

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 2nd 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Board Room F-216 and on Teams

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

Regrets: Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Dimana Naneva, Kelly Purdy

Quorum : Yes

Invited : Stefan Bracher, Christina Cichon, Marya Grant, Bruce Norton, Mark Reynolds

Others: Phong Co, Catherine Engel, Audrey-Anne Gregoire, Hakim Loudyi, Alena Perout, Sylvie Tardif, Angela Vavassis

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Minutes of May 5, 2023

The minutes of May 5th were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

5. Main Business

i. Items for Recommendation

a) Election of 2023-2024 Vice-Chair (B. Hanly, 15 mins)

T. Moneit nominated B. Hanly. There were no other nominations and B. Hanly was named 2023- 2024 Vice-Chair by acclamation.

T. Moneit moved

C. Macri seconded

b) L'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac MOU (A. Perout, 5 mins)

A. Perout, Faculty Dean, Arts, Business and Social Sciences, presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between L'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac and Vanier College. This agreement aims to develop understanding and appreciation of other regions and their cultures, while providing opportunities for students, teachers, staff, and administrators to enhance their professional and interregional knowledge and skills.

B. Hanly asked how are the facilities and what is the nature of student activities?

A. Perout replied that there are 3 locations, with accommodations provided in campground shacks. The student activities primarily focus on meeting the stage requirements.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Council recommends the approval of the MOU between Vanier College and the Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac, Les Bergeronnes, Quebec.

Moved by E. Lamothe.

Seconded by K. Reiley.

The motion was passed unanimously.

c) 582 Multimedia program revision (B. Norton, 15 mins)

This item was presented by Bruce Norton and Juliet Lammers.

B. Norton explained that the comprehensive assessments were completed and there are two main parts: the Portfolios (print, web, online) which make up 80% of the program comprehensive assessments and the showcase portion counting for 20%.

B. Hanly asked if the exhibitions are held in Montreal?

B. Norton answered that they are mostly in downtown Montreal, but in some cases they could be somewhere else.

T. Moneit asked if it would conflict with general education course?

B. Norton replied that arrangements can be made to mitigate impacts on other courses and in some instances the exhibitions are hosted outside of school hours.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the Board of Directors the proposed changes to the 582.A1 Multimedia Integration grid.

Moved by K. Reily.

Seconded by E. Cooperberg.

The motion passed unanimously.

d) Indigenous learning circle (J. McMahon & M. Grant, 30 mins)

This item was presented by Marya Grant and Mark Reynolds. She explained the project mandate which is to recognize Indigenous cultures, values and traditions, to create a multifunctional outdoor space as well as integrating education content. She added that the space could be used as a classroom and has the potential of fitting up to 50 students. M. Reynolds covered the location, concept and plan for the space. M. Grant provided members with the proposed planting timeline which is set to be finished in the Spring of 2024. Furthermore, she acknowledged the valuable input received from external indigenous communities during the project development process, emphasizing their significant contributions.

Members asked questions related to the location of the project and the impacts on the land and wildlife. H.Kavallos inquired about the firepit. M. Grant replied that the facilities department is currently in contact with the city regarding the firepit. In addition, members asked if the space would be maintained and if staff would be hired to take care of it. M. Grant replied that Poirier, Billi-Jo Poirier, the new Indigenous Student Leader will help to recruit indigenous students to maintain the garden and M. Reynolds, will also provide support.

J. McMahon clarified the project and explained that the college made a commitment to support and assist the creation of an indigenous space. He noted that this project relates to the focus area #3 of the Strategic Plan (Honouring the Indigenous Education Protocol) and is supported by all areas of the college. He confirmed that it will be maintained and a dedicated budget will be allocated for it. D.Hoida added that this project also fulfills focus area #5 of the Strategic Plan (Achieving Engaging and Inclusive Student Learning), by offering an alternative learning space that is both engaging and inclusive.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Academic Council recommends to the board of directors that the Indigenous Learning Circle / Gardens be approved as presented.

Moved by H.Kavallos.

Seconded by M.Zamfotis.

The motion passed unanimously.

e) 2022-2023 Teaching Excellence Award (in-camera) (J. McMahon, 15 mins)

This item was discussed in-camera at the end of the meeting.

ii. Items for Consultation

a) PMP working group update (E. Cooperberg, 10 mins)

This item was presented by E. Cooperberg, Dean/Academic Development and Research. She updated members on the work done by the working group, aiming to get approval in the Fall 2024 by the Academic Council and Board of Directors.

