

DRAFT Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting – December 5, 2018

Jane Wolff (*Chair*), Dean Richard Sommer, Robert Levit, Mark Sterling, Jay Pooley, Didier Pomerleau, Mason White, Shirley Chan, Megan Torza (OAA), Georges Farhat, Bomani Khemet, Andrea Kristof, Irene Pulchanski, Leonardo Garcia (OALA), Alison Lumby (OALA), Ouss El Assir (GALDSU), Dimah Ghazal (AVSSU), Flora Yin (AVSSU), Joshua Humphrey (AVSSU), Tye Farrow (alumni), Jacqueline Raaflaub, Barry Sampson, Liat Margolis, Francesco Martire, Sue Lloyd, Mitchell Akiyama, Barbara Fischer, Andrea McGee, Carla Baptista

Kate Nelischer (*Council Secretary*)

Call to Order

Jane Wolff calls the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

Welcome, traditional lands acknowledgement, and reminder that of next Faculty Meeting dates (February 13 and March 27, both at 4pm).

The Daniels Faculty website has been updated to include a governance page that houses Faculty Council's agendas and meeting minutes (www.daniels.utoronto.ca/governance). Going forward, reports from standing committees will be included on this page.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (April 11, 2018)

Motion: THAT the minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on April 11, 2018 be approved. (*Refer to Attachment 1*)

Moved by Rob Wright.

Seconded by Liat Margolis.

The motion carries unanimously.

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

The Dean acknowledges the new endowment gift from John and Myrna Daniels of \$6 million. This gift was recently celebrated with representatives of the John and Myrna Daniels Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Daniels. The Faculty is expecting a gift from Anne C. I. Oxley to fund an annual competitive award for faculty to stimulate research that is particularly focused on bridging the disciplines of Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and Urbanism.



There are five new faculty searches underway. These are focused on history/theory (2), design (2), digital fabrication (1). These ads are currently out.

The Faculty has two professional program accreditations this year, in landscape architecture and architecture. The landscape architecture program was re-accredited following the September visit. The architecture accreditation report was submitted in September and did not receive any questions. The architecture visit will take place from March 16 – 20, 2019.

There have been a number of recent staff departures, and the Faculty is actively hiring for these positions.

Rob Wright was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry a year and a half ago. The Forestry Faculty has been in discussions over the last few years on how it could be restructured moving forward. There are now ongoing discussions about the possibility of integrating Forestry into the Daniels Faculty. The Provost will start a process of consultation so that we can continue these discussions with faculty members. If this were to move forward, the Faculty of Forestry would be dissolved and Forestry would join Daniels as a program. Faculty members may receive an email from the Provost about this. Nothing has been decided or voted on at this point. This will be discussed further throughout the winter and spring.

Ouss El Assir (GALDSU) asks if the graduate students from Forestry would also come into the Daniels building. The Dean clarifies that the Faculty of Forestry would retain its own building space.

3. Curriculum Committee Report (*Robert Levit*)

Robert notes that the Committee recently passed the below major modification motions to the Post-Professional programs. The Committee also recently passed a minor modification to create a joint course with Engineering, and is notifying Council.

Motion: THAT Faculty Council approve the proposed Major Modification to the Post-Professional Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture programs, including:

- a) Revisal of the Post-Professional Master of Architecture program from 1 calendar year (summer, fall, and winter semesters) to one academic year (fall and winter semesters)
- b) Revisal of the Post-Professional Master of Landscape Architecture program from 1 calendar year (summer, fall, and winter semesters) to one academic year (fall and winter semesters)

Moved by Liat Margolis.
Seconded by Rob Wright.
Motion carries unanimously.

Motion: THAT Faculty Council approve the University of Toronto Major Modification Proposal for the Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture Post-Professional Programs in full, as presented. (*Refer to Attachment 2*)

Moved by Andrea McGee.
Seconded by Robert Levit.
Motion carries unanimously.

4. Research Committee Report (*Liat Margolis*)

Liat notes that the Research Committee has not yet met this term. However, Liat and Shirley have been undertaking related work (as outlined in the Committee's written report). This includes working with the communications team to refine the research information presented on the Daniels website to increase awareness of research activity both internally and externally.

Liat thanks Shirley for her support, noting that she has helped faculty to achieve greater success with their research grant applications.

Liat identifies a number of research grant opportunities at the University with either provincial or federal funding. This includes a new opportunity through the School of Cities, which is currently providing research funding for projects focused on trans-disciplinarity and collaboration between different departments and across at least two of the UofT campuses. The School of Cities is also offering smaller funding for engagement and educational work, and students are eligible for this funding. Liat, Fadi, and Mauricio are representatives of the School of Cities within the Daniels Faculty. The Dean notes that the Daniels Faculty is one of the founding faculties of the School of Cities.

