



**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures
Council Meeting 005
Wednesday March 1, 2017, 3:00 – 4:00 pm: Rozsa Centre CIBC Hub**

MINUTES

Voting Members

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| E. Ritter, Chair | A. George | A. Sharp | S. Winters |
| M. Asatryan | A. Hallworth-Duez | I. Shilova | X. Yang |
| A. Barber | Y. Kodama | D. Storoshenko | Grad Rep Non-Ling: L. Kowalsky |
| M. Bergeron | E. Lohka | E. Spoldi | Grad Rep Linguistics: - |
| E. Bratisheko | O. Mladenova | J. Süselbeck | Sessional Rep: D. MacDonald |
| C. Burian | E. Montes Garcés | D. Vijayan | Support Staff Rep: B. Arnautovic |
| F. Cadel | A. Pounder | M. Wagner | Support Staff Rep: F. Pisicoli |
| S. Carroll | F. Sánchez | A. Wall | Undergrad Rep #1 : - |
| C. Dueck | L. Schuett | E. Wang | Undergrad Rep #2: C. Terpstra |
| D. Flynn | S. Sciban | B. Whaley | |

1. **Call to Order** The Chair confirmed quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION That the Agenda for the March 1, 2017 School Council be approved. Carroll/ Süselbeck **CARRIED**

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2017**

MOTION That the Minutes for the January 18, 2017 School Council be approved Dueck/Yang **CARRIED**

4. **Dean Sigurdson**

The Dean provided some history on the formation of the School and the focus of his first term as Dean on restructuring, creating a sense of identity in the newly amalgamated FOA, renewal of the academy with new positions, and building research capacity and culture in alignment with the Eyes High campaign. He noted that SLLLC is the last piece of restructuring that will take place but that work needs to be done to ensure the success of the School. He and the Vice-Dean have had opportunity to meet with a number of members of the School, including new faculty hires, Division Chairs, and now the School Council, in order to move things along.

The Dean pointed to the significant investment in the School’s programs and personnel to set it up for success. He noted that this does not follow the trend across the country where language programs are typically being depleted and people are not being replaced when they retire. 15 tenure-track appointments in total have been provisioned to the School along with 7 limited-term or contingent-term appointments and a Specialist/Advisor III administrative position.

He expressed the following points for consideration as the School moves forward:

- He acknowledged the significant number of changes that people have experienced, almost annually in some cases, and acknowledged the impact of that. He thanked E. Ritter for stepping into the Interim Director role on such short notice. In spite of the upheaval, the School needs to focus on how to move forward to be the best it can be. Good news has come through developments such as the new grad program and he expressed his desire to see something similar created on the undergraduate side.

- The focus of his second term will include indigenization and internationalization but also sustaining of the Faculty, nurturing faculty members, students, and programs, and ensuring a healthy, vibrant and mutually respectful environment. The Faculty of Arts became the first Faculty in the University to accept the mental health strategy. SLLLC is likely the most diverse unit in the Faculty so maintaining a sense of togetherness, collegiality and mutual respect at all levels is particularly important. Going forward the School must create a new shared culture that results from the units coming together.
- There is a need to nurture new members of the unit, setting them up for success which includes socializing people into an emerging culture where there is respect for differences. Beyond collegiality, there needs to be an overcoming of differences so that there is synergy and innovation. The Dean invited suggestions from members as to how to move this forward and promised seed funds for such projects. SCPA gets a lot of attention and one of their hallmarks is inter-arts programming. Interaction within the respective groups of the School and leveraging the strength in different areas will be important for future success.

The Dean summed up his comments, stressing the need to continue creating and maintaining a culture of mutual respect. He pointed to individual responsibility but also the need for members to address the lack of trust between and among the divisions. Without trust and respect for the diversity in the unit (background, approaches, linguistic group, etc.), the School will not grow and become the strong unit it could be.

In response to a question regarding the new Director of the School, he informed members that a lot of applications have been received and that the committee would be meeting soon to finalize the shortlist.

5. Director's Remarks

A. Graduate Program in Languages Applied Linguistics and Culture (LLAC)

Thanks to Dan Maher, who served as Grad Program Director for taking this on at a moment's notice, for his caring and compassionate approach to this role and for all the hard work he put into it. Cheryl Dueck has provided a written report on plans for the committee until Mary O'Brien takes over as GPD for this program on July 1st. Thanks also to Wei Cai who has now joined the committee in anticipation of applications from students interested in specializing in Applied Linguistics with a focus on Chinese.

B. Visiting Speakers, Visiting Scholars, other international visitors

Members were asked to provide F. Pisolini with information re international visitors ASAP to ensure that they are provided with the necessary documentation to enter the country.

