

Faculty of Arts Council - Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 (12:30-1:30 PM)

Present: Tim Babcock, Rachel Berg, Brandon Christopher, Carlos Colorado, Roewan Crowe, Neil Funk-Unrau, Matt Gibbs, Colin Goff, Pauline Greenhill, James Hanley, Steven Kohm, Lisa McLean, Jaqueline McLeod-Rogers, Catherine Taylor, Sante Viselli, Tracy Whalen, Doug Williams

Regrets: Linda DeRiviere, Hugh Grant, Roy Loewen, Shauna MacKinnon, Jaqueline Romanow

Pauline Greenhill requests that the order of agenda items (7) and (8) be switched.

Motion to approve the revised agenda (T. Babcock/M. Gibbs). Approved.

Motion to approve the minutes (B. Christopher/D. Williams). Approved.

Security and safety

Mike Emslie (Vice-President, Finance and Administration) and Martin Grainger (Director of Security) came to discuss measures that are being undertaken to increase security related to the increasing number of incidents - both on campus and in the city more generally.

Security consultants were brought in and their findings are being shared with the Deans, Unions, the University's Workplace Health and Safety Committee (WHSC), etc. Mike will draft an action plan. Once that plan is in place, Mike and Martin will come back to Arts Council.

Mike emphasizes that we don't want to change the way we interact with our community; instead efforts will be directed at the following: (i) tightening physical security, (ii) providing training for faculty, staff, and students, and (iii) looking more closely at the hiring, retention, and training of our security guards.

Martin notes that having an open campus doesn't necessarily mean that the public should have access to all areas of the University. Security is concerned with the protection of people working and studying here as well as for personal and university property. Efforts are being made to secure some areas by installing Salto locks to limit after-hours access. By securing particular areas in this way, Martin explains, guards don't need to check those areas as often, freeing them up to be available where there is more need.

Tim Babcock says their department is grateful for the support they've had ensuring the security of their space, such as the bike security gate that was recently installed. He notes that one concern they still have is regarding after-hours access to the main campus off Balmoral once the external doors are locked in the evening.

Mike notes that it's important to be able to lock down the external doors, restricting access from the outside. One challenge, he says, is that many of our buildings weren't designed from a security perspective. Mike offers to send us a document outlining the hours of access for these entrances. Pauline Greenhill suggests that maybe we could add signage on the doors themselves.

Martin notes that there are two bike cages and these have been made more accessible for student use by dropping the user fee from \$10 per month to \$10 per year. There is also underground parking for bikes, but this is still \$10 per month.

Steven Kohm states that the main entrance to their space is locked after-hours. However, there is a second entrance which connects from Criminal Justice to space in Modern Languages and Literatures. They've been advised that this door has to stay unlocked to allow for access to the fire exit. He's concerned that this limits their ability to restrict access to their space.

Mike will look at this with the Physical Plant. He adds that there are locks which are disabled when the alarm goes off, but these are costly, he says.

James Hanley asks how information is communicated to the University community.

Martin explained that he works with Kevin Rosen (Executive Director of Marketing and Communications) on this. If there is an incident that poses an ongoing threat on campus, they'll put out a message. However, if there is no present threat to those on campus, they don't issue a message.

James notes that he is concerned that the University's WHSC, of which he is a member only receives summary reports. He says, for example, that even as a WHSC member, he wasn't aware that six of the nine break-ins last year were in Graham Hall.

There was some discussion as to whether break-ins, like those in Graham Hall, should be regarded as a property crime or also as safety threat.

James noted that a faculty member in Business and Economics was confronted by a man holding a knife. James asks about the reporting structure with respect to security at the University of Winnipeg.

Mike explains that security is a joint responsibility as the Physical Plant reports to him and Security Services to Laurel Repski. They try to strike a balance, he says, between the need to communicate what's necessary for safety, while not inundating the university community with unnecessary information. He suggests that they could try to improve this process.

Jaqueline McLeod Rogers and Brandon Christopher express concern that they weren't aware of the incident in Business and Economics. Brandon asserts that faculty members should be part of the conversation about security.

Graham Hall elevator

Mike Emslie advises that the elevator in Graham Hall was to have been fixed this morning. He will check after this meeting to see if they've gotten it working yet. He notes that the University does arrange for periodic shutdowns for maintenance to try to keep these running effectively. Unfortunately, companies only service their own elevators and sometimes parts are hard to get. In this case, he says, the service provider is taking measures to obtain the parts as expediently as possible.

Interest in hosting Congress 2022

Catherine Taylor explains that last year a bid was made to host Congress with the support of Arts Council.

Jaqueline McLeod Rogers comments that attendance at Congress is still a requirement of some associations.

Catherine expresses concern that hosting Congress would require a great deal of support from Arts faculty and staff, such as hosting receptions, sitting at association tables, etc. She asks if members of Arts Council have thoughts on this.

Carlos Colorado expresses concern that there might be some financial risk and he would want us to look into what the ways in which the University would benefit from this undertaking.

Motion: Arts Council would not want to support a bid for Congress 2022 (P. Greenhill /S. Kohm).

Some members express concern about having a formal motion and vote without more information and discussion, so Catherine suggests that she will advise James Currie that Arts Council held a straw vote after a brief, but spirited, discussion and there was significant concern expressed about hosting Congress 2022.

Announcement of new group

Rachel explains that it isn't so much a new group as a renaming of the existing Department Assistants Working Group (DAWG) to Academic Department Administrative Group (ADAG). Several of the members of the group have had changes to their job titles, she explains, such that they're no longer "Department Assistants". The group has guest speakers come to their meetings, so it's a good way to disperse information. This year, Ashley Moore (Economics) and Janet Turner (Criminal Justice) are co-chairs.

Fee for deferred exams

Pauline Greenhill shares that it's come to her attention that students are being charged a fee of \$80 for deferred exams, while they are not charged a fee for an Incomplete. This fee is supposed to support the extra cost of invigilating these exams. Exams deferred from the December exam period were scheduled on two dates in February. If all of the students are writing at these sittings, it's not clear why the fee needs to be so high. Moreover, even when the deferred exam is not being invigilated, as is the case with online courses, students are still charged the \$80 fee.

Catherine Taylor states that we can look into this further.

Other

Jaqueline McLeod Rogers notes that nominations for the Faculty of Arts Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Research are due on Monday, March 5. She offers to resend the link for information about these out to Arts Council.

Motion to adjourn (S. Kohm/B. Christopher). Approved.