Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 am by the Chair.

Memorial Resolution

The Chair called for the reading of a memorial resolution respecting Professor Emeritus Meyer Brownstone from the Department of Political Science. The memorial was read by Dean Cameron. 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 the document.

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 20, 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 offered his thoughts on recent incidents involving student mental health that had taken place on campus, in particular the recent death of a student at Bahen Centre. He acknowledged that issues surrounding mental health
have become much more front and center, as witnessed by an ensuing demonstration that had occurred outside of Simcoe Hall, and that students, faculty, and staff are affected by this.

At a recent town hall event organized by the Department of Computer Science, students had expressed frustration with the admissions process to enter a Computer Science program. While the Faculty has been working with the department to make changes to this process to alleviate anxiety for students, recent events have galvanized the Faculty and the Department to act more urgently. The admissions process is expected to be overhauled so that students would be admitted to the Computer Science program in their second year of studies, provided that they have “clinched” the minimum grade requirements in specific program-entry courses, a practice currently implemented at Rotman Commerce.

The Faculty is in the midst of surveying, and modifying existing policies and constructs that might elevate the chances of individuals to experience mental health challenges. On the academic integrity front, for example, first offences are dealt with using an educational approach as opposed to focusing on a punishment. In addition, Ms. Deborah Robinson, Faculty Registrar and Director of Undergraduate Academic Services, is working with her team to review and refine the current petitions and appeals process.

Dean Cameron informed Council that Dr. Trevor Young from the Faculty of Medicine will be chairing the Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health to examine the University’s existing mental health resources and services. He commented that if the Faculty is committed to excellence and research, then this commitment should also include being excellent in identifying and managing individuals on the mental health front. The Dean concluded his report by emphasizing the Faculty’s initiative to examine the impact that its programs and current processes have on unnecessary stress.

A member expressed concerns about the way some assignments are designed such that they cause gratuitous stress for students. The member also felt that a large mismatch exists between the amount of resources available at the University and the current mental health needs of individuals. Dean Cameron responded that a question worth considering is what is the University’s role with respect to mental health support. It is important that there is a smooth transition with referrals to ensure individuals with mental health needs are getting the resources.

A member expressed their appreciation for the Dean’s honesty and openness about the issue of mental health and asked if there are other academic units experiencing similar enrolment pressures to the Department of Computer Science. Dean Cameron replied that he was not aware of any units being in the same situation as the Department of Computer Science, but he acknowledged that the Department of Statistical Sciences has seen rising enrolment demand. He said that the Department of Computer Science is unique given the differential fees charged to its students and its cohort-like structure. The Faculty is currently looking at ways to accommodate students who would like to take computer science courses.

A follow-up question was raised about how the Faculty reviews program modifications from various perspectives that include issues pertaining to climate change, Indigenous matters, and mental health. Dean Cameron responded that the Faculty is committed to diversity with its faculty appointment process. He acknowledged that there are commitments to some of the areas the member had mentioned. A way that the Faculty is examining its impact on mental health, though not always explicitly, is by reviewing processes and guidelines associated with such matters as university applications or filing petitions and appeals.

The Chair acknowledged that mental health is a sensitive topic that warrants more conversations later in this meeting and solicited one more question before moving to the next agenda item.

A member stated that students would benefit from visiting faculty members’ office hours and suggested the Faculty to consult with the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering to inquire about its practices considering that Engineering students often have rigorous schedules and workload. Dean Cameron replied that some students might experience less anxiety should they enter a cohorted program with explicitly-stated expectations. As for the member’s suggestion regarding office hours, Dean Cameron stated that very often, students do not want to take the
faculty members’ time and that it is the responsibility of the Faculty to adjust the culture to make students feel welcome and comfortable to attend office hours.

3. (For Approval) Establishment of CANSSI Ontario at UofT as an Extra-Departmental Unit (EDU-C) – Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean, Research & Infrastructure

Professor Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean, Research & Infrastructure presented the proposal to establish CANSSI Ontario at UofT (i.e., Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute Ontario at the University of Toronto) as an EDU:C. The unit would serve to strengthen the University’s statistical science activities and would also serve as the Regional Centre for Ontario of the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute.

