

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Board Room F-216 and on Teams

Present: Neerusha Baurhoo, Rose Bloom, Elana Cooperberg, Natalia Delgado Avila, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Brock Hanly, Maggie Kathwaroon, Haritos Kavallos, Peter Labrinos, Estelle Lamothe, Carmelina Macri, Ilinca Magdalinoiu, Sandi Mak, John McMahon, Toby Moneit, Zsofia Orszagh, Kelly Purdy, Krista Riley, Maria Zamfotis

Regrets:

Quorum : Yes

Invited : Sylvie Tardif

Others: Barbara Baum, Genevieve Boucher, James Collins, Frederique Denis, Marie Gribbon, Joanne Guay, Avrum Goldberg, Anne L'Allier, Shawna Lambert, Erin MacLeod, Jacques Mainville, Isabelle Moncion, Dayna Morrow, Alena Perout, Nora Soukiassian, Ruby Viray

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

Prior to the approval of the agenda, M. Kathwaroon requested to add the item "DSO Approval Process" under point 5.i. Items for Consultation

With the change above, the agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Minutes of December 16, 2022

Prior to the approval of the minutes, T. Moneit requested to add "and the need for consultation in the community".

With the correction above, the minutes of December 16, 2022 were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

5. Main Business

N/A

i. Items for Consultation

a) DSO Approval Process

M. Kathwaroon presented this item and explained the need for clarity and understanding of the DSO approval process.

Members raised some concerns with the process such as the lack of feedback and transparency on how decisions are made and a lack of access to sufficient follow-up information.

R. Bloom added that the reason for bringing this topic to Council is because faculty representatives have a mandate to voice the concerns and opinions of the faculty at large. Moreover, B. Hanly added that it is mainly about inquiring and understanding the entire process as it directly impacts the Academic sector.

The Academic Dean (Interim) recognized and stressed the importance of transparency and clarity throughout the entire process. He proposed to create a presentation that could inform members of the community of the procedures and criteria for all stages of the DSO process: application, evaluation and feedback. The presentation could be done at a Joint Coordinators' Committee meeting to reach more members of the community.

ii. Items for Recommendation

a) 2023-2024 Academic Calendar and List of Considerations (Sylvie Tardif, 15 minutes)

S. Tardif presented this item and shared an electronic document with members. She explained that the draft calendar was presented during the council meeting on December 16th 2022, and concerns were expressed by council members related to the week in October where a PED day and PASS day were added. She then presented a different option that included some of the feedback received about the October week while outlining the pros and cons for each in terms of academic continuity.

The Director General informed members that following procedure, the Board of Directors can choose to accept the Academic Council's recommendation or they can choose to approve a calendar notwithstanding that recommendation.

Members went to caucus to discuss the Academic Calendar item.

Following the caucus, it was clarified by the Academic Dean (Interim) that one of the apparent options was in fact a simulation of consequences of a particular set of possibilities, and not something being proposed for recommendation. A motion was presented and members had a lengthy discussion. Concerns were raised over the PED day and Study Break having an impact on student attendance and faculty work load. More specifically, questions regarding the time frame for the PED day and why it was changed from August to October were brought forward.

E. Cooperberg, Dean of Academic Development and Research, clarified that the request to move PED day in October was a result of survey and data that was collected from previous PED days. Moreover, feedback was given as to why the PED day was not ideal in August since the collective agreement states that faculty cannot be reached during the summer period which in turn creates logistical difficulties in planning and impacts overall attendance.

A. Flewwelling-Skup spoke on behalf of faculty stating that the January 20th draft where Thursday and Friday require students to come back to classes will not be conducive to high attendance and will impact student success as well as Faculty work.

Council members agreed that there needs to be further consultations with the community at large and considerations need to be given to all parties affected (students, teachers, staff). A suggestion to create a survey was favoured by members but an emphasis was placed on ensuring that it remains transparent and clear on what is being asked. C. Macri added that the list of considerations could be revised to better reflect the current post-pandemic context.

Ultimately, this motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the Academic Calendar presented January 13th , revised January 20th , be adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

Community-wide data collection and consultation be performed in Fall 2023 in order to develop the best possible academic calendar for the next academic year.

