ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 9:00 am in the Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Present

David Cameron (Dean)  
Derek Allen (Chair)  
Gillian Hamilton (Vice-Chair)  
Igor Samardzic (Vice-Chair)  
Deborah Robinson (Secretary)  
Thomas MacKay  
Martha Harris  
Kevin Mak  
Dwayne Benjamin  
Alexandra Bolintineanu  
James Cahill  
Eric Cazdyn  
Michelle Craig  
John DiMarco  
Carol Finlay  
Adam Fox  
Harry Fox  
Max Friesen  
Bernardo Galvao-Sousa  
Kanishka Goonewardena  
Daphne Goring  
Paul Hamel  
Nicholas Hoell  
Ikran Jama  
Rebecca Jockusch  
Sharon Kelly  
Michael Kessler  
Pamela Klassen  
Kyoungrok Ko  
T. Ephraim Lytle  
Nathalie Moon  
Kyoungrok Ko  
Mirella Pasquarelli Clivio  
Michael Ratcliffe  
Branden Rizzuto  
Kevin Rowley  
Stephen Rupp  
Jane Seto  
Krista Slade  
Thomas Socknat  
Paul Stevens  
Cheryl Suzack  
Guillaume Thomas  
Marten van Kerkwijk  
William Watson  
Art Weis  
Ira Wells  
Runqun (Helen) Zheng  
John Zilcosky

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 am by the Chair, who indicated that two memorial resolutions would be read.

Memorial Resolutions

The Chair first called for the reading of a memorial resolution respecting Professor Emeritus Jane Millgate from the Department of English. This motion was read by Professor Paul Stevens, Chair of the Department of English.

The Chair then called for the reading of a memorial resolution respecting Chancellor Emeritus Michael Wilson. This motion was read by Dean Cameron.

A minute of silence was observed after both resolutions were read. The text of these two resolutions is included in these minutes at the end of the document.

1. Approval of Minutes of the February 13, 2019 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**

The Dean provided an item of information to Council regarding academic appointments. Over the past few years, the Faculty has authorized a full replacement of retired faculty members plus 10 new positions each year. Recognizing the steady growth in faculty complement experienced over the last few years as well as recent policy decisions made at the provincial level, the Faculty will authorize a full replacement of retired faculty members plus 5 new positions this year. The Faculty Appointments Committee will continue to meet to review submissions by academic units to determine the appropriate allocation.

A question was raised for clarification on the timeline for academic searches. Dean Cameron replied that the Faculty’s best practice is to roll over searches to the following year if a search is not successful during the current year as the Faculty does not want academic units to feel pressured to make appointments.

3. **(For Approval) Proposal for a New Concentration in Applied Mathematics, Master of Science in Applied Computing (MScAc) – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education**

Professor Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, presented the proposal for a new concentration in Applied Mathematics, within the Master of Science in Applied Computing.

Given the tight connection between computational and mathematical sciences, this concentration will provide training to students on algorithms and mathematical models with the goal of preparing them for a wide array of opportunities in the industrial and scientific sectors. Students enrolled in this concentration will not only take courses in mathematics, computer science, technical communications, and entrepreneurship, they will also complete an eight-month internship. A steady intake of 10 students annually within five years is anticipated.

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the new Concentration in Applied Mathematics in the Master of Science in Applied Computing (MScAc), be approved effective September 1, 2019.

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

4. **(For Approval) Major Modification to the Master of Science (MSc) in Chemistry – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education**

Professor Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, presented the proposal from the Department of Chemistry to modify the minimum program length of its Master’s program from six sessions to three sessions.

The minimum program length modification takes into consideration that many students complete the program requirements for the Master of Science in Chemistry within 12 months, which is shorter than the official program length of 6 sessions full-time as reflected in the *School of Graduate Studies Calendar*. In addition, the program length modification would align with the length of time that these program students are in the funded cohort. Furthermore, it coincides with the Department of Chemistry’s efforts to offer a valued thesis degree. The minimum program length reduction will not change the academic and financial support to be provided by the department to its students who opt to continue beyond a third session.

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the Major Modification to the Master of Science (MSc) in Chemistry be approved effective September 1, 2019.

The motion was moved and seconded.
A member inquired about the existence of any compromise in the rigour of academic work with the proposed minimum program length modification. Vice-Dean Benjamin replied that this would be strictly a change of the program length and not the actual program requirements.

A member asked if there is any information on other Master’s programs that are looking to change their length from two years to one year. Vice-Dean Benjamin responded that he was not aware of any programs looking to do the same.

On the vote the motion was carried.

5. (For Discussion) Report on the Conclusion of the Boundless Campaign – Krista Slade, Executive Director of Advancement

Ms. Krista Slade, Executive Director of Advancement reported on the University’s Boundless campaign, which officially closed on December 31, 2018. She made reference to a special Presidents’ Circle Lecture event that had taken place the night before delving into the actual numbers.

The Boundless campaign raised over $2.641 billion for the University. It featured financial contributions from over 104,000 unique donors, of whom 68% were alumni of the University. A significant portion of the donations also came from University faculty and staff. Over $320 million were contributed to the Arts & Science portion of the Boundless campaign, with about $108 million going towards programs in research. The Boundless campaign also saw more than 8,800 volunteers engaging with the University.

With 2019 being a year of gratitude, the University is focusing its efforts on alumni engagement. It aims to double the number of engaged alumni by 2024. At the Faculty level, the Office of Advancement is working with Colleges and academic units on various initiatives as well as finalizing gifts to create additional scholarships.

