



School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures
Council Meeting 010
Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 15:00, CHE212

MINUTES

Voting Members

M. Conliffe, Chair
A. Barber
M.-A. Bergeron
N. Bermúdez-Barrios
E. Bratishenko
K. Brown
C. Burian
W. Cai
D. Flynn
R. Friedman
A. George
S. Hoenle
Y. Kodama

M. Li
F. Macé
O. Mladenova
E. Montes Garcés
Mary O'Brien
A. Pounder
F. Sánchez
A. Sharp
D. Skordos
D. Storoshenko
J. Süselbeck
D. Vijayan
M. Wagner

A. Wall
E. Wang
B. Whaley
S. Winters
X.Jie Yang
LLAC Grad Rep: Paul Frey
LING Grad Rep: L. Hracs
Undergrad Rep: D. Tardecilla
Sessional Rep #1: R. Ayala Mejía
Support Staff Rep #1: F. Pisicoli
Support Staff Rep #2: M. Raffo

Observers

B. Arnautovic
F. Gowen
J. Meng

Scribe: K. Guevara

1. Call to Order

The Chair confirmed quorum, calling the meeting to order at 3:02 and acknowledged the peoples of Treaty 7.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION That the Agenda for the January 17, 2018 School Council be approved. O'Brien/ Sánchez **CARRIED**

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 29, 2017

MOTION That the minutes for the November 29, 2017 School Council be approved. Barber/Winters **CARRIED**

4. Remarks from the Chair

Grad Studies

The Chair invited the two Graduate Program Directors to speak to The Faculty of Grad Studies' (FGS) proposed changes to funding.

Primary points included:

- Primary sources of funding for the grad program are GAT units from the Faculty of Arts, FGS funding, and scholarships.
- FGS funding has been decreasing.
- New FGS formula has been proposed based on enrolments in program which will particularly impact Arts, with a loss on average between 10-12% of its funding while CIHR programs will see an increase of 50-60% in their funding.
- Funding level will be approximately \$3,500 for PhD students and \$2,800 for MA students
- Grad programs must now provide a minimum funding package for PhD students.
- Some messages from the Dean of FGS raise concern for the viability of programs that have fewer than 20 students (LING would fall into this category and LLAC would be border line).

- Crucial need to increase numbers but also to maintain quality. The programs will need to accept only the very best students who have potential to receive external funding.
- GPDs from across the Faculty of Arts have been brainstorming strategies to present to the administration (focusing on our contributions to indigenization, internationalization, etc.). With Arts bringing in significant money to the University through our large undergraduate enrolments, there is an expectation that the University would provide relatively more funding to the Arts graduate programs, which have less opportunities for funding through granting agencies.

Discussion followed:

- International students are harder to fund because they are not generally eligible for scholarships like SSHRC. The proposed reduction in funding would not correlate to the internationalization strategy's goal of increasing the number of international graduate students across campus.
- Grad Studies says that because some of the differential fees are returned to international students as scholarship money, it is not so much more expensive to fund them.
- Grad Studies has said that the new funding proposal is an effort to rebalance funding; it seems Grad Studies considers Arts students as overfunded.
- There is an expectation that faculty members should be bringing in more SSHRC money to fund their students.

More information will be distributed as it comes available.

School Administration and Planning in the next six months

Priorities for the Chair and the School over the next few months include:

- Continuing conversations between the Chair and School members (22 of 62 remaining) concerning what they need to do their job well and what they understand this community is or should be. The conversations are helpful as the foundations and bedrock for the School are being formed.
- Identifying strategies and preparing rationales to move the School forward, critical in the face of some of the cuts that are being brought to different areas of the School (grad program, faculty positions).
- Reviewing student opinion forms, to be completed by the end of next week.
- Working on a UC International grant for curricular led conversations and discussions to articulate what cross cultural knowledge and competence will look like on campus. This would serve as an opportunity to put the School's stamp on the initiative by actually playing a part in defining what needs to be done and then playing a role in the implementation. Opportunities for grad students for professional development etc. would also be available.
- Ongoing work on the governance document with the goal of completing it by the end of this semester.
- Preparing terms of reference for various school bodies (grad committee, Director's Advisory Committee), much like the LRC has done.
- Creating procedural documents (merit review process, course assignment and timetabling).
- Progressing on space planning initiatives. Currently awaiting feedback from the U of C on the submission put forward. Information will be passed on when it comes available.
- Ongoing and persistent conversation with the Faculty concerning positions.