Liat also notes that GRAs (global research alliances) are also funding research proposals, with a focus on international collaboration. Dean Sommer notes that the GRAs are generally focused around PhD research clusters, so the anticipated new cohort of PhD students will help our faculty to be more competitive in this regard.

5. **GALDSU Report** (*Ouss El Assir*)

Ouss notes that GALDSU is organizing monthly events and trying to respond to issues raised in the Health and Wellness Survey (such as providing a meditation room, yoga classes, and healthy snacks). The café is up and running and working well. The Grad Lounge is now designed and should be up and running next term. GALDSU is currently trying to raise money to outfit the lounge with games etc.

GALDSU is collaborating with AVSSU and Ryerson students on a 2019 City-Building Expo. GALDSU is also working on The Annual (a lot of students have already submitted work), trying to collaborate more with MVS students, organizing an end of year formal, developing a newsletter for all students, and maintaining communications with the Dean and the Registrar.

6. **AVSSU Report** (*Flora Yin*)

Last year, AVSSU's main goal was to pass two levies. AVSSU is now working towards implementing these levies.

AVSSU has continued with its regular student life events, operating the student café, and supporting students in developing their portfolios. AVSSU is focused on further implementing the Student Initiative Fund, developing additional student programming, and further committing to addressing student wellness and health. The student lounge is continuing to improve.

Andrea McGee commends both AVSSU and GALDSU on their phenomenal work this term. The Dean seconds this comment.

7. **Admissions Committee Report** (*Laura Miller*)

The Committee has not yet met and has no business to report.

Andrea McGee notes that the graduate program application deadline has been extended to Friday, December 7th (supporting documentation is due January 9th). She notes that applicant numbers will be available in the new year.

8. Awards Committee Report (*Mason White*)

Mason notes that recent staffing changes in ORSS have created some challenges for the Committee. Mitchell Akiyama has recently joined the Committee. The Committee continues to try to implement a report back from students who have previously received travel awards to encourage other students to apply. The Committee, with support from Jay Pooley and Jacqueline Raaflaub, has focused on increasing awards for undergraduate students. The Committee is also focusing on increasing the website visibility of awards.

Mason notes that an MArch graduate received the Canada Council for the Arts Emerging Architect Prix de Rome (external award administered across the country). As well, the Howarth-Wright Graduate Fellowship (the Faculty's highest travel award) went to two recipients, one of whom has decided to host a symposium called Urban Skies in February. Ouss notes that GALDSU is also supporting the symposium financially.

The Dean requests the Prix de Rome winner: David Verbeek.

Mason notes that the Canada Council for the Arts now accepts multiple candidates from each school, which is different from previous years.

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

Jane notes the Committee has supported the Dean's Office in the adoption of the new online course evaluation system and in the use of best practices around faculty searches and hiring. The Committee is also undertaking a study of existing curriculum content related to diversity and equity, and is engaging with the Interdepartmental Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Racism Working Group.

The new online course evaluation system has been designed by CTSI to eliminate bias. It has been shown to eliminate bias throughout its 5 years of adoption in other faculties. This had already been adopted in principle by the Dean's Office, and Kate Nelischer is now going forward to work with CTSI to create a version for our Faculty (in collaboration with faculty). Jane thanks the Dean's Office for this work.

Jane notes the Committee thanks the Dean for his commitment to implementing faculty search best practices. Jane reminds Council of the presentation made to faculty last year by Virginia MacLaren and Bryan Gaensler on unconscious bias. Additionally, Dean Sommer presented to the Committee on November 1 on diversity in the Faculty.

The Interdepartmental Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Racism Working Group was convened by Deb Cowan from the Department of Geography and Planning. This has been developed for Faculties to support each other in this work and address shared problems. The Group is organizing a Dean's Roundtable for early 2019, which Dean Sommer has agreed to participate in.

In line with what is happening in other divisions, the Committee began last year to determine how the Faculty is defining diversity and equity within curriculum by sending out a survey. The ambition of the study is to try to understand where the Faculty is now and understand how we as a

community would like to go forward with these issues in our teaching. The Committee asked about how faculty were defining diversity and equity, and how they were delivering this content in their courses. The Committee received a response rate of about a third of the teaching cohort, and the Committee would be happy to receive additional submissions from faculty. The Committee plans to continue collecting this information over the next few years to get a clearer picture. The Committee encourages faculty to consider broadly defined questions of diversity and equity in their courses.

Barry Sampson asks if there have been questions about why the representation of Indigenous students has been so poor in our programs. Jane notes that this issue has been discussed and is a concern. The Committee has become acquainted with a pilot program in the Faculty of Medicine that includes a summer program for Indigenous high school students. The goal is not to necessarily to convince them to come to UofT, but to broaden their awareness of potential education and career choices. Our Faculty may be able to develop something similar in the future. Dean Sommer notes that the Faculty does have a handful of Indigenous students. Additionally, the Faculty recently made a cross-appointment hire of an Indigenous faculty member.

