Faculty of Arts Council
October 20, 2009
408 Tier Building
2:30 pm

MINUTES


Prior to the start of the agenda, Dean Sigurdson announced that he had invited Karen Grant, Vice Provost (Academic Affairs) to update the faculty on the OARs (Optimizing Academic Resources) project.

K. Grant explained that the objective of the project is to find ways to improve how we deliver programs and courses within the University. She also noted that there are 3 sub-committees within OARs; the Rules, Regulations and Red Tape (RRR) committee, the Academic Synergies and Efficiencies (ASE) committee and the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) committee. Each of the three committees has a short timeline to work in, beginning in early October and completing their work by mid February. A draft report from each of the committees will go to the vice presidents. In turn, the recommendations will go to all Faculty Councils for recommendations and then go to the appropriate Senate committee for approvals.

There will be some public sessions for each of the committees and the hopes are that the entire University community will become engaged in this process.

R. Sigurdson thanked K. Grant for her presentation and began the meeting.

1. Meeting Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be adopted as circulated (G. McLean / M. Gabbert) 
CARRIED
2. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

**MOTION:** That the minutes of April 22, 2009 be approved as circulated.  
(L. Wilson/Tina Chen)  
**CARRIED**

3. Business arising from the minutes

3.2 Revision of Faculty Council By-laws regarding election of Senators  
R. Sigurdson reviewed the bylaw which indicates that only members of the faculty holding full time academic positions were eligible for a position as an Arts Senator. However, past practice has been to elect one support staff member who is also a member of Faculty Council as a Senator. R. Sigurdson advised that wording and direction would be sought from the University Secretary’s office, taken forward to Faculty Executive Committee and Faculty Council for approval. There were no questions.

4. Updates

*M. Lawall*  
- Thanked all who have responded to the lapsed course list request  
- If any departments had not yet responded to the lapsed course list request, a response is required by October 23  
- Next CPAC meeting will be in January and has a deadline of November 13th for material to go forward for that meeting.  
- Most space needs have been accommodated.  
- New office space for Women’s and Gender Studies is complete; but the Program is still looking for furniture. If anyone knows of good used furniture, contact C. Donatelli.  
- Reminded to report all issues and or problems in the classrooms to Tobi Hawkins  
- 39 UMGF awards were made and 28 were renewed.  
- 6 offers are out for Arts Graduate Awards and are largely complete for this year.  
- Main focus of pandemic planning is to develop list of back up replacements for staffing.  
- Is on OARS Rules, Regulations and Red Tape sub-committee – encouraged faculty members to submit ALL complaints regarding rules etc to him to take forward to the committee

*R. Hoppa*  
- 33 SHRC Standard research grants went forward  
- NSERC has just been completed. Numbers will come forward at next Faculty Council  
- Encouraged all faculty members to investigate Jump Research tools and to enter key words for searching for funding opportunities, etc. Heads are encouraged to tell faculty members about this resource.  
- Travel and conference sponsorship program closes at the end of the month.  
- Likely be a Canada Fund for Innovation (CFI) call this winter, will be listening for that and will advise in the future.  
- Two areas of research that are keen for funding opportunities are Arctic issues and mental health areas – encouraged faculty to look for funding opportunities in these areas
Undergraduate poster competition has been opened up to all and is taking place on Nov. 9.
- The U of M and the province’s Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines is holding an information session on the Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit on Dec. 11. Contact him for more information.

L. Wilson
- Evening of Excellence is all set for Monday, October 26.
- In addition, next week is World W.I.S.E. week – keynote speaker on Wednesday at 2:30 in the EITC 3, is Dr. James Orbinski, Médecins sans frontières. Other speakers include UM graduate and honorary degree recipient, Dr. Nahlah Ayed, CBC international correspondent.
- Two ad hoc working groups have been set up for two new transcript designations, one for language and one for international. These working groups will report to the Dean.
- Banner bugs are well under way. Ten will be completed for Info Days and likely before December for individual departmental/program events.
- Discipline reports were due last Friday; please forward as soon as possible if you have not submitted. MUST have by Oct 28.
- Advised that she is a member of the new working group established by the VP (Academic) for Associate Deans (Undergraduate) and Undergraduate Liaison Officers. She is also a member of a subgroup of this committee to review student disciplinary matters. The first meeting of the subgroup is October 26.

R. Sigurdson
Budget and staffing update
- advised Council that the upcoming budget process will be delayed by about a month.
- all faculties have been instructed to build a 5% flexibility into budget – this equates to 1.7 million from our current budget.

