

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

Jane Wolff (*Chair*)

Mitchell Akiyama, Luke Andritsos (OAA), Petros Babasikas, Brian Boigon, Zeynep Celik Alexander, Aziza Chaouni, Katy Chey, Yasmine El Sanyoura (AVSSU), Tye Farrow, Justine Holzman, Ted Kesik, Jeannie Kim, Andrea Kristof (Alumni), Jeanie Lim (GALDSU), Alison Lumby (OALA), David Lieberman, Sue Lloyd, Aidan Loweth (GALDSU), Alex Lukachko, Francesco Martire, Andrea McGee, Victor Perez-Amado, Adrian Phiffer, Michael Piper, Didier Pomerleau, Robert Raynor (AVSSU), Elise Shelley, John Shnier, Dean Richard Sommer, Charles Stankievech, Mark Sterling, Chloe Town, Shane Williamson, Robert Wright

Kate Nelischer (*Council Secretary*)

Guests: Maxim Batourine, Shirley Chan, Dale Duncan, Katrina Goren, Heidi Pepper Coles, Jacqueline Raaflaub

Call to Order

Jane Wolff calls the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Welcome, introduction of new Council Secretary, and reminder of Robert's Rules.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of April 26, 2017

That the minutes of the previous meeting of October 18, 2017 be approved.

Moved by Robert Wright.

Seconded by Didier Pomerleau.

Ted Kesik notes that he believes the minutes do not provide enough detail.

Opposed: Ted Kesik

The motion carries through majority approval.

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

The Dean's report provides an overview the continuing work on reforms to graduate programs.

The Dean recognizes the successful grand launch of the building on November 17, 2017, which many alumni attended.

The Dean notes that some parts of the building are not yet completed, and provides an overview of questions received from students regarding studio space. The Dean notes that a committee will be formed at the beginning of the winter term to work with students in addressing concerns. The committee will present recommendations to Dean Sommer, Zeynep Celik Alexander, and Shane Williamson for consideration.

Jane Wolff asks if someone with expertise in furniture design will be involved in the committee and workshops. Dean Sommer notes that the committee will be comprised of members of each of the disciplines, and that it will be the committee's responsibility to access outside expertise as needed. David Lieberman notes that some faculty members consult in industrial design and fabrication, and that they may be of assistance in this process.

John Shnier notes that long-term plans for furnishing the building cannot be made without first determining the pedagogical approach of the faculty, and that studio culture and learning culture need to be discussed together. Dean Sommer agrees, and notes that we need to think of the building as a campus.

3. Reports of the Program Directors

Report of the Director, Master of Architecture Program (*Shane Williamson*)

The MARC program is going well. Accreditation is upcoming with the report due in 2018 and the assessment visit expected in early 2019. Consideration is being given to shortening the MARC program from 3.5 years to 3 years in order to ensure the program is in a competitive position in relation to other similar programs that are offered in 3 years. This proposal is currently being considered by a working group, and will then go forward to the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Council.

Shane provides an overview of new faculty members and faculty news, congratulating Zeynep Celik Alexander on the recent publication of her book *Kinaesthetic Knowing: Aesthetics, Epistemology, Modern Design*.

Report of the Director, Master of Landscape Architecture Program (*Liat Margolis*)

[Liat is absent due to illness, however Jane Wolff reads her remarks aloud]

The MLA program will be up for accreditation review in 2018. The report will be due in August 2018, and the accreditation review committee will visit in October 2018. In preparation for accreditation, Liat has initiated a curriculum review process with the MLA faculty. Proposed curriculum changes will be presented to Faculty Council in February 2018.

Liat's remarks also provide an overview of recent conversations in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Report, and new faculty members and courses.

Report of the Director, Master of Urban Design Program (*Mark Sterling*)

Mark provides an overview of recent in-course lectures and notes recent and planned changes to the MUD thesis structure, which has resulted in a broader range of thesis topics and better preparation for students. Mark also provides an overview of new elective course content and new faculty members.

Report of the Director, HBA Architectural Studies Program (*Jeannie Kim*)

Jeannie provides a summary of the state of the program (now in its second year of the new curriculum), and an overview of new courses. Reminder of the final reviews this semester and an invitation to attend.

Jeannie also notes that she has been meeting regularly with AVSSU to discuss building and curriculum concerns, and that AVSSU hosted a recent town hall meeting that was well attended. Discussions have

been held about how to communicate and address challenges in-course, rather than at the end of the semester.

Report of the Director, Visual Studies Program (*Charles Stankievech*)

Charles provides an overview of recent faculty and graduate accomplishments and accolades, welcomes Mitchell Akiyama to the faculty, and thanks Shirley for her work on *After All*.

