ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present

Melanie Woodin (Dean)  Harry Fox  Tirzah Meacham
Gillian Hamilton (Chair)  Max Friesen  Kamdin Mirsanaye
William Watson (Vice-Chair)  Austin Gaghadar  Nathalie Moon
Keenan Krause (Vice-Chair)  Kanishka Goonewardena  Jay Pratt
Deborah Robinson (Secretary)  Daphne Goring  Russ Pyskywec
Martha Harris  Sandra Grande  Jean-Olivier Richard
Kevin Mak  Franz Huber  Helen Rodd
Maria Belais  Peter Jurgec  Marlene Rong
Donald Ainslie  Evan Kanter  Atsuko Sakaki
Josie Alaimo  Sharon Kelly  Thomas Socknat
Teresa Baptista  Gloria Kim  S. Trimble
Dwayne Benjamin  Pamela Klassen  Shankeri Vijayakumar
Jan Braun  Poppy Lockwood  Marie-Anne Visoi
Samantha Chang  T. Ephraim Lytle  Ira Wells
Michelle Craig  Sheela Manek  Ryan Woolfrey
Samuel Delage  John Marshall  Runqun (Helen) Zheng
Andrew Dicks  Colin McMahon

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am by the Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes of the October 16, 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

Appointment of Professor Eileen Antone as Special Advisor to the Dean:

Dean Woodin began her report by announcing the appointment of Professor Eileen Antone as the inaugural Special Advisor to the Dean on Indigenous Affairs. Professor Antone is a member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation, Turtle Clan. She was a former Director of Aboriginal Studies and the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives at the University. She was also a faculty member in the Department of Adult Education, Community Development, and Counselling Psychology at OISE, and a faculty member in the University's Transitional Year Programme. As Special Advisor, Professor Antone will be working in an advisory capacity with the Dean and with Arts & Science by and large in addition to her existing role as Elder for the Dean’s Advisory Committee on Indigenous Teaching and Learning. The Dean thanked Professor Pamela Klassen, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate for the relationship cultivated over the last
several years. (Addendum: A CPAD memo announcing Professor Antone’s appointment was shared on November 21, 2019.)

Brief Update on Faculty’s Academic Planning Process:

The Dean’s Office has begun drafting sections of the academic plan and sharing them with the Academic Planning Advisory Committee. The Faculty will begin more broad-based consultation with different stakeholders shortly. The Dean encouraged Council members to stay tuned and to invite their constituencies to participate. The Dean also made reference to the Academic Planning web page within the Arts & Science website where the Arts & Science community can access membership information, documents aimed for broader consultation, as well as updates.

U of T Alumnus Awarded the Giller Prize:

The Dean reported that Ian Williams, a three-time graduate of the Faculty of Arts & Science had just been awarded the Giller Prize for his debut novel, Reproduction. Members interested in reading this story can access the article by visiting the Faculty’s Recent News web page.

No questions were raised. The Chair thanked Dean Woodin for her report.

3. (For Approval) Closure of the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition – EDU:C – Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean, Research & Infrastructure

As this item contained a motion requiring a vote, the Chair briefly outlined the process that would entail before inviting Professor Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean, Research & Infrastructure to speak to the item.

The Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition was created twelve years ago. While the vision of the Centre was never really realized, the building associated with the Centre has been functioning as a core laboratory space shared by the Department of Psychology and the Department of Cell and Systems Biology. Dr. John Peever has been a facilitating manager for the Centre for the past six years. The disbanding of the Centre would result in responsibilities being divvied up to the Departments of Psychology, and Cell and Systems Biology as these two departments have worked well together.

Be It Resolved
THAT the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition be closed as an EDU:C of the Faculty of Arts & Science effective December 31, 2019.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member asked about the impact of the closure on existing laboratory activities in the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition building. Vice-Dean Pratt indicated that there would be no change in activities.

On the vote the motion was carried.

4. (For Approval) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics, Major Modification to Existing Program – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

Professor Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education explained that most of the PhD programs at the University require the completion of a Master’s degree in order for individuals to be admitted. This proposal from the Department of Economics to add a direct entry (five-year) option to its existing doctoral program would allow qualified students having completed an appropriate bachelor’s degree to be admitted. An estimate of one to three students with strong background preparation would be admitted into the direct-entry program each year.
Doctoral students in both the direct and regular-entry programs will complete the same first-year course and exam requirements. The additional elective field course requirements in second year would enable direct-entry students to acquire the field breadth typically obtained in the Master’s year, while the reduction in course requirements for regular-entry PhD students would allow them to begin dissertation work earlier in the program.

**Be It Recommended**

THAT the proposed changes to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics as described in the attached proposal dated November 11, 2019 be approved effective the 2020-21 academic year.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member asked if a direct-entry student to the PhD program would be eligible for a Master of Arts (MA) should they manage to complete the coursework but not the dissertation. Vice-Dean Benjamin replied that it would be possible for the student to transfer back to the Master’s program. The Faculty is in discussion with the School of Graduate Studies regarding the feasibility of such a back-transfer.

A member asked if the Department of Economics’ MA program is a one-year program. Vice-Dean Benjamin replied yes and added that the direct-entry PhD students will have the same number of courses as regular-entry students in first year.

On the vote the motion was carried.

5. **(For Approval) Closure of the Collaborative Specialization in Earth Sciences and Physics (Master’s and Doctoral Level) – Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education**

Vice-Dean Benjamin explained that the proposed closure of this Collaborative Specialization follows Vice-Dean Pratt’s theme of closing academic units that are inactive. The Collaborative Specialization in Earth Sciences and Physics (Master’s and doctoral level) was created in 2002 with the goal of providing graduate training in geophysics, an area that was not situated in any one home graduate unit at the University at the time. The specialization has had zero enrolment in the last six years, and all students previously enrolled in the specialization have graduated. Even with the closure, students could continue to collaborate with faculty members, and core courses would still be offered through the Department of Earth Sciences.

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the Collaborative Specialization in Earth Sciences and Physics (Master’s and Doctoral Level) be closed effective September 1, 2020.

The motion was moved and seconded.

A member asked why the two participating departments would wait until September 2020 to close this Collaborative Specialization as opposed to earlier. Dr. Sharon Kelly, Research and Graduate Academic Planning Coordinator from the Faculty of Arts & Science responded that the effective date of the closure takes into consideration that the program entry is still listed in the School of Graduate Studies Calendar. Students are not being admitted to the program, and the program will technically be closed as of September 2020.

On the vote the motion was carried.

6. **Establishment of the Special Committee on Academic Policy, a Special Committee of Faculty of Arts & Science Council – Gillian Hamilton, Chair of Arts & Science Council, on behalf of the Agenda Committee**

The Chair confirmed that this item has been deferred until the next Council meeting to incorporate feedback.
7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Mak, Governance and Curriculum Specialist, Faculty of Arts & Science