C. Update on Web Page.

F. Pisolini has done a wonderful job of restructuring the People page and is now working on other pages on the School site. Please inform her of any broken links or errors in content. A set of closed pages for the School will be created, containing policies and meeting minutes and pages for each Division.

D. Update on Searches

Linguistics: all site visits completed, and feedback being gathered in advance of a decision meeting scheduled for next Wednesday.

French: 2 year instructor position - Site visits underway.

Italian: 2 year instructor position - Shortlisting meeting scheduled for next week, with plans to get site visits scheduled ASAP.

Arabic Languages & Muslim Cultures: Tenure track instructor position. Search committee composition currently being finalized.

E. FMC (former "FPC" process)

This is a FMC year. Members are encouraged to start putting together materials in order to meet the anticipated deadline of mid-late June. Given the size of the School and the number of people that will need to be evaluated, respect for deadlines will be especially important. The process for assigning merit in the School has yet to be determined but will be discussed at the next DAC with hopes of details to be shared at the April School Council meeting

F. School Council Meeting documentation

All documents for School Council need to be circulated one week in advance of the meeting. A request for these documents will be sent out at least 2 weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting; members are asked to submit documents and reports at least 8 days in advance of the scheduled School Council meeting in consideration of everyone's busy schedule.

G. Initiatives being planned

There are a number of areas where people from across the school have a common interest and a dialogue among these stakeholders would be beneficial:

G.1 SSHRC GRANT development

It's critical for SLLC to increase its success rate at SSHRC – for faculty research development, for graduate student support, and to increase our ability to obtain resources from the administration. A meeting with Kinga Olszewska, Research Grants & Awards Facilitator in the Faculty of Arts, is planned to determine what the School can offer. A brainstorming meeting will be organized in April for people who are just wondering whether they have a grantable idea, and to determine whether there is interest in developing some kind of School support system for developing SSHRC grants over the summer.

G.2 Language Placement

The different language sections all have to deal with the challenge of placing their incoming students in courses of the appropriate level. Each section does it differently – in part because of the unique challenges each faces. It may be useful to have an exchange of ideas to see whether some of the successes in one section can be adopted or adapted for others, and whether there are some common needs that can be most effectively addressed in a collective fashion.

G.3 Linguistics across the School

Every Language division has at least one linguist, offering courses in linguistics with a focus on their particular language. Bringing all the linguists in the School together may allow for the exploration of ways to better harmonize our offerings to increase enrollment of linguistics students in courses offered by the language divisions and vice versa.

Discussion followed:

- The Dean offered to provide seed funding for innovative projects that allow for synergy across the sections; perhaps funding could be invested in placement exam work that would benefit sections across the School.
- A question was raised over whether or not students could be placed in a different course after the registration deadline. It was stated that approval has been granted, exceptionally, in the past. There was debate over whether or not a student's level could be accurately assessed within a two week timeframe. It was pointed out that on occasion, students do not appear then suddenly show up to class after two weeks and want to be placed elsewhere. Delaying the date when students can be placed may not encourage students to be responsible for their appropriate placement early on.

H. New LLAC Program

C. Dueck announced the approval of the new LLAC program, with five specializations, and thanked all those involved in its creation. She explained that a number of steps are still required before a full launch is possible. Regardless of the application date, the School will need to move forward with the following:

- Promotion of the new program, the development of new courses, updating the webpage, and directing students to each of the new programs.
- Ensure the professional training of students so that when they go to international conferences, they make a good impression.

Members were asked to see the report previously distributed which identifies roles and responsibilities in the interim.

It was clarified that funding available does restrict the number of admissions. Members should direct students who are interested in grad studies to either of the Schools Graduate Program Administrators.

6. Question Period

No questions were raised.

7. Questions about written reports

No questions were raised.

C. Burian informed members that several units across the faculty are interested in adding the new JPNS courses to their field of studies.

C. Dueck thanked E. Ritter for the weekly School update.

8. Other Business

A.Pounder informed members that the Governance Committee hopes to have a draft document for people to review and discuss at the end of April. A special meeting may be added for that discussion.

Members were advised that the next meeting date would be changed so as not to conflict with Bermuda Shorts Day.

It was agreed that a retreat or extended meeting should be planned for the spring, especially given the need to discuss the governance proposal. Members were invited to provide E. Ritter with topics for discussion.

Next Meeting April 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm, Evans Room, Rozsa Centre (NOTE: New date to be confirmed.)

MOTION TO ADJOURN Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm Lohka/Barber CARRIED