

Faculty of Arts Council - Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (12:30-1:30 PM)

Present: Tim Babcock, Rachel Berg, Brandon Christopher, Roewan Crowe, Linda DeRiviere, Neil Funk-Unrau, Matt Gibbs, Colin Goff, Hugh Grant, Pauline Greenhill, Steven Kohm, Shauna MacKinnon, Lisa McLean, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Jaqueline Romanow, Catherine Taylor, Sante Viselli, Tracy Whalen, Doug Williams

Regrets: Carlos Colorado, James Hanley, Roy Loewen

Motion to approve the agenda (B. Christopher/S. Kohm). Approved.

Motion to approve the minutes (S. Viselli/D. Williams). Approved.

Business arising

Pauline Greenhill reports that she's queried the \$80 fee for deferred exams (following the meeting of February 28, 2018), but hasn't heard back, so she'll follow-up.

Chairs in Graham Hall were to have received an advisory from Len Cann in the Physical Plant when the elevator is out of service, but the elevator isn't working and they haven't been notified. *Jaqueline McLeod Rogers will follow up.*

Arts budget

Catherine Taylor reports that the Faculty of Arts was instructed to reduce its budget request for 2018-19 by \$300,000. As well, requests for Contract Academic Staff (CAS) and Regular Academic Staff (RAS) to teach overload came to an additional \$165,000 more than we were able to build into the budget.

To achieve the required reduction (\$465,000):

- Salaries from retiring faculty members and those moving to reduced appointments offset this amount by \$174,000.
- Start dates for three hires were deferred from July 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019, which reduced this amount by an additional \$105,000.
- The budget for a planned capacity building initiative examining issues of unconscious bias, Indigenization, and matters of equity was cut. (The idea was to mobilize those in Arts who have a deep concern for issues of social justice and equity, particularly where this is the specialization of many of our faculty.) This added a further savings of \$20,000.

However, we were still left needing to a cut an additional \$165,000. This led to us having to send messages to Arts Chairs requesting cuts to Spring courses being offered by CAS or by RAS as overload when these had an enrolment 20 students or less. The figure itself is arbitrary to a certain extent, but we took into consideration if the course was going to be offered again in the Fall and Winter for 2018-19 and worked with Chairs to take into account the needs of programs.

However, having said that, Catherine states that she is open to problem-solving discussions. And, if going forward there are further changes that reduce salary costs, we may be able to offer more

sections of courses; as it stands now, reducing the budget for CAS and RAS teaching overload is the only viable solution.

As Acting Dean of Business and Economics, Hugh Grant states that they were asked to reduce their budget by \$240,000. They were able to achieve this by leaving one staff position and one tenure-track position unfilled. This meant they were able to avoid cuts to their stipend budget.

Catherine notes that, for Arts, the decision was made to maintain the new tenure-track positions.

Steven Kohm asks about the breakdown of CAS versus RAS teaching overload. *Lisa McLean will follow-up.*

Discussion

- The decision to use 20 as the minimum enrolment for courses offered on stipend was questioned, as was the value of waiting longer to see if the low enrolment sections fill.

Catherine agrees that waiting for further registration was a consideration, but that was weighed against cancelling sections before students register, so as to not inconvenience them.

- Concern was expressed for those who had already been preparing their courses.
- The suggestion was made suggests that each department could be given a mini-budget and then they would have the capacity to make changes as necessary. Here, though, there was concern expressed that some departments might have built-in extra sections that could be cut and others not. Therefore, it was suggested that you'd need to review programs to determine what spending should be on a per program basis, etc.
- Concern was expressed regarding demand particularly on small departments that are already at capacity.
- The teaching capacity and budget of large Arts departments was compared against that of the Faculty of Business and Economics. . .
- Issues of equity were raised where, for example, there's a hire going ahead in senior admin.
- It doesn't seem right, it was said, to say it doesn't matter how much revenue we bring in.

Catherine agrees, but explains that while big enrolments contribute to UW's income, and would help make the case for a larger Arts budget in future, tuition dollars are not passed on to the Faculties, so we don't see the additional revenue. [In other words, we would have to cut sections even if all of our courses were over cap.]

- It was noted that, if the budget is being cut 1% overall across the institution, \$300,000 would seem like a disproportionately high part of the Arts budget.

Catherine explains that 300K is about 1.5% of Arts budget, so above the 1% cut, but we have to factor in the RAS salary increases (about 3.7%) as these are the largest part of the budget. Catherine added that it's hard to say if the reduction in Arts is in line with the cuts in other faculties. In some areas, the cuts might be less because there is less capacity to start with. Science, she says, didn't go ahead with the 3 hires that had been approved for 2018-19 and they have a roof to replace on a greenhouse. There are different issues in the different areas.

- Concern was expressed about equity within the institution; just as the university feels there should be equity in funding levels from the province, so too should we expect there to be equity in funding levels within the institution. Though it was also acknowledged to be the case that some departments with higher enrolment help the smaller department within Arts.
- It was felt that there is a compelling case to be made that Arts isn't funded as it should be by using basic statistics (e.g., student FCEs per RAS, etc.). Though Catherine cautions that we would want to avoid setting up a competitive situation within Arts, and so she suggests keeping this as a faculty by faculty comparison.
- Chairs agree that there's something compelling about stats and charts, etc.
- One issue, Catherine says, is that donors don't recognize the areas of arts and education in the way they do other disciplines. This is reflected in the architecture of our campus and the situation is similar at other universities as well.
- The point was made to argue that we need to try to address the issue of the structural deficit and underfunding of UWinnipeg as compared to the University of Manitoba and Brandon University. It is, after all, our tax dollars that are being disproportionately allocated. At one time, there was talk of a joint appeal to the province with management, the unions, and students.
- Another consideration is that in some departments, there are retirements significant numbers of anticipated, while they're already down, in some cases, a single RAS member who is core in an area and some streams are being offered entirely by CAS. Many departments already have courses being offered in rotation.

Several Chairs offer to sit on a subcommittee that would look in more detail at Arts and the University budget. *Catherine Taylor will set up a meeting and send an e-mail to Chairs inviting them to attend if they'd like.*

Merchants Course invitation

Arts Council members are invited to the Merchants Corner on Selkirk Avenue for our next meeting (April 25) to see the new space of our Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies.

Supports for CAS and new RAS

We've had a request for guides departments might have that would be useful for CAS and new RAS. *Catherine Taylor invites Chairs to send anything you have that might be helpful on to her and our office will make those files available to all Chairs.*

Roundtable (including department events)

- Catherine Taylor states that she has been the representative to Congress. She isn't able to attend this year and asks that if there's someone who is already planning to attend, and who would be willing to go to the dinner and to the general meeting as the UWinnipeg representative, please let her know.

- Tim Babcock requests that two THFM special studies courses, i.e., THFM-3003 (Special Studies in Theatre/Film Humanities) and THFM-4043 (Honours Special Studies in Theatre/Film Humanities), be designated as Humanities courses and these are approved.

Motion to adjourn (T. Whalen/S. Viselli). Approved.