The establishment of this EDU:C reflects the incredible growth in the area of statistical and data science. With the increase in the number of cross-appointed faculty members who are engaged in data-intensive research, the Extra-departmental unit would serve as the locus for research collaborations. CANSSI Ontario as a regional hub would offer leadership in the cultivation of these collaborations province-wide and would provide opportunities for the Faculty of Arts & Science and the University by and large.

Be It Resolved
THAT CANSSI Ontario at UofT be established as an EDU-C of the Faculty of Arts & Science, as described in the attached proposal, effective July 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) Closure of the Institute for Optical Sciences – EDU-C – Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean, Research & Infrastructure

Vice-Dean Pratt then presented the proposal to close the Institute of Optical Sciences. The Institute has been dormant for several years without a director, and research activities had continued for faculty members in the Faculty of Arts & Science and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering respectively in spite of the Institute’s dormancy. Vice-Dean Pratt thanked Dr. Lisa Rumiel, Director, Office of Research Services for assisting with the unit closure proposal as the Institute should have been closed a few years ago.

Be It Resolved
THAT the Institute for Optical Sciences be closed as an EDU-C of the Faculty of Arts & Science, with immediate effect.

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

5. (For Approval) Closure of the Collaborative Specialization in Optics (MSc) – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Professor Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education presented the proposal to close the Collaborative Specialization in Optics (MSc). This Master’s level collaborative specialization was created in 2008 with the intention of encouraging interactions and collaborations between students studying optics. The four participating departments included Chemistry, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Physics. The collaborative specialization has had no student enrolment since 2013, and the Chairs of the participating departments have agreed on the formal closure of this specialization through governance.
Be It Resolved
THAT the Collaborative Specialization in Optics (MSc) be closed, 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 (with one abstention).

6. (For Approval) Dual Degree in Master of Global Affairs (MGA) at the University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, and Master of International Affairs (MIA) at the Hertie School of Governance – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Vice-Dean Benjamin presented the proposal for the creation of a dual degree program that would lead to a Master of Global Affairs (MGA) from the University of Toronto and a Master of International Affairs (MIA) from the Hertie School of Governance. The proposed dual degree would allow students to graduate with two distinct and complementary degrees in 24 months as opposed to four years should these degrees be completed consecutively.

Students enrolled in the proposed dual degree program would spend their first year at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin in order to take courses in global governance, international economics, international law, and international security. Students would then embark on a 12-week global internship to be recognized by both the Hertie School and the Munk School. Students would spend their second year at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy where they would complete, among other required and elective courses in global affairs, a team-based Capstone course as well as a Master’s thesis.

It is expected that the program’s first cohort will start with five students in September 2020, with the number of students to be admitted rising steadily to 12 within five years.

Be It Resolved
THAT the Dual Degree in Master of Global Affairs (MGA) and Master of International Affairs (MIA), as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective September 1, 2019.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member inquired about the tuition structure of the dual degree program. Professor Ron Levi, Director of Global Strategy at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, responded that students would pay their tuition based on where they are enrolled. In first year, a flat fee of approximately 14,000 Euros is applied for both domestic and international MIA students. In second year, there will be fee differences between domestic and international students when they’re enrolled as MGA students.

On the vote the motion was carried.

7. Report on Undergraduate Curriculum – Pamela Klassen, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

Professor Pamela Klassen, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International provided a summary of academic change approved at the undergraduate level during the 2018-19 governance cycle.

The most significant set of changes was the integration of First-Year Foundations seminar courses (formerly “199s”) into the curricular governance process. The Faculty’s new First-Year Foundations initiative serves to build an academic community for first-year students such they would engage with faculty members and make the most out of the resources available. Vice-Dean Klassen thanked Council members for their creative engagement with respect to this initiative this past year. The new Arts & Science Academic Calendar has a section strictly dedicated to the First-Year Foundations seminar courses.
In addition, academic units worked hard to maintain the balance between proposing new courses and retiring courses that had not been offered for quite some time so that students would have a realistic expectation of actual course offerings when engaging in their academic planning.

