

Faculty of Arts Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
12:30-1:30 PM

Present: Adina Balint, Christopher Brauer, Brandon Christopher, Joan Grace, Pauline Greenhill, Kelly Gorkoff, Peter Ives, Shauna MacKinnon, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Mark Meuwese, Peter Miller, Glenn Moulaison, Jonathan Sears, Doug Williams.

Regrets: Rachel Berg, Peggy Day, Rory Dickson, James Hanley, Roy Loewen, Lisa McLean, Jacqueline Romanow, Catherine Taylor.

Item 5 is being removed from the agenda since both B. Lougheed and B. Selman are unable to attend.

Motion to approve the agenda (B. Christopher/A. Balint). **Approved.**

A typo in the second motion, the spelling of J. Hanley.

Motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2020 (P. Miller/D. Williams). **Approved.**

Business Arising from previous meeting

The motion made by Peter Ives at a previous Arts Council meeting that was passed was brought up at the Space Committee meeting. Glenn was not at the meeting but indicated no action had been taken.

Motion to ask for a response from the Space Committee and if we don't receive something after the next Space Committee meeting, invite James Currie to Arts Council (P. Greenhill/J. McLeod Rogers). **Approved.**

COVID-19

The general rule is to take caution – as of yet, nothing has been cancelled. If you're travelling to hotspots – reconsider. If you have upcoming travel plans visit the websites listed in the memo from Communications that went out Tuesday, March 10 for advisories.

As of now, there are no confirmed cases in Manitoba. Anyone who is sick with COVID-19 symptoms must contact their supervisor who must then report it to HR. Students missing class due to COVID-19 symptoms must contact their instructor, self isolate, and contact Accessibility Services. The instructor should not announce to the classroom that a particular student is sick – sharing medical information on a student is not allowed.

There is no plan yet on how to prepare for classes.

Christopher Brauer asked if the University will be providing bottles of hand sanitizer with a high alcohol content to faculty members. The University has distributed sanitation wipes, but if anyone wants more information on hand sanitizer, they should contact the Safety Office.

Theatre and Film has a show March 31-April 4 at the Gas Station Theatre.

There are two exchange students from the University of Tours in France who are supposed to be coming here in the Spring. The University of Tours has been in contact with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the International Office has been involved in that communication.

Whether you're a CAS or RAS member, any traveller going away should assess whether they are going to a place of risk and the risk to which they expose others when they return. Anyone going to a conference where the virus becomes prevalent will likely have to self-isolate.

Criminal Justice has a conference in May with international guests. People coming in from the UK, US, and Canada where there are infected areas. The memo doesn't say anything about people coming in. Will the University need confirmation from those institutions that are sending people? Students and the DA have expressed some concerns.

Psychology has a conference coming up around April 23, bringing in people from Saskatchewan, North Dakota and an outside speaker from Montreal.

Glenn will brief James Currie on these things.

International Students

Christopher Brauer says his Department is seeing an increase of international students in their classes, many of them struggling to be successful because they lack English language skills – struggling to succeed with written assignments. Christopher raised this with Academic Advising – the testing process in terms of language proficiency – students are not tested for academic English and are specifically tutored for the test and passing. There was a time when international students, whether they passed the test or not, would start off in the English Language Program (ELP), but it's no longer the case. The problem faculty members are facing is they're not able to deliver course content because they're having to teach writing skills. This has raised the question about an admission problem with international students.

Peter Miller added that he notices the same problem. He also recalls Catherine Taylor's report to Senate last year on the SASMC which flagged the inordinate number of international students.

Other departments are experiencing the same and not only with international students. There doesn't seem to be a tutoring support structure for these students.

Jaqueline McLeod Rogers and the Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications recognize the problem and will look into it more with Glenn.

The University relies on international students. The concern is, we are putting international students in a position to fail, but yet we rely on them financially.

Glenn will look into what has changed with the ELP.

Through discussion it was noted that this is a bigger issue which is problematic and requires more conversation. In terms of access – in which the UW supports students who may not have gotten into university otherwise – we’re setting some students up to fail. We need to find meaningful support.

Reference Checking

During the hiring process when you are ready to recommend a candidate, Glenn will provide the DPC with 6 questions. If you don’t feel comfortable asking these questions, Jane Pangan, HR consultant will do it.

Glenn has come up with a 2-page form using language from the collective agreement of what he thinks DPC procedures should be about.

Other Business

Pauline Greenhill – Mental Health First Aid workshops are on the weekend. Can we schedule something during the week so that Faculty, CAS, Department Assistants, etc. can attend?

Announcements

- Search for Associate Dean of Arts has been announced.
- 2020 Arts Teaching/Research Awards – one award in each category announced.
- Theatre and Film – a play on Dr. Macmillan’s “Peoples, Places, and Things”
- On Friday, Shauna and Peter are hosting a speaker from the University of Ohio at the UIC Campus.

Motion to adjourn (B. Christopher/P. Greenhill). **Approved.**

Glenn Moulaison

Date