

**DRAFT Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting – February 26, 2020**

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Jane Wolff (*Chair*), Dean Richard Sommer, Didier Pomerleau, Robert Levit, Liat Margolis, Sandy Smith, Shane Williamson, Jeannie Kim, Charles Stankieveh, Mason White, Jesse LeCavalier, Mark Sterling, Petros Babasikas, Victor Perez-Amato, Justine Holzman, Mary Lou Lobsinger, Sean Thomas, Shirley Chan, Steven Fong, Jay Pooley, Roberto Damiani, Francesco Martire, Patrick James, Mitchell Akiyama, Benjamin Kuttner, Maria Yablonina, Andrea Kristof (Alum.), Leonardo Garcia (OALA), Nicole Tratnik (FGSA), Adam Krajewski (GALDSU), Jonathan Gurguis (AVSSU)

Jenny Hill (*Council Secretary*)

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**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order and delivered the Land Acknowledgement at 4:08 pm. The Chair then introduced Jenny Hill as the new Secretary to Council.

**1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (November 27, 2019)**

**Motion:** THAT the minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on November 27, 2019 be approved.

Moved: Liat Margolis

Seconded: Justine Holzman

Abstained: 1

Motion approved.

**2. Report of the Dean (*Richard Sommer*)**

Dean Sommer began by remarking that time passes swiftly between meetings. He went on to give a brief summary of current faculty searches including positions in Building Science, Forestry and Visual Studies. He mentioned that the school is approaching the end of offer production phase of the admissions cycle.

Dean Sommer highlighted one capital works project; the 'belvedere' on the front lawn. The contract is currently out to bid, and he anticipates that ground will be broken soon (weather dependent).

Finally, the Dean gave an overview of current curriculum reform thusly: The Master of Architecture changes are nearly completed, the new PhD program is in first round of admissions, and the Post- Professional program changes are underway.

No discussion followed.

### 3. Proposed Constitutional Amendments (*Didier Pomerleau*)

Didier Pomerleau began by contextualizing the reading. This is the second reading of the amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, If the motions are passed, the documents will then go forward for board approval.

Didier Pomerleau presented updates to the proposed changes to the constitution. These included the possible reduction of alumni seats from four to two, with a clause about the selection of these alumni, that one should have graduated more recently than the other. The President of the Alumni Association (Tye Farrow) had submitted written comments in advance of the Council meeting. He stated that the additional clause was needlessly prescriptive and that a wider range of diversity factors should be considered in selecting representatives. The proposed amendment to the Constitution will be changed accordingly.

Didier Pomerleau remarked that the existing Bylaws provide for an alumnus or alumna to sit in any committee as the Dean's designate.

Didier Pomerleau stated that the draft Constitution changes had been screened by a Provostial Committee who had advised against two proposed changes:

- Section VI, that the ex-officio seats be made non-voting,
- Section XI, regarding overruling of Roberts Rules of Order.

Didier Pomerleau explained that the Constitutional review had been motivated, in part, by a desire to meet quorum more readily, by reducing unused seats. The primary driver having been the integration of Forestry faculty and students into the governance structure.

A correction to the motion was made by Didier Pomerleau.

~~**Motion:** THAT Council determine and approve its preferred alternative of the possible proposed changes to the Daniels Faculty Constitution.~~

**Motion:** THAT Council recommends to the Academic Board that the proposed changes to the Daniels Faculty Constitution be approved.

Moved: Robert Levit  
 Seconded: Andrea McGee  
 Opposed: 1  
 Motion approved

### 4. Proposed By-law Amendments (*Didier Pomerleau*)

Didier Pomerleau invited discussion regarding the inclusion/exclusion of Professional Associations from the Curriculum Committee.

Robert Levit raised the potential to engage with professionals through other mechanisms such as an annual event. Didier Pomerleau countered that the larger question of how to engage our alumni and professional associations requires much greater discussion and is not determined by the By-Laws of Council. He also pointed out that the changes to the By-Laws empower the Curriculum Committee to establish standing or ad hoc working groups as they choose.

Francesco Martire remarked that some members of Faculty are also members of the OAA and/or OALA. He asked if there were some opportunity to make use of these connections. Francesco Martire added that despite his qualifications for such a role, he was not volunteering at this time.

Dean Sommer said that the question is not whether faculty can demonstrate the function and changes within the school, but rather that it is not a friendly message to convey to the OAA and OALA. He recently

met with a representative of the OAA who advised him that the organization intended to increase their involvement in education.