Charles notes recent changes to the MVS studio program and the recent increase in the deliverables in the undergraduate program.

The Dean compliments the recent Eyeball exhibition.

John Shnier notes the benefits of having Visual Studies students within the faculty and that we need to continue to encourage their inclusion in architecture courses. Charles notes that next term an elective in Visual Studies will be available for MARC and MLA students.

4. Update from Graduate Student Union (GALDSU)

Aidan Loweth presents the GALDSU Health and Wellbeing Report, which was created by last year's GALDSU council.

Jane Wolff asks for a comparison between this year's and the previous Health and Wellbeing Report. Aidan notes that many students feel slight adjustments in the curriculum would be helpful.

Robert Wright asks GALDSU to identify the most critical item in the report. Aidan notes that the Executive Summary provides a number of key recommendations, including: the importance of student lounge space, physical health and activity, and mental health. Aidan notes that GALDSU is hoping to organize exercise programming in the building (such as yoga classes). Dean Sommer notes that he would be happy to support yoga classes by providing space or resources.

GALDSU asks for a response to the report from the administration. Dean Sommer suggests that instead of a formal response, a more concentrated conversation on these issues is needed. The Dean notes that the Registrar will coordinate with students to address physical and mental health concerns, and that curriculum changes can be addressed by faculty.

Tye Farrow presents a motion to request ORSS to coordinate a response to student concerns.

Seconded by Mark Sterling.

Motion passes unanimously.

Zeynep Celik Alexander encourages GALDSU to connect with peer institutions as these issues exist throughout the architecture profession and should be addressed more broadly.

5. Update from the Undergraduate Student Union (AVSSU)

Robert Raynor presents the AVSSU report.

Robert provides an overview of the recent AVSSU town hall meeting, along with the student survey that AVSSU organized to gather student feedback on the building and curriculum. AVSSU is hopeful that it can work with faculty to alleviate some identified challenges in the winter semester, such as caretaking, studio cleanliness, and noise, which are identified in the AVSSU report.

Sue Lloyd requests that the AVSSU extend the survey to include the Borden buildings. AVSSU notes that it will distribute the survey more widely.

Didier Pomerleau notes that concerns around caretaking were escalated and that he and Dean Sommer recently met with the University of Toronto Director of Caretaking to discuss. As a result, caretaking resources for Daniels have been increased from 1 FTE to 2 FTE. Additionally, Johnny is arranging meetings with the caretakers to ensure they understand what items in studio can be thrown away and what should be preserved. Dean Sommer and Didier also note that the administration is exploring options for vending machines with the University. Once the administration has determined the Faculty's options with regards to machine design and offerings, staff will discuss with AVSSU and GALDSU.

6. Admissions Committee Report *(Laura Miller)*

[Andrea McGee presents an update on admissions in Laura's absence]

Andrea provides an overview of the current undergraduate and graduate admissions cycles. Katrina Goren notes recent administrative changes to streamline the admissions processes, and the University-wide efforts to increase the number of early offers to undergraduate students.

Andrea provides summaries of the number of applications, offers, and admissions for undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Dean notes that because of changes in provincial policy, the University of Toronto will reduce the number of undergraduate students over the next few years. Because of this, the target for our undergraduate program will be reduced.

Katrina reminds all faculty to adhere to the January 12, 2018 deadline for reference letters for the graduate admissions cycle.

Aziza Chaouni asks where graduates are coming from, and suggests a plan be put in place to advertise Daniels to European students. Andrea that Daniels averages 28 international graduate students each year. Daniels has a new recruitment officer, who will initially focus on domestic students and will then branch out internationally. The Dean notes that Daniels could take a more strategic approach to international recruitment. However, within the University of Toronto only Engineering has a higher percentage of international students than Daniels. Additionally, the Daniels admissions process is blind to nationality. University-wide, the number of undergraduate international students has doubled this year.

Ted Kesik asks about the process for advanced standing students in the MARC program. Andrea notes that the number of students admitted to advanced standing depends on the caliber of applicants and faculty reviews. David Lieberman notes that the larger cohort of advanced standing students last year was because the class was already oversized, and that admissions were even more rigorous.

Robert Wright notes concern that the MLA program has a ratio of applicants to acceptances of 1:1, whereas the University hopes for a ratio closer to 2:1. Andrea notes that ORSS and Liat Margolis are aware, and is hopeful that the new undergraduate curriculum (with additional landscape architecture courses) will encourage more applicants to the MLA program. Jane Wolff notes that the program faced a similar challenge 8 years ago, and that it should be considered by

the MLA faculty. The Dean notes that the MLA numbers result in the Daniels graduate programs appearing less competitive than the undergraduate programs.