Finally, the Faculty updated its existing guidelines on Streams and Focuses to also include Category 2 Certificates, which are offered in conjunction with an undergraduate program. The updated guidelines would ensure academic units acquire a better understanding of the different curriculum structures available to assist with their development of academic change.

A member inquired about the number of First-Year Foundations seminar courses to be offered. Vice-Dean Klassen replied that approximately 145 half-courses were proposed, with each academic unit having proposed an average of four half-courses. She noted that the seven Colleges also offer courses targeting first-year students.

A follow-up question was raised about the existence of opportunities for instructors to have conversations with students about mental health support and resources available at the University. Vice-Dean Klassen responded that Professor Andrea Williams, Director of the Faculty’s Writing Integrated Learning initiative, has been taking the lead in developing workshops and online courses for new instructors to learn about the different pedagogy initiatives and resources. The Dean’s Office will also be working with the Office of the Faculty Registrar to re-vision the current Academic Handbook so that instructors could better support students.

A member asked how would incoming first-year students find out about these First-Year Foundations seminar courses. Vice-Dean Klassen responded that a new website is being developed and that communication to first-year students about these opportunities will be undertaken through different means.

A member commented that they have been teaching First-Year Seminar (“199”) courses for quite some time and felt that the act of humanizing could address the sense of anonymity sometimes felt by both students and instructors. The member asked if the Faculty has any initiatives to incorporate an extracurricular component, such as setting aside time and budget to allow an instructor to bring their class to see an exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario, in these First-Year Foundations seminar courses. Vice-Dean Klassen replied that courses currently offered through the “Ones” programs do allocate time towards those activities. She indicated that she would be open to having more conversations with the member and their academic unit.

8. Report from Committee on Admissions – Professor Markus Stock, Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Professor Markus Stock, Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures provided an update on behalf of the Committee on Admissions to Council.

Following different proposal reviews involving modifications of program enrolment requirements this past year, the Committee identified a number of challenges within the existing policy framework on enrolment requirements. A working group was created with the task of reviewing the current policy framework in more detail to come up with findings and recommendations. The Committee also consulted with Rotman Commerce and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering regarding admissions practices and goals.

The working group found the language used by academic units to describe enrolment criteria to be inconsistent, the use of jargon to be widespread when describing/labelling program “types,” as well as an overall lack of clarity on the nature of enrolment restrictions and the rationale behind these restrictions. The recommendations proposed by the working group and presented to the Committee on Admissions included simplifying the program enrolment types into two categories: “open” and “limited,” as well as specifying the appropriate program enrolment restrictions to be used by academic units based on the different rationales presented. The proposed recommendations were also shared with and reviewed by the Council of Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors (CPAD) and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committees.
The implementation of the updated language and guidelines for restricted-enrolment programs is expected to go into effect with the publication of the 2020-21 Arts & Science Academic Calendar. The Committee hopes that the new language used for grade-restricted programs would result in more clarity and transparency for students as they undertake their program planning.

A member asked how the updated guidelines regarding restricted enrolment programs would impact use of one or two enrolment rounds. Ms. Deborah Robinson, Faculty Registrar and Director of Undergraduate Academic Services, replied that academic units would have the discretion to decide on the appropriate enrolment rounds as this would be a process issue.

A member commented on the importance of distributing the revised framework/guidelines widely to the necessary stakeholders so that everyone would be working within the same framework/guidelines. Professor Stock expressed his agreement with this member’s sentiment.

9. Update on Elections to 2019-20 Arts & Science Council – Thomas Mackay, Director, Faculty Governance

Mr. Thomas MacKay, Director of Faculty Governance, provided an update on the elections that were recently held for the 2019-20 Council and its standing committees.

