

Faculty of Arts Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
12:30-1:30 PM via Zoom

Present: Adina Balint, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Brandon Christopher, Christopher Brauer, Derrick Bourassa, Fiona Green, Glenn Moulaison, Jackie Benson, Jaqueline McLeod Rogers, Joan Grace, Jonathon Franklin, Kelly Gorkoff, Kirit Patel, Lisa McLean, Peter J. Miller, Rachel Berg, Shauna Therese MacKinnon, Suellen Ribeiro, Tracy Whalen, W. Rory Dickson.

Guests: Jerry Fontaine.

Regrets: Mark Meuwese, Shailesh Shukla, Stephanie Stobbe.

Motion to approve the agenda. (F. Green / A. Balint). **Approved.**

Remarks from the Chair

Glenn shared that even though the Province will be changing its response to Covid-19, at this time the UW will continue with the mask and vaccine mandates. Chairs raised the question on what is going to be the protocol for cases where an individual chooses not to self-quarantine when presenting symptoms, and Glenn said he will be checking with the responsible department on that. Glenn also mentioned that decisions are still being made regarding the University's position with Covid-19 protocols, but there isn't much confirmed at this point and that an announcement will be made as soon as information is made available.

Minutes of February 9, 2022

Motion to adopt the minutes of February 9, 2022 (T. Whalen / B. Nobbs-Thiessen). **Approved.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

Glenn mentioned that the Enrichment Program out of Science will not happen this year.

Spring/Summer terms and re-opening

Glenn explained that at least 70-75% of courses are expected to be delivered in person for Spring/Summer 2022. Glenn also pointed out that if an online section is needed, Departments should request it, so he can look into the rationale on why it needs to be delivered online and approve it or not.

Covid-19 related extensions on assignments/exams

W. R. Dickson asked the other Departments' intake on what their strategy is when faced with a large number of self-diagnosed students requesting assignments and exams extensions claiming

Covid-19 related illness. Chairs shared that mostly they are being flexible with deadlines and freely allowing extensions for self-diagnosed sick students.

Departments' exam policies

B. Christopher inquired about the other Departments' exam policies, since after Covid-19 and the changes that were made to change in-person exams to online, his department is looking into removing their policy on all 1000 courses writing an in-person final exam. Chairs shared that most of them have the instructor decide on the evaluation method trying to follow the Collective Agreement's note on academic freedom. Glenn mentioned that some 1000 language courses do have in-person exams for all their sections together to make sure that the basics of those languages are being taught and evaluated in a similar way.

Chairs raised a question on the petition to change exam dates that is being used by instructors as a way to change the delivery method for this term's exams. Glenn explained that this petition was not meant for this purpose, and that it was a document made pre-pandemic that was meant to adjust an exam date and not the delivery method of an exam. Petitions submitted with the purpose of changing the delivery method won't be accepted, and will be sent back.

Glenn also clarified that requests for writing in-person exams this term will be honoured, but the option for an online exam should still be provided. Glenn explained that the option for 100% in-person exams does not exist for the current term.

Other

- The Theater department books their venue at this time of the year for different events and shows, and the uncertainty of what the protocol for Covid-19 will be in the near future might affect these bookings, so the Department is requesting that the new guideline on the restrictions and Covid-19 protocols at the UW buildings to be shared as soon as possible.
- The Criminal Justice department holds a prestige conference at the UW for years now, and they raised their concern that the lack of answers on keeping the vaccine and mask mandate or not might be harming the reputation of the institution and the conference. They have indicated that if the mandates are not continued, this will probably affect the attendance of the event.
- Glenn and S. Ribeiro explained that for RAS interviews with the Dean, the Departments should send candidates' CVs and the department interview information to S. Ribeiro, so she can arrange the Dean portion of the process.

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Motion to adjourn (C. Brauer / P. J. Miller). **Approved.**

Glenn Moulaison

Date