Aziza Chaouni asks how the number of domestic applicants to the MUD program can be increased. Zeynep Celik Alexander notes that this may increase as a result of the proposed changes to post-professional programs. Mark Sterling suggests that additional outreach is needed. Aidan Loweth notes that the MUD program may be unattractive to local students because of the length, which is longer than similar domestic programs. The Dean notes there have been recent discussions about the length of the program and that there is a possibility for the MUD curriculum to move towards city-building, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship. David Lieberman notes that recent changes to the thesis structure of the MUD program have resulted in a greater concentration on urbanism.

7. Appeals Committee Report (*Zeynep Celik Alexander*)

Zeynep notes that the committee has not met because there have not been any appeals.

8. Awards Committee Report (*Mason White*)

[Michael Piper presents the report in Mason's absence]

Michael highlights the committee's work to address grants and funding for undergraduate students, which was discussed in the previous Faculty Council meeting. New awards for undergraduate students are expected to be established.

9. Committee on Academic Standing Report (*Zeynep Celik Alexander*)

Zeynep notes that the committee has not met, but that the committee will bring items to Faculty Council next year with regards to policy standardization.

10. Research Committee Report (*Liat Margolis*)

[Shirley Chan presents the report in Liat's absence].

Shirley provides an overview of the recent SSHRC faculty workshop, and the upcoming workshop on industry grants. Shirley also highlights new programs Innovation and Research Services, including the new Research Impact Awards at the University of Toronto (the submission deadline is January 15, and Shirley requests a call for nominations).

Shirley provides updates on the Robotic Prototyping Lab and the GRIT Lab, which will remain at 230 College but which is also being constructed at One Spadina. The Dean notes that the new GRIT Lab is tied to government funding, and that access will be provided from the third floor. The Dean thanks Liat, Rob, and Didier for organizing the continuation of the GRIT Lab at 230 College.

11. Diversity and Equity Committee Report (*Jane Wolff*)

Jane provides an overview of the committee's plans to increase diversity in public programming, staffing, course content, and reviews over the next few years. Jane notes that the committee had recently requested that faculty provide summaries of how diversity and equity is currently integrated into their courses. The committee has been working with GALDSU and BEAT to provide lunchtime workshops, and will be circulating a traditional lands acknowledgement to faculty to be read in class.

Yasmine El Sanyoura asks that the traditional lands acknowledgement be read at the beginning of Faculty Council meetings, to which Jane agrees. Yasmine also asks if diversity can be applied to admissions to ensure a diverse student population. Andrea McGee notes that the Faculty seeks to admit the best students, but also to create a diverse student body. Unless Indigenous students self-identify on their applications, the faculty cannot know. Andrea also notes that the recruitment officer recently travelled north to encourage Indigenous students to apply.

12. Curriculum Committee Report (*Zeynep Celik Alexander and Jeannie Kim*)

Jeannie notes that the draft PhD proposal was circulated. The new PhD courses were recently passed at the November 29, 2017 Curriculum Committee meeting. Jeannie also provides an overview of other items passed at the recent committee meeting.

Zeynep notes the main foci of the committee: the PhD proposal, changes to the MARC program length, revamping of the post-professional programs, and changes to the MVS program.

Zeynep provides an overview of the PhD proposal, noting that a revised draft will be circulated again following edits recently received from the Provost's Office. Zeynep notes that the revised proposal will come to Faculty Discussion in February, and will be voted upon in April.

Aziza Chaouni asks what has changed since the last time the proposal was discussed at Faculty Council. Zeynep notes that the structure of the comprehensive exam has changed, and that she and Jeannie have consulted with additional faculty members across the University. Upcoming changes to the proposal will include the addition of a PhD Program Director, clarity around student evaluations, potential changes to the course load, and the incorporation of feedback from the appraisal visit (planned for February). Zeynep then provides an overview of the process for approving the program in order to admit students in Fall 2019.

David Lieberman asks if connections to other PhD faculty across campus can provide additional resources to supervise students. Jeannie notes that she and Zeynep have held those discussions informally.

13. Other Business

Sue Lloyd inquires about a possible Faculty name change. The Dean notes that the first step would be to change the name of the program from MVS to MFA.

Didier Pomerleau notes that the Academic Board and Governing Council recently ratified the changes to the Daniels constitution that were voted on at the previous Faculty Council meeting.

The Dean notes that two faculty searches have launched this year: one in architecture with an emphasis on building science and sustainability (a joint appointment with the School of Environment), and another in architecture with a focus on urbanism and urban design. Visits will hopefully be scheduled in March.

David Lieberman congratulates Jane on keeping the meeting on schedule.

Adjournment

Moved by Robert Wright.

Seconded by Andrea McGee.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

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 and Outreach Programs (*Council Secretary*)