For the undergraduate student positions, there was more competition for certain committees, such as the Committee on Admissions, the Committee on Standing, and the Academic Appeals Board. A sample comparison of voter turnout in Spring 2016 versus Spring 2019 showed an increased awareness and interest from students in the work pertaining to curriculum as well as petitions and appeals. By-elections will take place in Fall 2019 for all unfilled positions along with the First-Year Student positions. For the graduate student positions, four of the six seats were acclaimed. A by-election will take place in Fall 2019 for the remaining two positions. Graduate student members of Council also sit on the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

For the first time in a few years, an election was held for the administrative and technical staff positions on Council. Four positions were elected with one additional position to come from the College Registrars. Teaching staff positions are unique in the sense that there is a culture of assignment to an academic unit’s Associate Chair/Undergraduate Coordinator or through acclamation as opposed to an actual “election”. With that said, these teaching staff positions play an important role in ensuring that Council achieves quorum as they are voting members of Council that are appointed from departments and EDU: As. Arts & Science Governance will be reaching out to academic units this summer to seek confirmation of teaching staff members who would represent their constituents on Council in the coming year.

Mr. MacKay thanked everyone for their involvement with Council and committee business over the past year, with the acknowledgement that March and April are generally the busiest times with respect to Council matters. Ms. Deborah Robinson added that the Faculty appreciates the active participation of students in the different committees as their voices are important in effecting policy decisions.

10. Other Business

Continuation of Mental Health Discussion Arising from the Report of the Dean:

The Chair noted that there was time remaining for Council to return to an earlier discussion on mental health initially arising from the Dean’s report.

A member commented that when the Arts & Science community is communicating about its culture of excellence, it should not overlook the notion of student experience. The member felt that the University could make it known
to students that this is a place for them to explore, that even though they may not know where they are going, they are still a valued member of the community and that the institution supports them no matter what. Another member shared a similar sentiment, stating that it is important for students to know that not everyone heads down a straight-line path but that there are many other options worthy of consideration and exploration.

Ms. Deborah Robinson recalled two recent examples where students had struggled with the decision to prioritize their well-being or loved ones over writing their regularly-scheduled final exams for fear of performing poorly in a deferred exam sitting(s) months later. She indicated that the Faculty is reviewing its existing process with respect to scheduling deferred examinations.

A member commented that conversations around mental health often involve financial concerns. The member felt that in order to have a meaningful conversation about the University’s role with respect to mental health, it is important for the institution to consider the entanglement of issues and the multitude of systems beyond course and resource offerings.

A member felt that the University and the Faculty could effect change in the way or tone faculty members and staff use to communicate with students. Another member commented that issues surrounding mental health would require the University’s deep reflection similar to what was undertaken in response to the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The member felt that if the Faculty and the University as a whole value excellence, then excellence should be reflected in both policy and self-reflection.

A member felt uncomfortable with the term “excellence.” The member felt that it’s not just students who suffer from the expectation of excellence, but faculty members get anxious having to justify the grades given to students. Students get “imprisoned” by the notion of excellence and its relation to (career) advancement.

The Chair thanked Council for the passionate discussion about mental health and acknowledged the importance of this conversation. As there was no other business from Council members, he called on Vice-Dean Klassen to speak to one final item of business.

**Acknowledgement of Professor David Cameron’s End of Term as Dean:**

Vice-Dean Klassen commented that Professor Cameron is approaching the end of his term as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science. Vice-Dean Klassen praised Dean Cameron for his charismatic demeanor and commitment to governance. She also acknowledged Dean Cameron’s spirit of service and respectful critique. Dean Cameron has been the champion of the Faculty’s multidisciplinary strengths, and he has earned the respect of Council and the Faculty of Arts & Science as a whole. Vice-Dean Klassen also thanked the Chair for his many years of service.

The Vice-Chair (Student) also offered on his gratitude to Dean Cameron for his service and leadership on behalf of the student members of Council.