ROSE and OARS project update
- ROSE project is looking for inefficiencies within the University.
- He has also indicated during initial talks with the ROSE committee that he will not support a centralization of our IST support.
- He has also been advised to build the 5% flexibility into the faculty’s academic staffing plan.

5. Report of Arts Executive Committee

Reports of the meetings of June 10, 2009 and September 4, 2009 were provided to the committee.
6. New Business

6.1 Proposal for program name change of the Near Eastern & Judaic Studies Program

J. Lewis (Religion) noted the program had been dormant. B. Baader (History) and he are coordinating a revival of the program. A simpler name is easier to remember, the focus is on Judaic studies, and the new name is a better representation of the program.

**MOTION:** That the proposal for a program name change of the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Program to Judaic Studies Program be approved as submitted (J. Lewis / M. Lawall)

*CARRIED*

6.2 Recommendations brought forward by the Arts Academic Regulations Policy Committee for a new 90-credit-hour undergraduate degree program in Arts

R. Sigurdson asked L. Wilson to speak briefly on the report. L. Wilson explained that the program evolved out of initial discussions with Arts and Extended Education about the perceived need for a program that permits adult learners to ladder prior University course work and certificate programs into a full bachelor’s degree. These initial talks began about 3 ½ years ago. Quoting from the full proposal, circulated electronically to Faculty Council, L. Wilson noted “The Bachelor of Arts Integrated Studies is a three-year degree program offered by the Faculty of Arts to serve working adults who have completed some post secondary education. The degree requires areas of concentration rather than the traditional major/minor requirement, providing a more flexible path for degree completion but also ensuring academic rigor (e.g., appropriate writing and quantitative skills, breadth requirements, and an appropriate percentage of upper level courses). The degree will formally recognize the education completed by certificate or diploma holders. The BA Integrated Studies would meet a critical need in Manitoba, build on existing areas of strength, and move the institution in directions identified as priorities.” She also highlighted the unique aspects of the program, including admissions criteria, foundation courses and topical concentrations rather than major or minors.

T. Chen asked what the teaching and financial requirements would be for this program. L. Wilson referred Council to the appendices, where some of this information is included. Then, she explained that this program would help to stave off enrollment drops by encouraging adult learners to return to University. COPSE will be lobbied for costs and advertising, which will be geared to working adults, including Aboriginal people and international immigrants who may be underemployed.

A. Young asked if the courses would be offered in Extended Ed or Arts? L. Wilson explained that many of the courses would be distance education courses but that we may see an increase in Arts classroom numbers, too.
MOTION: That the recommendations brought forward by the Arts Academic Regulations Policy Committee to establish a new 90-credit-hour undergraduate degree program—the B. A. (Integrated Studies) be approved as submitted.

CARRIED

6.3 Recommendations brought forward by the Arts Course And Program Approval Committee

M. Lawall noted that the report submitted had a lot of housecleaning in it and that there was significant clean up of courses. There are also various additions that take advantage of new hires in the Faculty.

MOTION: That the recommendations brought forward by the Arts Course And Program Approval Committee be approved as submitted

CARRIED

6.4 R. Sigurdson remarked that the Faculty currently does not have a Mission, Vision, or Values statement. Therefore, he would like to encourage the writing of these statements by an ad hoc Faculty Council committee, whose function would be to write these statements, and once the statements are approved by Faculty Council, disband. R. Sigurdson indicated that he felt the statements belong to the Faculty and not the Dean’s office and therefore the Faculty should own the process. The suggested composition of the ad hoc committee is three faculty members, one student and one support staff member.

Some concern was expressed on having a Vision and Values statement as well as a Mission statement. It was felt these may be too broad and that just a Mission statement would be more concrete.

R. Sigurdson commented that without all three of these statements it is very difficult to craft appropriate language for opportunities that require Dean’s to situate their requests with the Mission, Vision, and/or Values of the University.

It was also expressed that this would be a strategic time to develop a statement for the Faculty and will enable us to speak clearly on University initiatives.

MOTION: That Faculty Council approve the development of an ad hoc committee to develop an Arts Mission, Vision and Values statement as requested by Faculty Executive Committee

CARRIED

6.5 Future dates for Faculty Executive Committee and Faculty Council meetings were reviewed. There were no comments.
7. **Question Period**

What is currently being done by the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights committee?

M. Lawall, Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights committee, noted that the committee met in September and will be meeting again in November. The departmental reports will be reviewed and synthesized. A report of the committee will be brought forward to the next Faculty Council.

8. **Adjournment**

*MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:05 (L. Wilson)*