Dates to keep in mind

- February 12: retirement celebration for A.-M. Hallworth-Duez, E. Spoldi, and A. Val.
- March 7: School launch.
- Late March: retirement reception for D. Maher.
- Extraordinary gathering in the second half of the semester (meeting/town hall) to learn how we might frame what we do in the school (our values, vision, etc.). This session will be in preparation of for the spring retreat (late April, early May).

5. Question Period

A request for an update on enrolment figures was put forward. The Chair promised to post them and informed members that the School has the fourth highest enrolments in the Faculty of Arts.

6. Revisions to LLAC courses

The Chair turned the floor over to Mary O'Brien, GPD for LLAC.

M. O'Brien highlighted the changes included in the proposal. The major changes involve 1) removing the professionalization piece from LLAC 602 and 603 and creating LLAC 600, a non-credit course, that will be required for all LLAC grad students and 2) creating a topics course in each of applied linguistics and transcultural studies since there are currently no advanced, program-specific courses catering to those specializations.

M. O'Brien reminded members that these courses could generally be offered concurrently with upper level undergrad courses, as is done now. She further clarified that the proposal would take effect in the 2019-20 academic year.

MOTION That the proposed changes to LLAC courses be approved. Wagner/Hoenle **CARRIED**

7. Governance Committee

The Chair turned the floor over to Amanda Pounder, Chair of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

A. Pounder reviewed the changes incorporated to the document based on feedback at the last meeting. Members were in agreement with the updates.

Section 3

3.1. School Council

One change was made to sessional representation. Sometimes a sessional is only teaching in one session and is not available in the subsequent session so something has been added to allow for their replacement.

Editorial updates needed include:

- changing "HCE" terminology to units
- "Limited term and contingent term appointments" to "...*appointees*"
- Remove "non-voting members and", to leave "All others have observer status only"

3.1.2 Meetings

There was debate over the value of redundancy in the document, particularly as concerns conduct. A. Pounder suggested that this could be addressed once the primary content of the document is finalized.

3.1.3 Powers and Duties

No changes

A straw vote showed general agreement with the content of section 3.1.

Section 3.2. Division

Discussion arose over student representation in the division. A. Pounder explained that the wording allowed for flexibility for divisions to choose if and how undergraduate representation would be accommodated.

3.2.3 Meetings

Members debated the amount of detail needed in the governance document in relation to division terms of reference. It was pointed out that if divisions are to create their own terms of reference then the governance document should not

be prescriptive in its description however some members felt strongly that minimum requirements should be stated to allow recourse should a problem arise in how divisional meetings are being handled.

A.Pounder reviewed the statements with members:

“The Division must meet regularly...”: majority in favour of keeping this in.

“The non-voting chair of Division meetings..”: no major concerns raised.

“Quorum...”: majority in favour of keeping this in.

3.2.4 Duties and Responsibilities of Divisions

Given that the Collective Agreement states that the Head is in charge of assigning duties, wording in the document should change from “Establish and update equitable division of labour...” to “*Recommend...*”

A straw vote showed general agreement with the content of section 3.2.

8. LRC Terms of Reference

The Chair turned the floor over to Wei Cai, Director of the LRC.

W. Cai provided background on the document, explaining that the terms were initially developed in 2016-17 when the LRC became internal to the School. Changes were subsequently made by the Steering Committee and by DirAC.

Discussion followed. Points included:

- Although the LRC is now positioned within SLLLC, external presence and consultation is still welcome.
- Although there may be external representation and participation, the Director of the LRC must be from SLLLC so this needs to be stated clearly in the terms.
- The Governance Document states clearly that the LRC will have its own terms of reference.
- Concern was raised over the use of “language teaching” as one of the areas under “Mission” if it is the *Language Research Centre*. In response, it was clarified that the LRC has external partners and part of the agreement relates to knowledge translation. A number of projects have been adopted by the LRC in relation to this area so it clearly falls within its mandate.
- Concern was raised over the proposal that DirAC would approve the steering committee membership. Since DirAC is not a decision-making body, then it cannot take on this responsibility. Furthermore, the Director is a member of the Steering Committee so it would be a conflict of interest for her/him to be the final approver. Two options included 1) that the steering committee membership be approved by School Council or 2) that there be a general election for the positions. In respect to the latter, concern was raised that an election might not allow for a balance of representation.

W. Cai asked members if there were any other main concerns related to the document. No further issues were raised so she observed that the next meeting’s discussion could relate only to the paragraph about the Steering Committee membership.

MOTION To postpone voting on the LRC Terms of Reference until the next council meeting. Pounder/Brown
CARRIED

9. Other Business

No further business was raised.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 15:00. Room: CHE212

11. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at 4:50pm Barber/Skordos **CARRIED**