

Faculty of Arts Council

Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

12:30-1:30 PM

Present: Tim Babcock, Jane Barter, Jane Cahill, Jim Clark, Barbara Foucault, Neil Funk-Unrau, Fiona Green, Pauline Greenhill, Catherine Hunter, Naniece Ibrahim, Steven Kohm, Lisa McLean, Jaqueline McLeod-Rogers, Glenn Moulaison, Gabrielle Prefontaine, Pauline Ripat, Alden Turner

Regrets: Karen Barkhouse, James Hanley, Allen Mills, Roy Loewen, Jacqueline Romanow, Jim Silver,

Motion to approve the agenda (C.Hunter/S.Kohm). Approved with addition of the appropriateness of student clothing.

Motion to approve the minutes (Catherine Hunter/Tim Babcock). Approved.

Business Arising

The space for the CAS staff seems to be working out. Glenn notes that most of the concerns centered on how the issue was handled.

The Library

Gabrielle Prefontaine, Dean of Libraries, come to council to discuss issues related to the Library.

The Library's central task is to sustain and develop collections that support student learning and faculty research. This role is challenged by the rising costs of texts and database subscriptions.

She noted that OER (Open Educational Resources) or open text books are becoming more available. She asks if digital management is something that faculty wants.

The physical space that the Library occupies also has challenges including leaks and mice. These threaten the collections and make Library use less accommodating. There is also a need for different kinds of space. Traditional monastic-like quiet places remain important. But there is a growing need to offer more collaborative spaces. Small meetings or students working on group projects require both library resources and space to work together.

Gabrielle reports that the Library also connects with the community. It issues annual reports and coordinates with social media. The Library promotes diversity in programming.

She is working to enhance the core of what the Library does while looking at new opportunities.

Some faculty were please that the Library continued to promote and assist with actual book reading. For some instructors, students' over-reliance on digital resources is problematic.

Pauline Greenhill raised the issue of WinnSpace. Tri-Council grants require that research results be archived and made accessible to researchers, students and the public in an institutional repository. The facility here is known as WinnSpace. In her view, posting on WinnSpace is far too time-consuming. She wonders if improvements can be made.

Tim Babcock noted that the Library used to house scripts. The department now acquires its own scripts as Library acquisitions have become more research targeted.

Others noted the increasing costs of database acquisition. The recent \$200,000 increase has sent the Library looking for alternatives. One response has been the Library's participation in consortia to share costs. E-books and database packages impact department book budgets. Gabrielle called attention to the up-coming Library Users Group meeting. The meeting will be on April 4. It is here that the Library can establish or change criteria. Usage, while important, cannot, in her view, be the only criteria.

It was noted that Stats Canada has downsized and has reduced its distribution of some database materials. The question is if universities have to spend more to purchases similar materials from private distributors.

Jim Clark values the accommodations to students but cautions against making student research too easy. Solving the issues is part of the learning.

Others worried about "copyright policing" that is going on in the classroom. Gabrielle felt that this pattern was not going to change. The Library must be mindful of the potential for a large lawsuit. She urges those who need such material to consult with the Library about obtaining a transactional license.

Infrastructure

An opportunity has arisen with regard to our infrastructure. A program of for the retrofit and/or redevelopment of existing buildings is being proposed by the Federal Government. There is an opportunity to renovate Centennial Hall, the Library and, perhaps, develop and Indigenous House.

Consulting architects, including the original architect of Centennial, will be on campus next week. Consultations with various stakeholders will take place. There is a chance to consider the overall function and purpose of Centennial. The original open spaces used for social gatherings have been taken over by classrooms. We may wish to consider the value of recovering those spaces. Others noted the need for better sound management in classrooms. Others would like tiered theatres. Glenn urged all to consider and discuss options.

Other

Neil Funk-Unrau raised the issue of student attire. Some student in a class taught by one of his colleagues objected to a sports jersey and logo a student was wearing. Council felt the clothing should be respectful but this was not an issue faculty could determine.

Invigilation Workshop

Fiona reminded council of the Invigilation Workshop that will be held on Friday, April 1 at 12:30 in 2M70. Invitations have been sent to DRC Chairs but others from the department are welcome to attend. The workshop will address solutions to practical problems.

Motion to Adjourn (Jim Clark/Tim Babcock). Approved.