A discussion took place regarding the distinction between core disciplines and contributing disciplines, with members sharing their perspectives on their quantity and relevance. Concerns were raised regarding the

applicability of contributing disciplines to technical programs as they teach specific skills. C. Macri raised concerns over the fact that the policy is not a "one size fits all" approach and may not fully address the unique requirements of each program. B. Hanly expressed support for contributing disciplines, highlighting their value in enhancing the Cegep experience and enabling students to expand their knowledge both within and beyond their specific program of studies. In addition, N. Baurhoo asked what are the criteria for selecting contributing disciplines. E. Cooperberg replied that the revision team follows a guideline.

6. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Vice-Chair Annual Report (B. Hanly, 10 mins)

This item was presented by B. Hanly and was distributed to members electronically. He emphasized the significant work accomplished by members throughout the year and acknowledged notable decisions. B. Hanly thanked PSI office, notably D. Hoida and E.Cooperberg, for providing the reports for many of the sub-committees. B. Hanly explained the process of writing the report and noting that certain points were still pending confirmation and would be updated in the near future.

b) Overview of various mental health supporting initiatives (C. Cichon, 20 mins)

This item was presented by Director/Student Services, Christina Cichon. She presented the multiple Mental-Health projects and provided background information on the resources that helped shape these initiatives.C.Cichon outlined how each initiative supports and contributes to an institutional framework for mental health wellness. Moreover, she covered the timeline noting that the feedback gathered for community consultation as well as academic council input will be incorporated and the Student Mental Health Policy will be undergoing further revision from June to September. C. Cichon recognizes that the implementation of Mental Health initiatives requires a significant cultural shift. However, it is imperative to strive to establish a culture of care and collaboration in the Vanier community. She concluded by expressing her gratitude and recognition to all those who have contributed and worked on creating these initiatives.

T. Moneit expressed gratitude to C. Cichon for her dedicated efforts, particularly in reaching out to students, and acknowledged the value of allowing additional time for consultation.

c) Network & Program News (J. McMahon, 20 mins)

This item was presented by the Director General, John McMahon. He provided updates on Bill 96 highlighting that one of the outstanding issues has been clarified by the Ministry. He confirmed that that Indigenous students will be exempt from the requirements of Bill 96. J.McMahon noted that one outstanding issue that still need to be determined is for students with disabilities that have language exemption.

A significant area of focus involves the devis numbers for AECs. Presently, the numbers are based on outdated 2019 data that does not accurately reflect the current situation. A meeting has been scheduled for next week to address this matter, with a request to increase the numbers. This adjustment is intended to enable the college to better cater to domestic students while simultaneously developing international programs.

J. McMahon addressed the budget and informed members that four colleges experienced significant budget cuts. For the college, it is not a major concern as we have maintained financial stability and can rely on our surplus to alleviate the effects of the cuts.

T. Moneit asked how this affect the changes we have been talking about in extra fudning for ressources related to the EUF?

J. McMahon replied that some areas are being cut while some have been increased (i.e initiatives related to Bill 96).

d) Post Pandemic Advisory committee report (E. Cooperberg, 5 mins)

This item was presented by E. Cooperberg, Dean/Academic Development and Research, on behalf of K. Purdy, Faculty Dean/General Education The report was distributed electronically to members and E. Cooperberg explained that the working group met many times throughout the year and produced a very lengthy report. In addition, she mentioned that following consultation with the committee, it was decided to continue the initiative for another year under a different name.

M. Kathwaroon expressed the importance of addressing student perseverance and proposed gathering qualitative or quantitative metrics to better understand and meet student needs.

T. Moneit emphasized the need for data on students who dropped out and finding ways to understand and mitigate these situations. It was suggested that more involvement from academic sectors and additional personnel might be necessary.

E. Cooperberg mentioned changes made to the constitution regarding membership, which involved reducing the number of academic managers and teachers. Instead, representatives from Student Services and Continuing Education were added.

e) Academic Council – 2023-2024 Meeting Dates-TBD (J. McMahon, 5 mins)

This item was presented by the Director General, John McMahon and the dates were presented to members for their reference.

7. Varia

N/A

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ghita Elazizi