

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, March 10, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Board Room F-216 and on Teams

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

Regrets: Neerusha Baurhoo, Dimana Naneva

Quorum: Yes

Invited: Elizabeth Cawley, Christina Cichon, Sarah Mughal, Sylvie Tardif

Others: Giovanna Arcuri, Mireille Béland, Katherine Collins, Andrea Di Domenico, Marie Gribbon, David Hoida, Hugo Leonardo Casanova, Isabelle Moncion, Alena Perout, Katie Rose, Ruby Viray

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Minutes of January 20, 2023

The minutes of January 20th were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) DSO presentation at Joints (Faculty members, 15 mins)

This item was added as some members of Academic Council could not attend the DSO presentation at the Joints Coordinators Committee meeting. E. Cooperberg responded that she will distribute the power point presentation to members by email. M. Kathwaroon asked if there was a follow-up to the joints presentation to provide further feedback or discussion to which E. Cooperberg replied that it can be added as an agenda item for a future academic council meeting.

5. Main Business

i. Items for Consultation

ii. Items for Recommendation

a) Complementary Courses Recommendation (K. Purdy, 15 minutes)

K. Purdy, Faculty Dean of General Education, presented this item and shared a document electronically with members. K. Purdy explained the process and timeline of the complementary course recommendation. She also presented three new courses to be added to the bank of complementary courses. Members inquired about the contents of some of these courses, the recommendation process and the deadline to submit proposals.

Moreover, specific concerns about the Sustainability course were raised. J. McMahon reminded members that it is critical to follow procedures to ensure a fair and equitable process. For course recommendations that were submitted after the deadline, K. Purdy offered to consider them if there were not sufficient spaces in the current recommendations.

Two motions were presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the College the addition of the following new courses to the bank of complementary courses:

- Destress Your Life Through Financial Literacy
- Democracy Death Spiral: A Survivor's Guide
- Drawing on Nature: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Nature Journaling

Moved by K. Reilly

Seconded by C. Macri

The motion carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the College the proposed complementary courses for 2023-24 as presented to Council on March 10, 2023.

Moved by H. Kavallos

Seconded by E. Cooperberg

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Bill 96, information (J. McMahon, 60 minutes)

The Interim Academic Dean, J. McMahon, shared updates with members concerning the Bill 96 and the policies that will need to be implemented. A presentation was displayed outlining important updates such as an overview of the provisions: for Fall 2023 non-certificate holders will have to pass the French Exit Exam and programs are being modified to ensure that students have the pre-requisite knowledge to succeed. In Winter 2024, official admission priority will be given to certificate holders as part of the College's Language Policy which will be passed in June 2023. J. McMahon reviewed the guiding principles which were presented to guidance counsellors in an effort to minimize misinformation.

All students, regardless of their status (certificate or non-certificate holders), can apply to an English-language college. The college will strive to admit all qualified certificate holders. In addition, there is a commitment in ensuring a balance of access and student success. The English colleges have committed to collaborating on all matters related to the application of the Charter.

Moreover, J. McMahon mentioned that there are changes to the courses for non-certificate holders: Three 45-hours courses will be required to prepare for l'Épreuve Uniforme de Français. The French literary course will

replace one of the current complementary courses required for the DEC. The two additional French courses will replace second language courses. Beyond the French courses in preparation for the EUF, non-certificate holders will be required as of Fall 2024 to take 3 courses in French, 1 of the preparatory courses mentioned above will count as a course “en-français” required by the Ministry.

J. McMahon outlined the action areas for French Teachers as well as the current status of the Program Management Policy and the next steps in the process. Furthermore, he explained the admissions priority for Winter 2024 and the pilot-project for Fall 2023 (applying the priority clause in rounds 2 and 3).

A meeting was held with Minister of Higher Education, Pascale Déry, where concerns were brought forward. There are still outstanding issues to address such as Indigenous students, students with accommodations and exemptions from taking French, Tremplin-DEC students in Winter 2023 and students requesting a program change admitted before Fall 2023, AEC students and the level of French required, financing additional costs of implementation and financial penalties for exceeding the Devis.

Members asked questions related to the admission policy, the ministerial devis and the programs most impacted. Moreover, members stressed the importance of keeping communication streams open amongst faculty, their coordinators and departments as changes will occur in teaching loads and student’s progression charts.

S. Tardif took the time to recognize and thank all the work done by Pedagogical Counsellor, Patti Kingsmill, who worked on revising all the program grids.

b) Academic Integrity policy and timeline (K. Purdy, 10 minutes)

K. Purdy, Faculty Dean of General Education, presented this item. The timeline was displayed to members and K. Purdy went over the stages of the process. K. Purdy recognized and thanked the diligence of the working group, notably present Council members, B. Hanly and R. Bloom, who have been part of the working group for the last 3 years.

