

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting – April 17, 2019

Jane Wolff (*Chair*), Dean Richard Sommer, Robert Levit, Mitchell Akiyama, George Baird, Aziza Chaouni, Katy Chey, Roberto Damiani, Georges Farhat, Tye Farrow (Alumnus), Steven Fong, Leonardo Garcia (OALA), Justine Holzman, Luis Jacob, J. Alstan Jakubiec, Jeannie Kim, Andrea Kristof (Alumnus), Jesse LeCavalier, Sue Lloyd, Mary Lou Lobsinger, Kristie MacDonald, Liat Margolis, Fadi Masoud, Andrea McGee, Laura Miller, Carol Moukheiber, Pete North, Alissa North, Mauricio Quiros Pacheco, Victor Perez-Amato, Brady Peters, Pina Petricone, Adrian Phiffer, Didier Pomerleau, Irene Puchalski, John Shnier, Steve Socha (OAA), Charles Stankieveh, Lisa Steele, Joanne Tod, Kim Tomczak, Stephen Verderber, Mason White, Robert Wright, Cezzane Ilagan (AVSSU), Grace Wong (AVSSU), Yasmin Al-Samarrai (GALDSU), Ouss El Assir (GALDSU)

Non-voting: Jacqueline Raaflaub, Jiffin Abroleda, Shirley Chan

Kate Nelischer (*Council Secretary*)

Call to Order

Jane Wolff calls the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Welcome and traditional lands acknowledgement.

Reminder of Council procedures and voting practices, which are in line with University of Toronto practices.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (February 13, 2019 and December 5, 2018)

Motion: THAT the minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on February 13, 2019 be approved. [*Attachment 1*]

Moved: Liat Margolis

Seconded: Andrea McGee

Motion passes, one abstention.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on December 5, 2018 be approved. [*Attachment 2*]

Moved: Didier Pomerleau

Seconded: Matthew Allen

Motion passes unanimously.

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

Dean Sommer provides an overview of the proposed amalgamation of the Daniels Faculty with the Forestry Faculty, including: the history of the Forestry Faculty at the University of Toronto; the current state of the Forestry Faculty; the Provost's proposal for the Forestry Faculty to be dissolved and amalgamated into the Daniels Faculty (attached); the context within which this

proposal was developed (including the change in the University's budget model); the motivations behind the potential amalgamation; and, the potential benefits and challenges of this proposal for the Daniels Faculty. Dean Sommer notes the Provost, the University, and the Forestry Faculty all support this proposal.

Robert Levit (Associate Dean, Academic) provides an overview of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Proposed Restructuring of the Forestry Faculty, which he chaired (report attached).

Didier Pomerleau notes that he has led consultations with Forestry and Daniels staff, which have been positive. Staff see interesting potential and this merger would not put stress on the administrative structure. Didier also notes that there are a number of financial benefits to this proposal.

Motion: Whereas a *Proposal for Academic Restructuring of the Faculty of Forestry* was prepared and publicly circulated by the deans of Architecture and Forestry in December 2018;

And whereas a 120-day consultation period with faculty, students, staff of the two Faculties was completed, to explore and understand what impact, if any, such a merger would have;

Be it Resolved that the Faculty welcomes the faculty, students and staff of Forestry to join DFALD.

Moved: Liat Margolis

Seconded: Andrea McGee

Discussion:

John Shnier asks how the Forestry Faculty will benefit from the proposed amalgamation?

- Didier Pomerleau notes that by merging the Forestry Faculty will be able to make new faculty hires over the next five years. Without the merger, new faculty hires in Forestry will not be permitted
- Dean Sommer notes that over the past few years there have been a number of potential paths explored for the Forestry Faculty, and it has been determined that the Faculty will not survive if it is not merged
- Robert Levit notes that there is efficiency in the delivery of services in a larger Faculty

Stephen Verderber notes that he will choose to abstain from the vote because he feels that he has not been provided with enough information to review, specifically regarding the financial implications. Stephen notes that he would have liked to have seen a five-year financial projection. Stephen also notes that the Forestry Building design is antithetical to studio culture. These issues raise concerns. Stephen asks why financial projections were not circulated?

- Dean Sommer notes this is a reasonable question. At the recent Core Faculty meeting a 10-year projection was presented to all faculty, which showed that the proposal is financially strong

Yasmin Al-Samarrai notes that this proposal has been discussed with students at the GALDSU town hall and that students are in support of this proposal.

Alissa North notes that she was a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee, and asks if there is any opportunity to dissolve this potential merger if it is unsuccessful?