Dean Cameron expressed thanks for the words said. He stated that Council is a body that is widely representative that allows in-depth and passionate discussion to be had. He acknowledged the collegiality that has been cultivated among members regardless of whether they are a student, faculty, or staff, as demonstrated by the discussion on mental health today. He suggested that Council could adopt this structure in future meetings when important ideas and problems need to be discussed. He stated that he had enjoyed working with everyone and once again thanked Council for the kinds remarks and support.

11. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Meyer Brownstone
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Faculty of Arts and Science
University of Toronto

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science deeply regrets the passing of Meyer Brownstone, former Associate Chair of the Department of Political Economy on April 3, 2019, at age 96. Meyer Brownstone was a great teacher and mentor and an inspiration to a generation of students who had the privilege of studying with him both at the University of Toronto and York University, many of whom went on to successful careers in academia and the public service at all levels of government.

Meyer came from a family of immigrants in Eastern Europe and grew up in North Winnipeg in a community of intense political commitment and activism. He dedicated his life to fighting for social justice and equity and promoting the civil liberties of all individuals. In 1946, at the age of 25, he joined Tommy Douglas’s Cooperative Commonwealth Federation government in Saskatchewan and went on to a stellar career in the provincial public service until the early 1960s. He was the last surviving member of the core group of provincial public servants who drafted the first provincial Medicare Act introduced in Saskatchewan on July 1, 1962. This act served as the model for the federal Medicare program introduced later that decade. While serving with the Saskatchewan government, he enrolled in and completed a PhD in Political Economy from Harvard University under the direction of John Kenneth Galbraith.

His many public service and administrative positions included Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs (Saskatchewan, 1960), U.N. Advisor to the Government of Jamaica (1962), Supervisor of Research for the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (Ottawa, 1964) under the leadership of Davidson Dunton and André Laurendeau, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Political Economy (University of Toronto), U.N. Advisor to the Government of Tanzania (1969), a founding member of the Faculty of Environmental Studies (York University), Advisor for the reorganization of the Winnipeg government (1971–72) and Director of the University of Toronto’s Center for Urban and Community Studies in 1987. Working with an eager group of his graduate students, one of his many accomplishments was the design and implementation of a comprehensive suite of social services that was implemented as part of the St. Lawrence Market development during David Crombie’s tenure as Mayor of Toronto.

He participated in many charitable and educational organizations. Most notably, he was Chairperson of the Board of Directors of OXFAM-Canada between 1975 and 1992, as well as a member of the Council of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the CCIC Working Group on Latin America. As the Chair of Oxfam Canada, Meyer visited the refugee camps of Honduras and the conflict regions of El Salvador and Nicaragua, communicating stories of war, torture, and displacement to the United Nations, the United States Senate, and the Government of Canada.
During this time, he was an international observer of elections in Namibia, Mozambique, and Eritrea. He served as an NGO Observer in the first democratic elections held in South Africa after the end of the apartheid regime at the polling station where Nelson Mandela cast his first ballot. He was honoured to be the only observer of this kind to witness Mandela voting for the first time and was the first person to congratulate him on the casting of his ballot behalf of the Canadian people.

In recognition of his humanitarian work internationally, Meyer was awarded the Lester B. Pearson Peace Medal in 1986 by the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Governor General of Canada. The medal was established eight years earlier by the United Nations Association in Canada to honour, in Lester B. Pearson’s name, Canadians who have made an outstanding contribution to international understanding and cooperation.

Pre-deceased by his parents Olia and Charlie Brownstone, his beloved sister Chana and brother Soime, and his wife Diana Moeser, he is survived by his children Arni, Lisa (Gary Robins), and Keir (Jennifer Dale), his grandchildren Teva (Susan), Jacob (Alanna), Brooklyn (Bert), Midori (Anthony), Zoe, and Veronica, his great-grandchildren Atreyu and Hannah, his brother Shieky, cousins Yude and Nathan, first wife Razie, and special daughters-in-law Robin and Beatriz.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be inscribed in the Minutes and that a copy be transmitted to his family as a token of our deep gratitude and respect.