

Faculty of Arts Council

Minutes

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

12:30-1:30 PM

Present: Tim Babcock, Brandon Christopher, Carlos Colorado, Linda DeRiviere, Barbara Foucault, Neil Funk-Unrau, Colin Goff, Hugh Grant, James Hanley, Steven Kohm, Roy Loewen, Shauna MacKinnon, Jaqueline McLeod-Rogers, Peter Miller, Jacqueline Romanow, Catherine Taylor, Sante Viselli, Tracy Whalen, Doug Williams

Regrets: Roewan Crowe, Matt Gibbs

Motion to approve the agenda B. Christopher/D. Williams): Approved

Minutes of previous meetings have been circulated. Any revisions of the minutes should be sent to C. Taylor.

Business Arising

A sub-committee to consider a case for adequate funding of the Arts met last spring to identify issues, including the issue of funding for Arts relative to other faculties. The question of CAS/RAS ratios was tabled until the next meeting.

Sexual Violence Workshop

Catherine encouraged Chairs to promote the workshop with their colleagues. She noted that there have been changes in policies, procedures, and, even the language used over recent years. It is important that faculty understand their rights and responsibilities. Provincial law has mandated that universities offer such training, particularly since campuses have a high number of young adults which makes universities a hot spot on this issue. An online training package was proposed. Others felt that since this issue calls for a cultural shift, and an online package may fall short of the necessary engagement.

Convocation

Few professors have signed up to attend. Catherine acknowledges that many faculty may be away for reading week, but she did encourage all who could to attend.

Merit process

The merit procedure has been to send forward to the VPA all department merit recommendations by both the Chair and DPC which report excellent evaluations in all three categories. The Dean can and has made exceptions to recognize variations in workload.

Research-Related Teaching Reduction

An effort is being made across campus to achieve equity and consistency in granting teaching reductions in accordance with the CA. A co-investigator “normally” receives a half-course

reduction, and a principal investigator, a full-course reduction. Dean's discretion is important in cases where there are multiple CoIs as reductions are awarded based on the prestige and size of the grant and the role the faculty member plays in the research. The Dean should be provided annually with an explanation of the scope of the faculty member's role in the coming year and details of the grant.

Staffing & Hiring

Next year's budget is unknown. Requests for hiring, conversions to T/T, and reappointments have already been submitted to Catherine. She will review to rank the applications, consult with Glenn Moulaison, and submit the request to the Provost in October.

Online SETS

In an effort to get away from the 20,000 sheets of paper required each semester for course evaluations, an online version was tried last spring. Clearly there were problems. Registrar Colin Russell was present to hear and respond to Chairs' concerns. The response rate fell significantly. Students were given the link and asked to complete the evaluation. Many did not. Class time for that purpose was not always provided and is problematic as some students may not have a device. Many want to stick with the old system as it works.

Others were concerned that the university is in possession of the written comments. Originally, these were meant for the instructor alone.

Environmental sustainability is one goal but fairly demonstrating teaching competence is an equal goal.

Next meeting: October 17

Motion to adjourn: (T. Babcock/B. Christopher)