

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 5th, 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, Sandi Mak, John McMahon, Toby Moneit, Kelly Purdy, Krista Riley, Maria Zamfotis

Regrets: Dimana Naneva, Zsafia Orszagh

Quorum: Yes

Invited: Greg De Luca, Karina Leonard, Isabelle Moncion, Sylvie Tardif, Ye Tian

Others: Jessica Braul, Cari Clough, Phong Co, Andrea Di Domenico, Catherine Engel, Caroline Fodor, Audrey-Anne Gregoire, Carla Lipscombe, Hakim Loudyi, Hugo Leonardo Casanova, Marc Passucci, Alena Perout

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus with the addition of item c) Formal Consultation: Student Mental Health Policy (K. Leonard, 15 mins).

3. Approval of the Minutes of March 10, 2023

The minutes of March 10th were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

5. Main Business

i. Items for Consultation

a) Academic Council 2023-2024 Committees (K. Purdy, 10 minutes)

K. Purdy, Faculty Dean of General Education, presented this item. The committees of the Academic Council are subject to review at the conclusion of each academic year, with modifications and feedback being provided to ensure their alignment with the current timeline and objectives of Academic Council. K. Purdy added that the Post Pandemic Advisory Committee's final report is due on June 2nd, 2023. B. Hanly inquired whether all committees convened during the current academic year. In response, all the faculty deans in attendance confirmed that their respective committees had met during the year.

b) Academic Sector Priorities 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 (E. Cooperberg & H. Kavallos, 15 minutes)

This item was presented by the Dean of Science and Technology, H. Kavallos and E. Cooperberg, Dean of Academic Development and Research. H. Kavallos explained that these priorities are derived from the Strategic Plan and the Student Success Plan. He added that some items were less specific to allow for review and input by the new Academic Dean when she begins her mandate. Members expressed their concerns about the large number of priorities and stressed the need for them to be more focused. Moreover, A. Flewwelling-Skup added that these priorities are exerting pressure on faculty, especially considering the challenges posed by factors such as Bill 96, post-pandemic concerns, emerging technologies, and the increasing demands on coordinators. H. Kavallos and E. Cooperberg thanked all the members for their valuable input and acknowledged their concerns. The document will further be revised before it is presented at Joints. The Director General, J. McMahon proposed a differentiation between department-wide and college-wide priorities, citing the Strategic Enrollment Plan as an example of the latter. Additionally, he thanked the members for their contributions.

c) Formal Consultation: Student Mental Health Policy (K. Leonard, 15 mins)

This item was presented by Strategic Plan Advisor, K. Leonard. The Director of Student Services, C. Cichon took the time to express her gratitude to K. Leonard for stepping in to assist with the project while she was on leave. K. Leonard covered the objectives, context, and formal consultation process for the policy drafted on April 11th. The policy was based on the Ministry's template and working group feedback, with community-wide consultations to represent Vanier. K. Leonard invited the members to review the strategy and its pillars, including the actionable steps. The policy is scheduled for approval at the Board of Directors meeting in June.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the members, during which they voiced their concerns regarding the responsibility placed on faculty by the policy, as well as potential liability issues that could arise. Moreover, they expressed apprehension over the absence of specific actionable steps and highlighted the broad nature of the policy, which left several grey areas unaddressed. R. Bloom stated that there is confusion between the Student Mental Health strategy and the Student Mental Health policy. She expressed concern that only the policy is being recommended by the Academic Council to the Board while the strategy is not being considered for recommendation by any academic body. B. Hanly added that an endorsement of the policy would be an endorsement of the strategy by default and highlighted the need for further scrutiny of the strategy. C. Cichon thanked members for their valuable feedback and recognized their concerns. She clarified that this policy is distinct from other policies as it is tied to a province-wide commitment and mandated by the Ministry. J. McMahon affirmed the college and the Board of Directors' commitment to student mental health, noting the duty of care obligation for students' physical and mental well-being. Furthermore, the college has a responsibility to ensure adequate training and support. He further recognized the importance of liability considerations, emphasizing the need to ensure proper training and support for faculty, staff, and administration.

ii. Items for Recommendation

a) Academic Calendar changes (2022-2023) and 2023-2024 (S. Tardif, 10 minutes)

S. Tardif, Dean of Academic Systems and Registrars, presented this item and shared electronic documents with members.

She outlined the changes in both calendars:

2022-2023

- May 16, Tuesday, Students would follow their Friday schedule
- May 18, Thursday, Last day of classes, Students would follow their Thursday schedule
- May 19-June 3rd Intersession courses
- May 19-30, Evaluation, and examination period
- June 6, Tuesday, Deadline for submission of semester grades – 11:00 p.m.
- **Removal of** June 13-19, Registration period for returning students

2023-2024

- August 7-8 & 10-17, Registration period for returning and new students

S. Tardif provided the rationale for moving the registration period for returning students explaining that it will allow for more time to implement Bill 96 changes, alleviate the load of the Scheduler in the Registrar's office, and provide the opportunity to do pre-registrations and organize all student files properly. Members expressed concerns over the decision to move the registration period stating that it would leave teachers waiting until August to receive their teaching load. Moreover, concerns were raised pertaining to the faculty's collective agreement and the impacts of hiring teacher at the last minute.