Ms. Slade indicated that the Faculty has started preparing for the University’s next fundraising campaign which would likely coincide with the University’s bicentennial. She ended her report by thanking Council for the incredible generosity and support over the years and that a campaign report would be circulated once it has been finalized.

A member sought clarification about the specifics and timeline of the University’s next fundraising campaign. Ms. Slade replied that planning has commenced for the next campaign and that the campaign would likely be related to the University’s bicentennial.

6. (For Discussion) Update on A&S External Reviewers’ Report and Academic Planning Process – Poppy Lockwood, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and Strategic Initiatives

As Vice-Dean Poppy Lockwood was unable to attend due to a travel delay, Dean Cameron provided a report on her behalf. He explained that the Faculty’s academic planning process has been layered and cumulative. The Faculty established strategic and operational priorities to provide an overarching framing with respect to the academic planning process.

Strategic Priorities:
1. Capitalize on our strengths as a Faculty of Arts and Science
2. Improve the student experience, inside and outside the classroom
3. Push the boundaries of our research success
4. Promote diversity and accessibility
5. Build partnerships with our communities
**Operational Priority:**
6. Expand and improve Faculty capital and infrastructure

In addition, the Faculty created eight working groups tasked with proposing recommendations in response to established strategic priorities and other areas of focus as emphasized in the 2018 Arts & Science self-study.

**Working Groups:**
1. Academic Planning & Change
2. Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
3. Leveraging our Strengths as a Faculty of Arts and Science
4. Partnerships, Outreach, & Alumni
5. Research
6. Space & Infrastructure
7. Student Experience: Graduate
8. Student Experience: Undergraduate

The finalized working group reports to be submitted to the Dean this May, along with other relevant discussion papers and reports, will form the basis of the next stage of the Faculty’s development of its 5-year academic plan. A broad consultation process with different Arts & Science stakeholders will begin this summer. Dean Cameron expects the new academic plan, which would be finalized by the end of next year, to be higher-level and strategic. With the submission and subsequent release of the Arts & Science Provostial Non-UTQAP External Review Report earlier in the year, it is expected that the University’s Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (VPAP) will ask the Faculty to provide an administrative response to the report. Once again, the Faculty will consult with various stakeholders before reporting back through the University’s governance process in Fall 2019.

A member inquired if individual academic units would also be asked to draft plans during the Faculty’s development of its 5-year academic plan. Dean Cameron replied that the Faculty has departed from that practice. He stated that the UTQAP process as mandated by the province of Ontario calls for every program to be reviewed every 8 years. Upon completion of its UTQAP review, the academic unit is then asked to develop a plan for the future, which would then be submitted to the Dean’s Office as a way to establish mutual understanding between the Dean’s Office and the academic unit.

A member asked if the Faculty could facilitate more opportunities for more organic consultation or free flow of information regarding new ideas. The member felt that experts working in siloed areas do not have enough opportunities to converse with one another or to provide feedback. Dean Cameron replied that the Faculty has already established a website devoted to the academic planning process, and that he could take into account the suggestion of having a broader forum once the working group reports are completed.

A member commented that there was a bit of misalignment with the way the external reviewers viewed the Faculty. The member asked for the Dean’s reaction on the reviewers’ suggestion that the Faculty should pursue a more vocational route. Dean Cameron responded that while the reviewers were aware of the Faculty’s strategic priorities, it was not their job to take those into consideration when conducting the review as these reviewers were meant to be independent. He emphasized the research-intensive nature of the University and Faculty, and the importance of infusing that into undergraduate educational life to prepare students for the time beyond university. He also sees the value of equipping students with research capacity and adaptability as important skill sets.

**7. Other Business**

A member commented on the lack of emphasis placed on Indigenous and climate changes issues as seen in the major program modifications presented at and approved by Council the past few months. The member asked if there would be other ways to incorporate these issues in the program proposals, and if the Faculty could further articulate the work being done.
Dean Cameron responded that the best way to address these issues might not be through the major program modifications. He stated that issues surrounding Indigenous matters and climate change were addressed and discussed through different means, including the appointment of Professor Brenda Wastasecoot to serve as a liaison between the Faculty and academic units wishing to integrate Indigenous perspectives in teaching and learning, and the annual reports prepared by the School of the Environment that highlight the evolution of and research activities affiliated with the School.

Vice-Dean Benjamin stated that strictly looking at documentation pertaining to program modifications is not the best way to measure the amount of discussion and examination of the issues identified. He added that minor program modifications and course changes would also incorporate these issues.

Vice-Dean Klassen highlighted the establishment of the Decanal Advisory Committee on Indigenous Teaching & Learning, which was tasked with examining existing Indigenous-related programming and initiatives and their connection to disciplines within Arts & Science.

Dean Cameron indicated that there would be an opportunity for Council members to provide additional feedback in the upcoming academic planning process. He also stated that he would be happy to make Indigenous and climate change issues as a future agenda item pending Council’s interest.

A member commented that the Faculty does not really specify what is unique about Arts & Science. The member felt that the Faculty should have the ability and opportunity to articulate its critical vision in tackling these issues when conducting a self-study or when developing an academic plan. Dean Cameron replied that the external review report is advice from the perspectives of the reviewers. The Faculty would evaluate this report and identify, as appropriate, possible new directions.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.