

## Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council meeting of May 26, 2020

Held by Zoom

**PRESENT:** S. Asselin; R. Baker; C. Boulton; K. deForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Elliott; J. Forsythe; R. Gasse; S. Gills; A. Hanemaayer; R. Hinthner; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; D. Ramsey; K. Saunders; B. Strang; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; Sh. Grills (Student Services); L. Robson (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

**REGRETS:** J. Allan; K. Bessant; K. Noll; D. Smid.

**ABSENT:** A. Abdou; B. Ashton; J. Dolecki; H. Gillander; P. Harms; E. Holland; D. Klonowski; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mattes; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; W. Robles; B. Rose; C. Schneider; K. Spice; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; D. Wilson; L. Xu; H. Zhuang.

**ON LEAVE:** D. Combet; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; A. Marshall; C. Mason; D. Racine; E. Varley, H. Venema.

### 5.4 Fieldwork Policy – Scott Lamont

Dr. Robson welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Mr. Scott Lamont. Mr. Lamont spoke briefly to the Fieldwork Policy. He noted that the policy is not to stop anyone from doing their research, but rather to ensure that everyone does their due diligence ahead of that work, to ensure that the risks are understood and that reasonable steps are taken to mitigate the risks. Many faculty members raised concerns including supervisors having the authority to deny research (appendix 1); the notion of 'politically unstable regions' and 'high risk' and who defines these terms; that personal use of vehicles while in the field after 'work hours' may be needed (to acquire food, laundry, etc.); the monitoring of people who voluntarily take vaccines but not those who don't (appendix 3); the ability to present alternative safety plans and procedures; the need to do risk assessments for all actions (eg. even working at home); and the fact that many researchers do, and need to, put themselves in potentially unsafe work spaces and should be able to make those judgement calls themselves. In addition, assessing all risk in advance is not always possible; some fieldwork is solitary and should not be discouraged; and members generally found it over-reaching, the lack of autonomy for the researcher inappropriate, and recommended a global change of replacing 'must' with 'it is recommended that.' Furthermore, when faculty are financing their own research, this policy may not be appropriate. Mr. Lamont suggested setting up a cross-discipline, cross-faculty committee to work on the policy. Members felt that representation should come from both the Humanities and the Social Sciences and so recommended two members from each faculty. Mr. Lamont also questioned what bodies the policy should go through in the approval process. Faculty suggested this should go through CAP and Senate and then the Board as it is a legal liability document.

### 4.5 Possible New Integrated Lib Arts Degree

The Dean noted that Dr. Heather Duncan and Andrea McDaniel were going to present to AFC in item 4.5 Possible New Integrated Liberal Arts Degree. However, Dr. Duncan indicated that she would like to postpone this item for the time being.

**MOTION: (Gasse/Petrella) THAT the May 26, 2020, AFC be allowed to continue past 2:00 p.m.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 4.1 Elections

**MOTION: (Winter/Naylor) – THAT all nominations be accepted.**

**CARRIED.**

The Dean noted that a volunteer is still needed to sit on the V-P Search Committee. This important role will require a significant time commitment. No members came forward. If you are interested, please contact the new Nominations Coordinator, Dr. Eftihia Mihelakis.

#### 4.2 Course and Calendar Changes

Dr. Grills spoke to the desire of both the Sociology (Crime and Community Stream) and Justices Studies Program to accept the new Forensic Anthropology Field School for credit in these programs.

**MOTION: (Grills/Petrella) – THAT AFC approve the calendar changes for Sociology (Crime and Community Stream) and for the Justice Studies Certificate.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 4.3 Senate Research and Teaching Awards

The Dean explained that both the Senate Research Award and the Senate Teaching Awards place a fair amount of work on the nominator. She would like to explore ways in which we can make this process less demanding and therefore encourage more nominations. Dr. Robson also noted that the processes for these two awards are currently under review. She asked members if they preferred to wait to see what the changes are, or if we might like to propose a change to our process now. Members agreed to the importance of the awards. Dr. Mihelakis, Dr. Arianne Hanemaayer and Prof. Lisa Wood volunteered to work on the rewording of the policy. Dr. McCulloch noted there are two committees in Arts that could perhaps do some of the proactive work. Members offered suggestions for process changes.

