

## Faculty of Arts Council

### Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

12:30-1:30 PM

**Present:** Tim Babcock, Karen Barkhouse, Jane Barter, Jane Cahill, Jim Clark, Barbara Foucault, Neil Funk-Unrau, Fiona Green, Pauline Greenhill, Steven Kohm, Lisa McLean, Glenn Moulaison, Pauline Ripat, Jacqueline Romanow, Jim Silver, Alden Turner, Daniel Leonard (guest)

**Regrets:** James Hanley, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Allen Mills, Roy Loewen

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**Motion** to approve the agenda (T.Babcock/J. Romanow). Approved with addition of Contract Academic Staff space.

**Motion** to approve the minutes (J. Clark/S. Kohm).

#### Budget

Glenn offered Council an update on the budget process. The Arts budget was submitted in December and is being processed by Financial Services, who yesterday gave Glenn and Lisa the opportunity to explain and justify various requests. Staffing requests were not on the table. This facet of the budget remains with Neil and Annette.

Glenn reported that the Spring timetable has been posted on Webadvisor. Departments can now advertise for courses requiring contract academic staff who do not have first-right-of-refusal. Instructors with such rights have positions that should not be advertised, though Lisa does need to know who such instructors are.

It was noted that over the last two years, \$2.5 million dollars were added to the Uwinipeg budget. This money had not been expected, and the feeling is that these funds should be allocated to hiring.

The department 3-5 year plans that were prepared by Chairs go to Neil. These will be used to formulate his plan for future staffing.

#### Experiential Learning

Daniel Leonard, the new Experiential Learning Coordinator, came to Council to promote conversation on and around this topic.

While he noted the variety of activities included under this banner: field schools, practicum placements and Co-op programs, Daniel placed more emphasis on the pedagogy involved in these offerings. The program starts with bringing student experiences into the classroom. He sees an action/reflection cycle in which students can share their knowledge with others.

For faculty wishing to introduce these concepts, there is a fund that can be accessed. The deadline is February 29, and faculty can apply for grants of up to \$2500. The total fund is valued at \$30,000.

Daniel spoke about some partnerships between the University and the City. There is discussion of 8-10 projects with various City departments.

One of the things Daniel sees his office doing is providing procedural resources. He would function as a hub, sharing information about health and safety issues, administrative procedures and other details that different programs have used.

There was discussion about whether these programs can undermine academics. Is there too much emphasis on service learning? There is concern that funders, parents and, even, students may be too focused on skill-acquisition. Daniel hopes not. He feels that these skills can lead back to critical reflections.

Co-op programs form Business' approach to experiential learning. It was noted that Criminal Justice has offered a field placement course for the past few years. At Open Houses and other events, parents and students express interest. But in actuality, the enrolments have not been high.

Other practical issues about practicum placements were raised. Many of the smaller city agencies to which we send students do not have the time or staff resources to adequately place and monitor these students. We need to ensure that what the students are doing is academically sound. On the other hand, these students represent the University to the community. We also cannot monitor their behavior. Many of these students have little familiarity with the clients of the agencies. There have been instances of insensitivity and misunderstanding on one or both sides. If agencies have an unfortunate experience, the staff are unlikely to want to repeat or renew the connection.

### Academic Planning

Sociology reports that it is planning to re-introduce the Honours Program in Sociology.

### CAS Move

Contract Academic Staff are being relocated from Bryce to the Rice Building. The move is prompted by the disintegration of Sparling. Some people no longer even have access to their offices. The doors are taped shut. Physical Plant needs to go into Bryce which means CAS needs to move.

Some felt that the suddenness of another move for CAS staff was disrespectful—especially mid-term. But the realities of the issues at Sparling were acknowledged.

Space issues will be a concern in the Spring. Construction is taking Convo and E-G out of commission. Criminal Justice booked a conference last Spring and were told in January that the space was unavailable.

Next meeting on March 7 will feature Gabrielle Prefontaine who will speak on issues related to the Library.

Fiona reminded Chairs to consider nominations for the Arts Teaching Award

**Motion** to Adjourn (J. Cahill/S. Kohm). Approved.