Members provided feedback focusing on the feasibility of the timeline in Fall 2023 and the possibility of having a second consultation with the community. Moreover, concerns over emerging technology such as ChatGPT and its role in academic integrity. B. Hanly responded that the committee’s intention is to incorporate language of an open field nature aiming to have clarity and continuity in the policy while maintaining flexibility and adaptability in the procedures and process. N. Delgado reminded council that it is important to not only focus on text but also images and the ethics and laws related to these situations.

c) Cheating and Plagiarism Report (S. Tardif, 10 minutes)

S. Tardif, Dean of Academic Systems and Registrars, presented this item and shared an electronic document with members. She outlined and explained the cheating and plagiarism numbers for the academic year of 2021-2022 and the Fall 2022 semester.

Members inquired about the reason behind not being able to consider expulsion as a consequence for repeat offenses of cheating and plagiarism. S. Tardif explained that it depends on the specific case of the student. In some instances, the student may be graduating or decides to withdraw. Those students cannot be suspended if they no longer attend the College. K. Purdy also clarified the policy stating that two or more offenses don’t necessarily mean expulsion, and that there are other consequences that can be given based on the specific context (i.e., workshops). Furthermore, H. Kavallos explained that the process of evaluating a student’s file is holistic and the new policy will do an excellent job of addressing the nuances. At the moment there is a need for thorough review and consideration of various factors before a decision can be made.

d) Proposed Academic council dates: May 5 and June 2, additional (J. McMahon, 2 mins)

The Interim Academic Dean, J. McMahon presented this item as a point of information as there may be the need to have an additional Academic Council meeting. In the event that it is scheduled, members will be informed in advance.

e) RDM strategy (E. Cooperberg, 5 mins)

E. Cooperberg presented this item and shared a presentation electronically with members. According to the Tri-Agency Research Data Management (RDM) Policy, as of March 1, 2023, the three Canadian federal granting agencies require all eligible postsecondary institutions administering Tri-Agency funds to have an institutional RDM strategy. The strategy aims to make data available for all researchers as well as implementing procedures for storing and managing the data. R. Bloom asked if the resources made available also include funding and where is it coming from? E. Cooperberg replied that there is a separate funding envelope for research, the resources refer to documentation, additional support, tools and data.

f) Suicide Postvention Protocol Presentation (C. Cichon, 10-15 mins)

Christina Cichon, Director of Student Services presented this item and shared a power point presentation with members. In collaboration with the Cawley Mughal group, C. Cichon introduced the College's protocol regarding crisis management. She touched on the project background and timeline, as well as introducing the Vanier Red Folder which is a resource to assist in accurately identifying and appropriately responding to students experiencing distress. Moreover, she shared the next steps to the project and discussed on ways to further the conversation to provide effective tailored interventions.

Members asked questions and shared their views on the different situations that could arise and how this protocol can help them respond to these types of situations. Furthermore, B. Hanly asked if training resources for faculty were available. C. Cichon replied that training would be something to bring up to their respective Deans to determine the specific needs for each faculty. A recommendation was made by R. Bloom to classify this training as institutional and the Director General, J. McMahon responded that it can be done on an institutional level and that training requirements for each staff category are being considered.

g) Vanier College Strategy for Supporting Student Mental Health and Well-Being (C. Cichon, 15 mins)

Christina Cichon, Director of Student Services presented this item and shared a power point presentation with members. She explained the reasons behind the creation of this project and introduced her collaborators which is the Cawley Mughal group. Additionally, she covered the background work leading up to the project as well as a timeline of the strategy. She concluded by providing members with the next steps and announced the beginning of the "Vanier's Workplace Mental Health and Well-Being Audit" which will focus on the employees of the College.

T. Moneit asked if there was a distinction between the mental health policy and the mental health strategy. C. Cichon replied that there is a difference and she will ask for a visual aid to be distributed to the community explaining the distinctions. N. Delgado asked if there were any plans to extend the Students Services office hours for classes that end in the evening. C. Cichon replied that it is something that can be considered, perhaps having someone on call. The Director General, J. McMahon, took the time to recognize and thank the work of the Cawley Mughal group as well as the work of Christina Cichon and her team at Student Services.

h) Business Administration PCAs-Point of Information

E. Cooperberg informed members that the Program Comprehensive Assessment for the Business Administration program was distributed by email to Academic Council members.

i) 4 a 6 College Wide (J. McMahon, 1 min)

The Director General, J. McMahon, invited members to a St-Patrick's themed 4 a 7.

7. Varia

N/A

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:51pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ghita Elazizi