#### 4.4 PENT Grades

Concerns arose this year in a specific course that highlighted the disparity between the final grades often given in the PENT courses and the grades within the Arts Faculty for those same courses. This is not a new issue. The PENT grades are quite elevated. Dr. Robson met with John Minshull and Heather Duncan who were very open to the discussion. Mr. Minshull suspected that instructors were unaware of what the expectation should be and was very welcoming of further conversations. He encouraged speaking with their instructors as they are hired, communicating our expectations of rigour, share outlines if instructors are willing to do so, provide grading guidelines, etc., and even addressing the importance of prerequisites. They welcomed bringing the courses more in concert with ours. Dr. Winter spoke to the shock that PENT students receive when taking non-PENT courses. Dr. Gasse noted that department Chairs are not required to hire instructors who will not keep grades reasonable (provided they don't have RFR). Chairs do have some power to keep grade inflation in order. The Dean asked Chairs to keep this in mind when approving PENT courses and asked that they reach out to instructors.

#### 5.1 Common Grading Scale

**MOTION: (Strang/Smid) – THAT The Faculty of Arts adopt the grading scheme outlined in Plan A.**

**CARRIED.**

Lisa Murray will send this out so that we can implement this for fall session.

### 5.2 Honours Thesis in Inter-disciplinary Studies degree

Arts Review and Planning suggested we keep the thesis but keep it optional and proposed new calendar language. Dr. Robson noted that her office has not seen this proposal. Dr. Strang noted that although we don't currently have any students in this degree, Arts R&P felt it was of value and because maintaining the degree is minimal work, but reinstating a deleted degree is considerable work, it should remain. If this is suitable to AFC, they will proceed with developing the thesis course itself.

**MOTION: (Strang/Grills) – THAT AFC approve the change to the IDS degree to make the Thesis optional.**

**CARRIED.**

### 5.3 Ad Hoc Committee on Program Innovation

The e-vote to the Motion to develop this committee resulted in the majority of members being in favour of its creation. The Dean asked members what the mandate and composition of this committee should be. Dr. Petrella, who brought forth the motion originally, reminded faculty that the intent was to create a committee that would discuss program visioning, with people that might be interested in moving programming forward, and perhaps to do a study and look at what other universities have been doing to meet student demand for program innovation. Simply a group of people who have an interest in thinking outside the box, in interdisciplinary and even interfaculty ways to create some potential scenarios in which the faculty could consider and vote on. Dr. Ramsey volunteered as RD is already interdisciplinary and the only grad program in Arts. Dr. Gasse, Dr. Mihelakis, Dr. Elliot, Dr. Dwivedula and Dr. Saunders also volunteered.

### 6.0 Other Business/Announcements

The Dean congratulated Dr. Eftihia Mihelakis and Prof. Lisa Wood who have received Tenure.

The Dean noted that the U of M is putting on a zoom seminar on June 11 for how to apply for a Bombardier Scholarship. Please bring this to the attention of appropriate students.

Karen Skinner is working part-time in Student Services as a writing skills specialist, and she has reached out to us to let us know that she is a resource for our students while Joan Garbutt is on sabbatical. She is offering to provide in-class workshops on essay basics, will do one-on-one appointments by zoom or phone, provide instructors and students with online resources, etc. Curt Shultz sent an email today about training opportunities on Zoom and other platforms. Dr. Robson also drew members' attention to an email from a colleague who is putting together academic tutorials in the form of games for students and is asking for participation from folks.

BURC grants were announced today and the full list of recipients is on the web. Arts received many grants this year.

Prof. Forsythe stated that a significant number of student were not willing or unable to work with zoom groups in class. He wondered if training would be offered to students as well. Dr. Robson confirmed that tutorials will be available once we know what direction we are going and how each course will be taught. Prof. Forsythe also noted that some students indicated they do not have a private space in which to work.

Drs. Rhonda Hinthner and Chris Schneider earned Promotion to Full Professor and the Dean extended congratulations to them both.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:57.