College, at the University of Toronto, where she spent her long career as successively Lecturer (1964-1966) and Don, Victoria University Women’s Residence (1964-1967); Assistant Professor (1966-1975); Associate Professor (1975-2001); Associate (1982-1990) and Continuing Member of SGS (1990-2001). She retired from the Department of Classics in the University of Toronto one year early, on 30 June 2001.

Professor Bigwood’s area of research specialization was Greek history of the fifth and fourth centuries BCE, to which she joined an interest in the history and antiquities of Achaemenid Persia. She published a series of lengthy articles in this area dealing with a wide range of subjects, from Ctesias as a historian of the Persian Wars (Phoenix 32 [1978] 19-41) and of India (Phoenix 43 [1989] 302-16), to his description of the city of Babylon and its monuments (AJAH 3 [1978] 32-52, and his understanding of North West India in Achaemenid times (JHS 115 [1995] 135-40). The larger questions driving her research were how ancient authors worked, how Greeks perceived non-Greek peoples and cultures, and questions of trade and cultural exchange. After her retirement in 2001, she turned her attention, with particular tenacity, to the investigation of the representation of Persian women in Greek historiography, with articles on incestuous marriage in Achaemenid Iran, the Parthian queen Mousa, the queen-mother Sisygambis, and women in the ancient accounts of Alexander.

Professor Bigwood was a much-admired teacher of ancient Greek and the history of ancient Greece, especially of the historians Herodotus and Thucydides, whom she taught at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her exacting standards made her a demanding instructor, but in turn she gave
unstintingly to her students and her wealth of knowledge enriched not only their classes but also a series of doctoral theses on which she served as a committee member throughout the 1990s.

Over her long career at Victoria College, she served in a variety of capacities, from her initial service as a Don in the women’s residence to her long-running service as Discipline Group Representative in Classics. To the Department of Classics, she contributed to a term as Undergraduate Coordinator (1992-1995) and participated regularly in the annual “High School Classics Day” which brought so many local high school students to the University of Toronto campus. In addition, she served a term on the Editorial Board of Phoenix, Journal of the Classical Association of Canada (1981-1984). She was a kind and patient teacher, and a staunch friend to generations of students and colleagues at Victoria College.

Outside of the classroom and library, Joan was always good company and a generous friend and mentor to her junior female colleagues. She imparted wise advice about teaching and publishing over lunches that lacked nothing in the way of wit and kindly gossip too. She was an avid runner and a keen tennis player, who never ceased to regret the loss of the Victoria College tennis courts. She continued to play chamber music for quite a while during her time in Toronto, but gave it up eventually because of difficulties over practising in her apartment building. She retained her love for classical music, however, and enjoyed attending concerts with friends.

The Department of Classics at the University of Toronto deeply regrets the loss of our valued colleague. Joan Bigwood is survived by her siblings Frank, Kitty, and Louise, and is sadly missed by them and her nieces and nephews.

Be it further moved that this resolution be inscribed in the minutes and that a copy be transmitted to the survivors as a token of our deep respect.

Alison Keith FRSC
Fellow, Victoria College
Professor and Acting Chair
Department of Classics
University of Toronto