

**Faculty of Arts Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**  
**12:30-1:30 PM via Zoom**

**Present:** Adina Balint, Jackie Benson, Rachel Berg, Derrick Bourassa, Christopher Brauer, Brandon Christopher, Rory Dickson, Jonathon Franklin, Joan Grace, Pauline Greenhill, Kelly Gorkoff, Peter Ives, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Mark Meuwese, Glenn Moulaison, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Jacqueline Romanow, Jonathan Sears, Conor Whately.

**Regrets:** Paul Lawrie, Lisa McLean.

**Guests:** Steven Kohm (Criminal Justice), Ryan Bullock (CRC in Human-Environment Interactions), Nora Casson (CRC in Environmental Influences on Water Quality)

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**Motion** to approve the agenda (J. Grace/B. Christopher). **Approved.**

**Remarks from the Chair**

Mental health of faculty members and students is a concern given the circumstances everyone is working under. We should all be accommodating and understanding when it comes to delays in email communication, decrease in availability, etc.

The planned DPC workshop was held on October 21 to go over the review process for the evaluative criteria. There is no imminent deadline for this. Thanks to DPCs for submitting their procedures.

Thanks as well to Chairs and Assistants for completing the budget projection exercise. There is still no word from the province regarding the return of the funds that were held back.

Departments are encouraged to organize a virtual booth for Future Student Night (November 24).

Scheduling is working with DAs on timetabling. As of a couple of weeks ago, the plan is to schedule Spring as in-person with the possibility of changing; the plan is to schedule Fall/Winter as in-person, but the decision will be made as late as possible.

The VW date is November 17. There is a program called Early Alert where instructors are sent a form to fill out, identifying at-risk students. Student Services would contact these students to offer support/advising.

**Motion** to adopt the minutes of 7 October 2020 (B. Christopher/M. Meuwese). **Approved.**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Glenn had another discussion with Jan Stewart, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) regarding the transparency/representation on the Space Committee and in the process for approving on-campus teaching in Winter. Although there was nothing new to report, the Provost did say that if anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Academic Response Team, they should come forward.

Regarding the concern over international students and their need for support, if faculty members know of specific students requiring assistance, they should contact Ashley Dunlop, Director of IIRSS, Recruitment, and Admissions.

### **Graduate Program in Environmental Studies**

Nora Casson and Ryan Bullock presented the about-to-be-launched Master in Environmental and Social Change (MESOC). Given its interdisciplinary nature, there would likely be opportunities for faculty members in the Faculty of Arts to participate in the program.

### **Research Office**

Concerns about the ongoing issues with the Research Office were brought forward and discussed: in particular, delays in response time, miscommunication, changes to grant submission deadlines, lack of consultation with faculty members.

**Motion (P. Greenhill/K. Gorkoff):** that the above concerns about the functioning of the Research Office be raised with senior administration and that there be a call for a review of the Research Office that includes meaningful participation by individual faculty, departments and Faculties; that changes to submission deadlines be put on hold until adequate consultation occurs. **Approved.**

### **Other**

The question was raised as to the unusually high number of Study Leave applications that were sent back to applicants for revisions. It seems that this was not localized to a particular Department.

### **Next Meeting**

November 18.

**Motion to adjourn (K. Gorkoff/C. Brauer). Approved.**

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Glenn Moulaison

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Date