- Dean Sommer notes that the Forestry Faculty will become one of the programs at the Daniels Faculty, so if it is unsuccessful it could potentially be closed. However, this is not anticipated.
- Rob Wright, Dean of the Forestry Faculty, notes that this is the oldest Forestry Faculty in Canada. There is great potential in this proposal. Once amalgamated, decisions will be made collegially.

Tye Farrow reviews the recent growth of the Daniels Faculty, including the amalgamation of Visual Studies. Tye notes that both Visual Studies and Forestry are within the tent of what might be considered the Daniels Faculty, and that having more science-based faculty members is attractive from a research perspective. Currently, students at Daniels have the opportunity to connect with faculty from other disciplines – will this also be encouraged with the forestry faculty members, if the program is kept somewhat separate in a different building?

- Dean Sommer notes that there are synergies between many programs and those connections will be encouraged

George Baird expresses that there is not enough evidence to make this an academically probable proposition. George recognizes the financial benefits, but regrets that it has been such an expedient proposition, and notes that he will not support the proposal.

Mason White notes that he served on the Ad-Hoc Committee. He is hopeful that we can look at potential opportunities for collaborations in the future brought forward by the Forestry Faculty.

Hans Ibelings sends his support for the motion via email, read aloud by Jane Wolff.

In Favour: 42

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 4

Motion passes.

3. Curriculum Committee Report (*Robert Levit*)

Robert directs Council members to the submitted written report, which notes recent minor modifications passed by the Curriculum Committee.

Shane Williamson presents a brief overview of the Major Modification proposal (attached).

Motion: THAT Faculty Council approve the proposed Major Modification to the Master of Architecture program in full, as presented. [*Attachment 5*]

Moved: Mason White

Seconded: Stephen Verderber

Matthew Allen asks if a motion could be brought forward to vote by secret ballot instead of a show of hands. Didier Pomerleau clarifies Robert's Rules.

Yasmin Al-Samarrai asks if there will be an option within the new program for a thesis advisor to teach an option studio, and if that is the case, will there be any change in the balloting process?

- Shane Williamson notes that the proposal stands as a framework. There is potential for a variety of strategies moving forward, which can be determined over the next year prior to a fall 2020 start date. Whether there will be an option between an Option Studio and Research Studio is still yet to be determined. Shane notes it

is his personal desire to maintain both options. Shane also notes that Thesis Prep will benefit from this proposed structure.

- Mason White contests that Thesis Prep has “died on the vine,” as mentioned by Shane
- Robert Levit clarifies that the proposal is a framework and that the questions raised can be addressed over the next year
- Dean Sommer notes that the structure for Thesis was implemented 5-6 years ago, and that we will have time to determine its future iteration

Ouss El Assir asks whether the August intensive in the second year of study could conflict with students plans for summer work or travel?

- Shane notes that he does not anticipate a significant disruption to students, and that this structure is seen as a benefit
- Andrea McGee notes that this new structure could be beneficial to OSAP applications

George Baird notes that the current curriculum was modelled on the Harvard GSD curriculum. There are advantages to the proposed 3-year curriculum, but George does not feel they outweigh the challenges and believes compacting the curriculum does constrain options. Additionally, it will be difficult to intensify the curriculum (for example, with housing) and also shorten the curriculum. He notes that he will not support the motion.

Aziza Chaouni declares a point of order to request voting by secret ballot (rather than a show of hands). Aziza notes this is proposed in an effort to protect faculty members without tenure.

Chair Jane Wolff rejects the point of order on the basis that a show of hands is used across the University of Toronto as an accepted practice.

Aziza Chaouni calls for an appeal of the Chair’s ruling. Matthew Allen seconds the motion and triggers a vote.

Motion: THAT Faculty Council sustain the Chair’s ruling rejecting the request for secret ballots and maintaining voting by show of hands.

Discussion:

Dean Sommer clarifies that sessional faculty do not vote on Council.

Charles Stankieveh asks if this motion pertains just to this vote. Didier clarifies this would only apply to the vote at hand.

Adrian Phiffer notes that as a faculty member without tenure, he does not feel threatened by holding a vote by hand

In favour: 31
Against: 3
Abstentions: 3

Mason White notes there was extensive consultation for this Major Modification proposal and commends Shane Williamson’s leadership in this regard and in responding to comments and questions.

John Shiner agrees with Mason's comments and notes that Shane has been open and welcoming of discussion on this proposal. John notes that this is a vote to support the framework of the 3-year curriculum, and that details can be determined over the next year. This is an opportunity to look comprehensively at the curriculum. John notes that he is supportive of the current Thesis structure.

Mason White asks Didier Pomerleau to comment on the financial benefits or drawbacks of the proposal.

