Faculty of Arts Council  
April 13, 2011  
100 Fletcher Argue Building  

MINUTES


1. Adoption of the Agenda

Prof. Desai requested an addition item be added to the agenda. The request was denied. Dean Sigurdson suggested she present her question during question period.

MOTION: That the agenda be adopted as submitted  (H. Keselman/L. Wilson)

CARRIED

2. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of February 3, 2011 be approved as circulated.  
(H. Keselman/G. MacLean)

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes

3.1 IT Shared Services

Dean Sigurdson advised that he had worked tirelessly to ensure the faculty retain it’s IT staff. However, after a successful pilot of the new IT model at Bannatyne Campus, it was decided that Fort Garry would follow suit. A trial involving several other faculties is already taking place and it appears it will just be a matter of time before the rest of Fort Garry campus follows suit.

Prof. Ladner asked whether assistance with research equipment would be included in the new IT structure. Dean Sigurdson advised that talks are currently under way to determine if certain technicians would be assigned IT support for specialized research, however he was not certain whether that would apply to Arts.

Prof. Loxley indicated that although Faculty Council had made a formal motion regarding this issue at a previous Faculty Council meeting, he would like to make another motion in this regard.
Professor Owens asked what the process is next for this motion. Dean Sigurdson explained that he will forward the recommendation to the Co-Chairs of the ROSE committee.

**MOTION:** The Arts faculty Council reiterates the importance it attaches to retaining its autonomy over the IT function and to retaining its IT staff within the faculty and within the Tier and Duff Roblin Buildings. It reaffirms its rejection of the ROSE proposal to centralize IT services.

(J. Loxley/J. Sealey) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Updates

4.1 Associate Deans

*M. Lawall* -
- still in process of awarding and allocating UMGF
- tri council has not announced awards
- a council of Associate Deans of Graduate Studies has been developed to in part address the time to completion report. It has only met once but he noted it promises to be very beneficial and a good forum for discussion
- a Psychology student was the winner of the dissertation award in Psychology
- Strategic Enrollment Management Rules committee has been reconstituted and will begin meeting again next month after a one year hiatus

*R. Hoppa – absent*

Prof. Churchill directed his question to the Dean as the Associate Dean Research was absent. He asked why an *adhoc* committee had been struck to develop the strategic research plan instead of having the Research Committee develop it. Dean Sigurdson explained that he wanted a committee that would include different representation, such as CRC’s and that the committee would have fresh eyes and take a different look at the status of research in the faculty.

Prof. Churchill stated that he feels the *adhoc* committee was struck to sidestep Faculty Council and that he was not satisfied by the Dean’s answer.

*L. Wilson*

- **UM Info Days** (Feb 23-24, 2011) was a huge success
- **ARTS Mini-Info/Career Days** “What Can I Do with My Arts Degree?” was presented by David Ness and Elizabeth Boyle in March. Highlighted presentations by current Arts undergrads/grad student on how the synergies between their Arts experience and their community outreach session
- **ARTS nominations for Students’ Teacher Recognition Reception** yielded two graduating Arts undergrads to represent the Faculty at this annual event of celebration. Names to be divulged at the event along with the names of the K-12 and UM faculty they will be celebrating.
- **ARTS call for nominations for Excellence in Teaching Awards.** Deadline for submission of official nominations is this Friday, April 15, 2011. Nominations are encouraged for grad students who have taught one or more courses for within the past academic year. Once again nominations are light in this category.
- Deadline for **nominations** for the **Professor of the Year award** and the **Award in Internationalization** is April 30, 2011.
- **BAIS**—With admissions for Summer Session, 2011, Arts has successfully completed its first full year of admissions to this program. The first year’s enrollment is 61 students, which eclipsed the original estimate of 50 students.

- **ARTS and SCIENCE Value-added**—The Division of Extended Education has developed a Certificate in Management program for Arts and Science, wherein B.A. and B.Sc. students who have at least 9 credit hours of course work in Arts or Science at the 3000- to 4000-level can register for the Certificate program. The student must successfully complete 9 credit hours from a selected list of management courses offered through Extended Education. This gives Arts graduating students the opportunity to get a management-based certificate as they graduate with their B.A. or B.Sc. as part of their educational armamentarium in working towards careers outside or inside the University.

- Following a presentation to Provost’s Council on Arts’ plan to implement an **International designation** on transcripts for graduating students the Vice-President (Academic) charged Karen Grant (Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs) and Tony Rogge (Director, International Centre for Students) to draft a preamble for university-wide implementation of this designation. Other Faculties and Schools are currently developing their lists of courses and international outreach/volunteer experiences to add to the checklists of courses/activities that can be considered for this designation.

**B. Ferguson**

- **CPAC deadline is April 15th**

- **Spanned Courses** - There seems to be a real move to abolish 6 credit hour courses by the Senate Curriculum and Course Change Committee. Prof. Austin Smith asked if there was some way to present to this committee but Prof. Ferguson feels that with the proposal going forward to Senate next month, there would not be enough time.

Prof. Gabbert stated that this should be a Faculty issue, not a Senate issue. Spanned courses have not been a problem in the Faculty of Arts. He noted that this is the first time this has been brought up to Faculty Council. He also noted that when Aurora was launched the faculty was assured that the elimination of 6 credit hour courses would NOT happen.

Prof. Owens wanted to know how this falls into the strategic enrollment plan. Dean Sigurdson noted that he sits the steering committee of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee and that this matter has not come up or been discussed at all by the committee.

