

Faculty of Arts Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
12:30-1:30 PM via Zoom

Present: Adina Balint, Jackie Benson, Rachel Berg, Derrick Bourassa, Christopher Brauer, Brandon Christopher, Rory Dickson, Jonathon Franklin, Joan Grace, Fiona Green, Kelly Gorkoff, Peter Ives, Paul Lawrie, Lisa McLean, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Mark Meuwese, Glenn Moulaison, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Jacqueline Romanow, Jonathan Sears, Conor Whately.

Regrets: Pauline Greenhill.

Guests: Dan Elves (Information and Privacy Officer), Brianne Selman (Scholarly Communications and Copyright Librarian).

Remarks from the Chair

There will soon be official communication on the opening up of campus during Winter term; however, it is expected that there won't be any significant change. There could be a few more essential classes/labs taught, some exams offered, an increase in allowed research activities. The authorization process would be the same as for Fall term.

Although not official, enrolments are healthy. There is a slight decrease in first-time undergraduate students, but an increase in returning students. The numbers for graduate students are reversed, with an increase (20%, *i.e.* 20 students) in new students and a decrease in returning students.

Finance will soon be requesting budget projections for the current fiscal year.

Motion to approve the agenda (B. Christopher/J. McLeod Rogers). **Approved.**

Motion to adopt the minutes of 23 September 2020 (J. Sears/C. Brauer). **Approved.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

Jan Stewart, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) thanked Arts Council for the invitation to attend in order to discuss the Space Committee (and the concern regarding representation and transparency), but declined. Her feeling was that she had nothing to add to what had already been said: 1) it is an administrative committee and is ultimately accountable to the President; 2) the Committee often deals with sensitive or legal issues.

Members of Arts Council again expressed their concern with the continued lack of transparency.

Copyright Policy

D. Elves and B. Selman presented a proposed amendment to the University Copyright Policy, “requiring teaching faculty to view a 10-minute copyright educational video in Nexus.” This is part of the University’s risk-mitigation effort in light of its independence from Access Copyright, who has increased its legal pressure on non-members. Concerns were raised about timeline, the “requirement” itself, especially in relation to CAS; Elves and Selman recognized the need to be flexible in implementing the change in policy, which would be effective for the Winter term.

International Students and Language Proficiency

This was initially brought up in a March meeting of Arts Council. Since then, there are more reports of issues—not only involving the difficulty of communicating with international students. There are concerns that there is not a lot of caretaking of these students, who have language and technological needs. It was suggested that Arts Council invite someone from the international office to a further meeting.

Academic Standards

Academic integrity continues to be a concern for faculty members, especially now given the added challenges of remote delivery. Arts Council heard from Fiona Green who, as past Chair of Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct, spoke of previous efforts in this area, including the development of a video for students to watch. Paul Lawrie, current Chair, said a memo from the Committee would soon go out offering some guidance to instructors.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting would be a workshop for Chairs and DPC Chairs, primarily about the review of faculty-based criteria and evaluative criteria.

Motion to adjourn (B. Christopher/K. Gorkoff). **Approved.**

Glenn Moulaison

Date