Dean Sommer reiterated that a longer conversation about professional community engagement is warranted, particularly considering the recent inclusion of a third professional association, and the increase in non-accredited programs.

Jane Wolff asked if it was advisable to leave the professional associations within the Curriculum Committee for now. A short discussion between Dean Sommer, Robert Levit and Sandy Smith resulted in the agreement to leave the existing professional associations in the Curriculum Committee, but not to add forestry representation at this time owing to the intent to later remove OAA and OALA seats.

Shane Williamson noted that he had recently spoken to the OAA representative Peter Berton, who had said that he would be happy to attend fewer meetings.

Didier Pomerleau advised that the motion remains as drafted, that it is the 'proposed changes' which have been amended.

**Motion:** THAT the proposed changes to the Daniels Faculty By-Laws be approved.

Moved: Robert Levit

Seconded: Liat Margolis

Abstentions: 1

Motion approved.

#### 5. **GALDSU Report** (*Adam Krajewski*)

Adam Krajewski spoke about the union's initiative to setup suggestion boxes in studio spaces. The comments received are being communicated to the ORSS/Andrea McGee on a fortnightly basis. He advised that the union: is holding a Town Hall meeting in March, is undertaking their search for new executive, and are looking forward to their end-of-year gala.

Adam Krajewski said that the health and wellness programs were going well and that a recent strategic change to using budget for food rather than drinks was very successful.

No discussion followed.

#### 6. **AVSSU Report** (*Jonathan Gurguis*)

Jonathan Gurguis opened with news about the City Building Expo, which is in its third year. It will be held on Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> and will have two panels, keynote speakers and a design charette. He then gave a summary of the report from AVSSU including recent and upcoming initiatives.

These included:

- Executive board elections are ongoing, with voting March 4-6,
- Destressor week in Fall had been fun and successful, another is being planned,
- Intermurals are going well,
- The Semi-formal sold 200 tickets, which was a good turn-out,
- The Daniels Art Directive will be designing a pavilion for OSHEAGA,
- Mentorship program is working well, recent events included:
  - o Coffee with Profs.
  - o Fresh Fruit with Registrar
- The Equity Commission is conducting an anonymous survey about equity.
- The Sustainability Commission is conducting park visits to hug trees.

No discussion followed.

**7. MArch Report** (*Shane Williamson*)

No report was made.

**8. MLA Report** (*Liat Margolis*)

Liat Margolis provided a summary of the five areas of curriculum development detailed within the written report. She highlighted the upcoming evening lecture with Teresa Gali Izard, Director at ETH Zurich, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and commented that the recent student-professional networking event had been well- attended and successful.

**9. MUD Report** (*Mark Sterling*)

Refer to written report.

**10. HBA-AS Report** (*Jeannie Kim*)

Jeannie Kim updated Council that summer course offerings were made available to students yesterday. These include field trips to Athens or Berlin, and several design-build studios in Haliburton Forest, Prince Edward County, Parkdale and Fogo Island.

Jeannie Kim described the School of Cities Capstone project in which Daniels students are working with students from Engineering, Geography and Rotman to address design problems posed by external stakeholders. The School of Cities plan to extend this course to Anthropology and Urban Studies students in coming years.

Ja Pooley spoke about a similar interdisciplinary, 'real world' course for 1<sup>st</sup> years. The Engineering Strategies & Practice course is now being delivered with Daniels students being integrated in equal numbers to teams within one section. This pilot is working out very successful with students from each school communicating well and sharing knowledge rather than forming silos.

**11. HBA-VS and MVS Report** (*Charles Stankievech*)

Charles Stankievech added two pieces of news to his report. Firstly, that MVS alumna Deanna Bowen has received a 2020 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. Secondly, that the pro-seminar "Arms Race" by Yusuke Obuchi is coming up on 20<sup>th</sup> March. This lecture will be of interest to all scholars of design.

**12. Post-Professional Report** (*Mason White*)

Mason White noted that the meetings and documentation for the name change is in progress. He added that the admissions criteria will be widened to invite all designers looking to explore self-directed research.

**13. PhD Report** (*Jessie LeCavalier*)

Jessie LeCavalier updated Council on the first admission cycle. A long, short-list of nineteen students has been determined, and the applications from these students forwarded to specialists in their field. He is expecting to have results by the end of this week.

**14. Forestry Report** (*Sandy Smith*)

Sandy Smith reported that MFC and MSc admissions are ongoing until April. She thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the CFAB report and reminded Council of the accreditation board's visit on 1-3 April. After the CFAB visit, faculty involved in MFC will take a mini retreat to digest comments received and to conduct strategic planning for the program.