Prof. Owens noted that her departments 6 credit hour courses have capped out and that there is always a demand for these courses.

Prof. Guard indicated that the survey recently completed on innovative teaching indicates that the type of teaching that Arts celebrates and that makes Arts stand out requires field placements, multiple teachers as well as other factors and that these courses must have 6 credit hours.

Prof. Lawall noted that the committee meetings always seem to express both sides of the argument and that there are several other faculties that are very adverse to the elimination of spanned courses.
Prof. Austin-Smith noted that departments should not have to ask for permission to offer courses that best serve their students and disciplines. This motion is being provided to Prof. Ferguson as ammunition and new arguments to take forward.

R. O’Kell is concerned that the committee is meeting on Friday with a view to forward a recommendation to Senate in May. He feels that there seems to be a pattern in Senate to bring items forward during a time of year when Senators are not always present.

**MOTION:** That there are important pedagogical reasons why 6 credit, full academic year, courses should be retained. Most notably they provide an opportunity for the instructor to work with students to improve their writing skills by means of two or more major essay assignments and giving students a chance to respond to the instructor's comments in a subsequent essay, something that it is not realistically possible to do in the time allotted to a 3 credit half course.

Arts Council therefore moves that each individual department or program should be able to decide to retain 6 credit hour courses if they are deemed to offer significant pedagogical advantages for that discipline.

(R. O’Kell/M. Gabbert) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- There is a movement afoot to abolish **cross listing 4000 and 7000** courses.

  T. Chen noted that these discussions seem to come up every couple of years. J. Brownlie noted that she would be very much in favour of this motion if there were enough faculty members to teach graduate students. R. Desai said Graduate Studies should set up guidelines. L. Brown agreed that clear guidelines need to be established. S. Jaeger noted that small departments like German and Slavic studies would have the courses to offer a graduate program.

- **Arts Strategic Enrollment Committee** will be reporting on recruitment and retention with recommendations to the new dean for dispersal to Faculty Council next fall.

4.2 **Dean’s Update**

- budget information has not been released yet, however provincial government budget announcements indicate that the University budget went up from 2.5 to 5% and tuition increases will be held to 1%. This is relatively good news, however the university did not receive everything it wanted and there will still be cuts, although those cuts have not been made clear.

- almost all the academic searches are complete and the appointment process is nearly done. Two candidates have deferred their start date for one year to accept fellowships.

- ROSE project is into the implementation stage. Changes to the travel booking system and printing services have started to take place. The University is also moving forward with a new classroom booking tool that will be allocating classrooms in a centralized fashion. As well, the IT shared system is also moving forward.

- Faculty Council members were thanked for their participation on council and their recommendations to allow the university to see our views. He noted that faculty feels
strongly about important issues. He looks forward to joining the faculty after a one
year administrative leave. He also thanked Janet Sealy, Elisabeth Ross, Arts IT staff, and
the rest of the Dean’s Office staff for their help and support. He also thanked his
Associate Deans for their hard work and dedication.

5. Reports of the Standing Committees

5.1 Report of the Endowment Committee

Greg Smith reported briefly on the report. He also noted that he would encourage
undergraduate students to re-enact an automatic endowment fee that would ensure the
maintenance and eventual growth of the fund over the next 5-10 years.

The report to Faculty Council was presented for information only.

5.2 Annual Report of the Equity, Diversity & Human Rights Committee

Mark Lawall spoke briefly and noted that he would work at encouraging the committee to
meet more frequently.

The report to Faculty Council was presented for information only.

5.3 Annual Report of the Local Area Safety & Health Committee

M. Lawall noted that the minutes of the meeting are circulated and expressed his thanks
to Jennifer Chappellaz in the Dean’s Office for the huge amount of work she has put into
this committee.

The report to Faculty Council was presented for information only.

5.4 Annual Report of the Research Committee

T. Chen noted that the report should indicate the terms of reference were approved by
Faculty Council.

She also expressed her concerns that the calling of meetings for all Faculty Council
committees is not happening on a regular basis and that it is the chair of the committee’s
responsibility to ensure that this takes place.

6. New Business

6.1 Nominations and elections for Senate and Arts Standing Committees

CARRIED

6.2 Nomination and Elections for Arts Nominating Committee

CARRIED
6.3 Revised terms of Reference for Rules and Procedures Committee

Prof. Fergusson explained that the original terms of reference were moved into the new template but that there were no changes to the content of the terms.

MOTION: that the revisions to the terms of reference for the Rules and Procedures Committee be approved as submitted.

CARRIED

6.4 Revised terms of reference for the Nominating Committee

The chair of the Nominating Committee was not present. Janice Gripp, secretary to the committee explained that the only new language in the terms of reference was the addition of an explanation that vacancies on the Nominating Committee are filled by the Executive Committee.

MOTION: that the revisions to the terms of reference for the Nominating Committee be approved as submitted

CARRIED

7. Question Period

Prof. Desai questioned whether there was a conflict of interest in the appointment of Dr. George MacLean as the Dean’s designate to the Duff Roblin Professorship Search Committee when the Dean was a candidate for that Professorship.

Dean Sigurdson explained that he did not recall appointing Dr. MacLean as his designate and that as far as he understood, the Head of Political Studies was an ex officio member of the Duff Roblin Professorship search committee. He also noted that the Head of Political Studies sat on previous search committees for this professorship.

A brief discussion ensued with several faculty members making their opinions on this matter known, some positive and some negative. Prof. O’Kell indicated that the Dean had answered the question and that further discussion would be unprofitable.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.