- Didier notes that this change will result in slightly less revenue from the program, which will not present a significant problem. This slight loss may be offset by modest increases in other programs. This proposal will make the program more competitive with other 3-year programs
- Andrea McGee notes that this proposal would reduce tuition fees for students by one term
- Dean Sommer also notes that 3 years is still a long graduate program as compared to other non-architecture programs

Aziza Chaouni asks for clarification around cuts in funding mentioned by Shane Williamson.

- Shane clarifies that he was referring to the provincial government's recently announced cuts to student funding

Hans Ibelings expresses support for the modification via email, read aloud by Jane Wolff.

In favour: 33
Opposed: 1
Abstentions: 2

4. **GALDSU Report** (*Yasmin Al-Samarrai*)

Yasmin Al-Samarrai acknowledges the Dean's Office, ORSS, and faculty in supporting GALDSU, and provides an overview of GALDSU's projects and events over the past year, along with future goals, outlined in the attached report.

Yasmin notes that there was agreement with the Forestry student union that they would operate as two separate student unions over the next year.

Yasmin provides an overview of priorities for GALDSU moving forward. Additionally, Yasmin provides an overview of the recommendations resulting from the Health and Wellbeing report.

Tye Farrow asks if the Health and Well-Being Report was circulated. Kate Nelischer notes it was provided to Council members as an attachment to the agenda and reports package. All Council agendas, reports, and attachments are available online: www.daniels.utoronto.ca/governance

5. **AVSSU Report** (*Grace Wong*)

Grace Wong provides an overview of AVSSU's work over the past year, as outlined in the attached report, along with goals for the upcoming year (which have been discussed with Andrea McGee). AVSSU applauds GALDSU for its Health and Wellness report.

AVSSU provides recommendations for the administration, as outlined in the report.

Sue Lloyd asks if the report will be circulated. It is noted that the submitted AVSSU report was included in the Council agenda and reports package.

6. Undergraduate Financial Aid Report (*Jiffin Arboleda*)

Jiffin Arboleda gives a presentation that provides an overview of undergraduate tuition and awards, including a list that was recently announced on the Daniels website.

Jeannie Kim notes that the student population has increased dramatically since 2013, yet only 12% of undergraduate students receive financial supports

- Jiffin notes that changes will be made to improve in the future, including addressing Acorn issues in 2019-20.
- Didier added that it has been a tremendous achievement to maintain, and increase, the proportion of undergraduate students receiving financial supports given the massive increase in undergraduate student enrolments.

Matthew Allen asks if the trends in OSAP funding will continue, and if will this impact enrolment

- Jiffin notes that OSAP funding will continue to decline in 2019-20 and that hopefully this will not impact enrolment
- Andrea McGee notes that thanks to the efforts of the Advancement Office, there are more funds available for bursaries and grants

7. HBA-VS and MVS Report (*Charles Stankievehch*)

Charles provides an overview of the HBA-VS and MVS report, attached.

Motion: THAT Faculty Council thanks our colleagues Lisa Steele, Joanne Tod, and Kim Tomczak for their distinguished service and congratulates them on their retirement.

Council extends special thanks to Lisa Steele for founding, nurturing, and leading the Visual Studies program.

Moved: Charles Stankievehch
 Seconded: Andrea McGee
 Motion passes unanimously.

Dean Sommer notes that he looks forward to celebrating Lisa, Joanne, and Kim.

8. MArch Report (*Shane Williamson*)

Refer to written report.

9. MLA Report (*Liat Margolis*)

Refer to written report.

10. MUD Report (*Mark Sterling*)

No business to report.

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

Refer to written report.

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

No business to report.

13. PhD Report (*John Harwood*)

No business to report.

14. Admissions Committee Report (*Laura Miller*)

Laura Miller notes that the Faculty has met or exceeded targets, and that admissions are ongoing to the end of May. Refer to written report.

15. Awards Committee Report (*Mason White*)

Mason White notes that for the second year in a row a Daniels Faculty student has received the Prix de Rome. Refer to written report.

16. Research Committee (*Liat Margolis*)

Refer to written report.

17. Diversity and Equity Committee (*Jane Wolff*)

The committee continues to work on its ongoing curriculum study, and has begun work to support a Faculty response to the University's TRC Calls to Action. Congratulations to Liat Margolis for her successful Access Program grant. Refer to written report.

18. Appeals Committee Report (*Robert Levit*)

No business to report.

19. Committee on Academic Standing Report (*Robert Levit*)

No business to report.

20. Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Moved: Rob Wright
Seconded: Shane Williamson
Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm.

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.

Kate Nelischer, Assistant Dean, Academic Planning and Governance (*Council Secretary*)