Moved by H. Kavallos

Seconded by K.Purdy

The motion was approved (6-5).

b) Challenges of academic dean (John McMahon, 20 minutes)

The Interim Academic Dean, J.McMahon, asked K.Purdy, Faculty Dean of General Education to provide a brief summary of the process used by the sub-committee to produce the new document. The sub-committee formed at the previous meeting then convened during the holiday break and revised the document of challenges for the Academic Dean. The aim was to provide prospective applicants with more context especially for external applicants. Focus was placed on big picture items with the aim of not restricting the Academic Dean in their role and vision.

K. Purdy and T. Moneit took the time to recognize and thank the work of all sub-committee members.

Members requested to modify point #3 of the challenges and some points were reordered during the meeting.

Challenge #3: "The Academic Dean plays a key role in ensuring that ethics and integrity are at the core of all academic processes."

Was changed to

"The Academic Dean plays a key role in ensuring a culture of integrity and ethical management in all academic activities."

J. McMahon thanked members for their outstanding work and stated that this document will serve as a model for future Academic Dean searches. In addition, he reminded members that certain parts of the job description for the Academic Dean are included in By-Law #1 and the College Act.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the Academic Dean's challenges document presented and revised at Council on January 20th, 2023.

Moved by A. Flewwelling-Skup

Seconded by C. Macri

The motion carried unanimously.

c) Academic Space Committee – academic sector renovation requests (H. Kavallos, 10 minutes)

This item was presented by the Dean of Science and Technology, H. Kavallos. He explained the process for Renovations requests and what is coming in the coming months and years. Moreover, he stated that the goal is to be transparent and to provide information on how the process works. There are two types of renovation requests: Academic and Non-Academic. Both types of requests are collected through Sharepoint which will allow for better document management and will centralize all requests in one place.

He summarized the current renovation requests stating that 13 were submitted by the Academic sector and 12 were recommended. All requests were prioritized based on their nature: urgent, important or can be delayed.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors that the academic-sector renovation requests (2022-2023) be planned into the college's 5-year renovation plan based on the priorities suggested by the Academic Space Committee.

Moved by H. Kavallos

Seconded by C. Macri

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Bill 96, information and committee (John McMahon, 45 minutes)

The Interim Academic Dean, J. McMahon, shared updates with members concerning the Bill 96 and the policies that will need to be implemented. The Language policy needs to be adopted by June 2023 and certain components are directly related to the Academic Council such as the Admissions policy. The priority clause for certificate holders, which will be applicable in Winter 2024, will need to be included in the policy as well. The question remains as to how council should proceed with these matters.

Members discussed and asked questions on the various impacts these changes will have on the academic sector. A proposal to create a college-wide committee was favored by members and emphasis was put on including members from various sectors of the College:

- French department representatives
- Science department representatives
- Representatives from Academic Council
- Representatives from all staff categories: Support Staff, Professionals, Faculty

- Social Science department representatives
- English department representatives
- Complementary (Communications/Languages & Culture) department representatives
- Admissions representatives
- Registrars representatives
- TASC (works with sciences) representatives
- ACCESS representatives
- Student Success advisors
- Academic Advisors

The Academic Dean (Interim) agreed that a committee under the aegis of the Director General was the best vehicle for this work.

b) Program management policy (Elana Cooperberg, 15 minutes)

E. Cooperberg presented this item and shared a presentation electronically with members.

The goal of this presentation is to introduce the Project Management Policy revision process and to explain the roles of the Academic Council throughout the process. The PMP policy replaced the Program Evaluation Policy in 2017 incorporating the Continuing Education department in 2019 and is subject to review every 5 years.

E. Cooperberg outlined the role and responsibilities for the Academic Council and covered the areas that are under review. She asked members to read the policy carefully as the item will be brought back to Council for further discussion.

B. Hanly asked what is the composition of the working group.

E.Cooperberg listed the members of the working group:

- Elena Cooperberg (Institutional Chair)
- Brock Hanly (Academic Council Vice-Chair)
- Mark Cohen (FGE)
- Brandee Diner (FST)
- Joanne Guay (Ped Counsellor)
- Christos Theodorakos (FST)
- Marco Passucci (Academic Advisor)
- David Hoida (PSI Coordinator)
- Justice Bongiovanni (Student Representative)
- TBA from FABSS and FGE

7. Varia

N/A

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:36pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ghita Elazizi