Sandy Smith noted that winter field trips have now concluded, and photographs have been sent to Stephen Kupferman for inclusion on the Daniels Forestry website. She thanked Forest Ontario for sponsoring a recent student networking event at Nottawasaga Inn.

Sandy Smith concluded her report by giving a brief update on the Premiers attendance at the Ontario Forest Industries Association.

No discussion on any program reports.

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#### **15. Curriculum Committee** (*Robert Levit*)

Robert Levit reported that several minor modifications have been made to courses. All such modifications were either changes to codes or names, but not to content.

#### **16. Admissions Committee Report** (*Andrea McGee*)

Andrea McGee gave a summary of current admissions processes. DFALD have received and reviewed 7.8 % more One Idea submissions this year. Applications have been received from 33 different countries including El Salvador, Spain, Egypt... Three quarters of the offers have been made; more will follow in mid-March. Andrea McGee remarked that work never ends.

Dean Sommer added context to the One Ideas statistic. It is always our ambition to improve upon the difference in the number of students that make initial inquiries to the University and then go on to make a direct application to our programs.

Dean Sommer explained that if admissions numbers drop it can be difficult to increase them in future years, so it is desirable to stabilize admissions from year to year. Application numbers have been dropping across the University, if not across all of Canada; applications to DFALD have increased.

#### **17. Awards Committee Report** (*Mason White*)

Mason White began by thanking Jiffin, then gave a summary of the written report including: the number of students forwarded to SGS for SSHRC and NSERC awards, Connaught and Vanier scholarships, John Belle travel fellowship and OGS processing, which will take place in March and May. The quality of applications for the travel scholarships is improving, which he attributed to the information sessions in which successful students meet and educate potential applicants.

Mason White also reported a successful 5<sup>th</sup> annual awards luncheon held on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **18. Research Committee** (*Liat Margolis*)

Liat Margolis outlined the overall figures from the report, that of 21 submitted grant applications, 12 are still pending in this year.

Liat Margolis described the Centre for Research and Innovation Support (CRIS) initiative as collaboration between VPRI, UTL and the CIO. It will serve as a hub and tri-campus connector. AV and IT conferencing facilities are available at the library. Liat Margolis invited interested faculty to ask her or Shirley Chan about this.

Liat Margolis summarized the report on Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI). These are large-scale, cross-divisional initiatives. Funding is available through Seed program (\$25k – \$225k/ year, 3-5 years), and the Opportunity Matching program (\$250k - \$2M, < 5 years). The ISI is currently mapping research clusters across the University. Liat Margolis invited interested faculty to ask her or Shirley Chan about this.

Liat Margolis finished her report with news of the Ted Sargent's global initiatives program. This is also a potential source of funding for international and global research collaborations. Liat Margolis has asked for a list of priority themes and/or countries to be forwarded from the funding program. Again, interested faculty are invited to inquire with her or Shirley Chan.

#### **19. Diversity and Equity Committee** (*Jane Wolff*)

Jane Wolff began her report thanking the Dean for the continued funding for Indigenous cultural issues. This semester the Committee have already met with Shannon Simpson and have an upcoming training event with John Croutch.

Jane Wolff outlined a key finding from the study into the Diversity and Equity of comparable faculties, that many have a specific staff member to monitor and address these issues. She asked the Dean if Anupreet Sandhu's new role might encompass these responsibilities? Dean Sommer advised that the Faculty abides by all best practices given at University level and abdicated responsibility for identifying a specific role given his remaining time in his office.

Jane Wolff advised Council that she and Jenny Hill are working on the next round of Curriculum Content survey. Faculty were reminded that this is an overview process and their participation is encouraged.

Jane Wolff asked that diversity information about the applicants for faculty positions and the existing faculty please be made public.

In discussion, Mary Lou Lobsinger recommended a resource for the Equity and Diversity Committee; the Indigenous Education Network, found on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of OISE.

#### **20. Appeals Committee Report** (*Robert Levit*)

No business to report.

#### **21. Committee on Academic Standing Report** (*Robert Levit*)

No business to report.

#### **22. Other Business**

Dean Sommer spoke about amazing recent public events and reminded Council that New Circadia will close in April.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Motion: Liat Margolis

Second: Charles Stankieveh

Unanimously approved.

**These notes are considered to be an accurate account of the meeting. Please note that attendance is recorded as per the sign-in sheet. If any discrepancies or omissions are noted, please contact the undersigned; otherwise these shall be deemed acceptable to all.**

Jenny Hill, Assistant Dean, Academic Planning and Governance (*Council Secretary*)