

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Faculty Council  
held December 10, 2019 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: R. Baker; K. Bessant; M. Bower; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Gasse; S. Grills; E. Holland; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; A. Marshall; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; D. Ramsey; B. Strang; M. Torabi; D. Winter; L. Wood; L. Robson (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: J. Allan; S. Asselin; C. Boulton; J. Dolecki; J. Forsythe; H. Gillander; P. Harms; R. Hinthner; M. Malainey; V. Maud; J. Naylor; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Taylor; D. Wilson; H. Zhuang; S. Grills (Student Services); B. Ntelinglou (Educ.).

ABSENT: A. Abdou; B. Ashton; D. Combet; J. Forsythe; A. Inkpen; D. Klonowski; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mattes; L. Mayer; K. Noll; W. Robles; C. Schneider; D. Smid; H. Venema; K. Wong; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION: (Ramsey/Gasse) – THAT the Agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

**MOTION: (Medd/Holland) – THAT the Minutes of November 5, 2019 be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

**3.0 Chair's Report**

The Acting Dean reported that we have hired Dr. Rachel Elliott in Philosophy to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The Department of Business Administration is in the middle of two searches – Human Resources and Strategic Management.

The Acting Dean drew members' attention to an email sent this morning about changes to the APA format and asked that they note which edition you require your students to follow.

Staffing: At PAC yesterday, Deans received word about positions. Although the Budget and the Staffing plan are not yet finalized, we have been approved to hire in Accounting to replace Prof. Gillander. No approval in French or in Clinical Specialization or of any new/growth positions (History, Business, half-time advisor in Business Administration, or a Rhetoric Supervisor). Dr. Gasse asked if the administration would provide information to the Faculty in writing re their rationale? Dr. Winter asked how long the Languages position had been vacant and if this was not a violation of the C.A. Dr. Robson noted that the line position has not been removed, but put on hold again. She did note that this is detrimental to the Department in many ways. Dr. Strang questioned whether other faculties were receiving similar news. Dr. Robson replied that they had indeed. Approvals were circulated for the campus yesterday at PAC and many position requests were left unfilled. There was a 2.8 million variance between requests and available budget. That gap is now down to about a \$600,000 difference.

In terms of sabbatical replacements we requested 5 ½ and we received 3. RDI will be creative in their replacement. The location of our three sabbatical replacements were up to Dr. Robson. Her decision was based on the information she received from Departments, as well as the number of students affected. They will go to Business (needed to allow marketing courses to run), English (to provide historical breath), and to Political Science (to backfill two half-sabbaticals and a good number of majors and minors). Anthropology did not receive a replacement. This too is a 3 person department, but there are a minimal number of majors and minors and we will serve them with sessional courses. History is a

very healthy department in the number of majors and minors; however, the department's structure allows for some flexibility in courses offered. Again, sessional courses will be offered here to fill gaps.

Some members of the History Department expressed their dissatisfaction and noted that their flexibility to move students through their program seems to work against them. Dr. Ramsey questioned how Arts compared to other faculties. Members also asked if any new positions and non-teaching positions were approved. Dr. Grills noted that Arts increased by 13 positions when he was Dean but all of those positions came from Provincial funds, not within the University. The current strategy to request new positions pits faculties and Departments against each other in a competition for resources. It was suggested that when decisions on positions impact academic programs, that Senate could ask the Board of Governors to overturn such decisions.

#### **4.0 New Business**

##### **4.1 Election – Armed Forces Qualification Assessment Committee**

The person in this position would work one to two hours per month with Gary McNeely through PLAR. Mihelakis volunteered and was appointed.

**4.2 Research Recognition:** The Chair noted Dr. Ken Bessant's book "The Relational Fabric of Community;" Dr. Jonathan Allan's book "Men, Masculinities and Popular Romance"; Dr. Wilder Robles authored "The Politics of Agricultural Cooperativism in Brazil: A Case Study of the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST)" in the *Journal of Co-operative Organization and Management* and also received a \$20,000 ELAP Program Grant with Dr. Ali Salmon of Health Studies; Dr. Rhonda Hinthier received an ASPP Publication Grant valued at \$8,000 and was offered a three year Associate Position with the Wilson Institute for Canadian History at McMaster University; and Dr. Reinhold Kramer's book "Are we Post-Modern Yet and Were we Ever?" was also published. We know there is more work going on in our Faculty. Should we come at this recognition in another direction? Doug Ramsey is the Research Coordinator for this year and has offered again to create a publication for the faculty. We will also have a celebration of work later in the year. The Dean welcomed other ideas to promote and celebrate research in Arts.

##### **4.3 Use of Classroom Equipment**

We have sent reminders out but problems continue with a/v cabinets being left open, computers left on, etc. This will cost us in time and money at some point. Please be attentive to these matters.

#### **5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

##### **5.1 Grading System**

Two issues came forward at CAP. First, Science has again brought up the idea of a numerical grade system; no letter grades. Send your thoughts on this to Dr. Robson. The second matter, was whether each faculty could create a consistent grading scale. Could we create consistency within the faculty?

#### **6.0 Other Business**

David Winter questioned whether course caps for next year have been arbitrarily lowered. He requested that Sally Mott contact Chairs before changing anything.

Lisa Wood announced that Printmaking I students, U of M students, and Martha Street Studio students have a show called *Trio* running Friday, December 13- 20<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg at Martha Street Studio.

#### **7.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.