S. Tardif thanked members for their feedback and responded that following the May 16th confirmation for returning students, the numbers will be more accurate and will mitigate last minute implementations or changes. The Director General, J. McMahon recognized the different implications and stated the collective agreement will be respected. He added that the intention is not to cause undue pressure on faculty and that administrators will have to be conscious of operating within our current reality while respecting the collective agreement.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

“Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the modified 2022-2023 Academic Calendar.”

Moved by R. Bloom

Seconded by C. Macri

The motion carries (18-1)

A motion was presented during the meeting:

“Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the modified 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.”

Moved by K. Purdy

Seconded by H. Kavallos

The motion carries unanimously

b) Language policy (I. Moncion, 15 minutes)

I. Moncion, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs, presented this item and shared the draft policy electronically with members. She noted that the policy was one of the obligations of Bill 96 and the deadline to formally adopt it by June 1st. In addition, she outlined the drafting process and identified the two key focus items of the policy, namely the requirement for external communications to be in French and the priority admission clause. I. Moncion provided members with different examples of admission scenarios to facilitate their understanding of the application of the priority clause for certificate holders. She subsequently outlined the next steps; presenting and adopting the policy at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting on May 23rd, translating the policy before June 1st, submitting it to the Ministry, and publishing it on the College's website by June 1st.

During the discussion, members raised questions about the definition of ‘majority’ related to the admission priority clause, opportunities for future policy revisions to allow for more community consultation, and the process for determining if non-certificate holders will be prepared to pass the *Épreuve uniforme de français*. In response, I. Moncion clarified that a 50+1 benchmark was chosen for the majority, while subsequent rounds would give priority to certificate holders with the aim of ultimately providing them with access to a program within an English Cegep. Additionally, S. Tardif explained that high school grades would be reviewed to place them in the appropriate level of French. J. McMahon expressed his appreciation for the hard work put in by I. Moncion and the committee, thanking them for their dedication and effort.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

“Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the Language Policy as presented on May 5th, 2023”

Moved by R. Bloom

Seconded by E. Cooperberg

The motion was approved unanimously.

c) E-campus Project (G. De Luca, 15 minutes)

G. De Luca, Director of Continuing Education, delivered a presentation on an ongoing initiative that commenced two years ago, involving the development of an online AEC (Attestation of Collegial Studies). The program predominantly operates in an asynchronous manner and is a collaborative effort between Vanier, Dawson, and John Abbott College. This project is associated with the Quebec provincial government's *Plan d'action numérique*. The primary target audience comprises individuals residing in regions without access to a local CEGEP, as well as adult learners seeking remote study opportunities. G. De Luca outlined the project objectives, explained the host and registration model, and showed the courses that have been developed.

Subsequently, a discussion ensued among the members, wherein concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on teaching workloads, the platform on which the program would be hosted, future implications, and potential incompatibilities with hands-on programs. Following the presentation and the question period, it was recommended by the members to defer this item until August for further consultation.

d) Bill 96 program grids (E. Cooperberg & D. Hoida, 10 minutes)

This item was presented by E. Cooperberg, Dean of Academic Development and Research and D. Hoida, PSI Coordinator. D. Hoida stated that all program grid revisions followed the Project Management Policy and that general education requirements were implemented, with no adjustments made to program-specific courses. Members expressed their appreciation for the amount of work and pressure involved in this process and recognized the hard work of the pedagogical counsellors. M. Kathwaroon asked if students were generally required to take an additional course. E. Cooperberg responded no, and P. Kingsmill clarified that in some cases, an extra hour had to be implemented and taken from a different semester.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

“Academic council recommends to the board the program grids that meet bill 96 requirements for non-certificate holders.”

Moved by R. Bloom

Seconded by K. Reily

The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Bill 96, information (J. McMahon, 30 minutes)

The Interim Academic Dean, J. McMahon, shared updates with members concerning Bill 96. To begin, he addressed outstanding matters that were clarified by the Ministry, such as the Tremplin DEC students who will remain unaffected by Bill 96 during their transition into a regular program. However, he emphasized that other students who seek a program change will be subject to the provisions of the law. Furthermore, J. McMahon offered additional insights related to funding and provided a summary of a meeting that took place with the English and French departments designed to encourage collaboration regarding the implementation of Bill 96 language requirements.

A discussion ensued where members asked questions related to additional support for students with disabilities specifically related to the EUF. Additionally, they sought clarification on the availability of support mechanisms, including funding and supplementary resources, aimed at ensuring student success. J. McMahon replied that the Ministry has established several sub-committees tasked with assessing the comprehensive requirements related to the implementation of the law including the EUF. There are several outstanding items, including clarification concerning exemptions for special needs students.

7. Varia

N/A

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:33pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ghita Elazizi