Liat Margolis notes that the MLA program has been very engaged in these issues for the past year and a half. The program held a workshop in the fall with the CSLA on how the profession is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. The MLA program also reviewed its existing offerings to determine how it could better engage with Indigenous communities and integrate Indigenous knowledge into course content. The University has 34 Calls to Action in response to the TRC report (focusing on faculty, staff, recruitment, curriculum, etc.). This is one of the only UofT reports that obliges divisions to report annually on its progress in these areas. A report was submitted by the Faculty this summer that outlines the work of the MLA program and other faculty members and staff. Liat notes that one of the Provost's priorities is Access Programs to support underrepresented communities and students in entering programs. There are 30 Access Programs across the University (such as the Transition Year Program). The Provost has recently launched an Access Program Fund to launch new programs, and Liat is planning to submit a proposal for this (with colleagues) to be housed at the Daniels Faculty and First Nations House. The University has also established the new position of Indigenous Initiative Director who will be the point person for a lot of this collaborative activity. Liat suggests circulating the Faculty's report on TRC to Council, and to include it on the Council's webpage.

10. Appeals Committee Report (*Robert Levit*)

The Appeals Committee has not met and has nothing to report.

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

The Committee on Academic Standing has not met and has nothing to report.

12. Master of Architecture Program Report (*Shane Williamson sends regrets, written report submitted*)

Please refer to the submitted written report.

13. Master of Landscape Architecture Program Report (*Liat Margolis*)

Liat notes that the MLA program had its accreditation review visit from September 30 to October 3. The accreditation team included Alf Simon, Daniel Roehr, and Natasa Juck. The final accreditation report was recently provided to the Program Director and the Provost, and the program is happy to report that it was re-accredited, noting that the MLA program "is a strong program." Greater detail is included in the attached full report from the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council.

Liat notes that the MLA faculty also developed a five-year Strategic Plan for the first time, in response to a new accreditation requirement. The faculty worked diligently to arrive at a consensus about the program's identity as a program and within the Faculty, University of Toronto, and city of Toronto. It includes ambitions about curriculum reform, better alignment across courses, decolonization of pedagogy, and co-curricular activities and partnerships. The full Strategic Plan is also attached.

The program recently collaborated with the City of Toronto to host a panel on the City's newly developed Biodiversity Strategy. A workshop was also held with Waterfront Toronto and MMVA on the Port Lands area. MMVA is very interested in the Faculty's MLA students.

On March 19th the Faculty will host John Beardsley as the annual Hough Critic, who will be joined by Georges Farhat.

The report includes faculty accomplishments, and Liat encourages Council members to review these.

14. Master of Urban Design Program Report (*Mark Sterling*)

Mark notes that the program continues to generate new elective courses that are open to everyone. In the winter term Michael McClelland will teach a course on heritage issues in the city. This term there was a new course offered on public art practice.

Mark notes many students have been successful in obtaining jobs with local firms, and that colleagues throughout the city have provided positive feedback on the preparedness of our students.

15. HBA-AS (*Jeannie Kim sends regrets, written report submitted*)

Please refer to the submitted written report.

16. HBA-VS and MVS (*Charles Stankieveh sends regrets, written report submitted*)

Sue Lloyd presents the report on Charles' behalf, reading the executive summary of Charles' report. Mitchell Akiyama notes that the Eyeball will be taking place on Friday, December 7, from 6pm to 9pm.

17. PhD (*John Harwood sends regrets*)

18. Cities Centre (*Didier Pomerleau*)

Motion: Whereas the Cities Centre, an EDU-C housed in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, ceased all operations in 2013; Be it resolved that Council declares the Cities Centre to be officially closed.

Moved by Rob Wright.
 Seconded by Robert Levit.
 Motion carries unanimously.

19. Other Business

Barry Sampson notes that he receives on a daily basis emails from graduate students trying to apply to him as a potential supervisor. It would be helpful if he could be provided with a standard paragraph response that tells them how to apply to the program. Andrea McGee notes that many faculty receive these kinds of emails. ORSS can draft something for Barry and others that clarifies that students do not need to secure a faculty advisor in advance of their application. Faculty can also forward these emails to graduate@daniels.utoronto.ca

Mason White notes that as of today's Council meeting, the two post-professional programs are now up and running (in their revised form) and the application deadline is this Friday, December 7th. Mason encourages faculty and students to spread the word about this exciting new program.

Dean Sommer notes that the changes to the post-professional programs are related to the planned changes to the MArch program to move from 3.5 years to 3 years. This will allow for more crossover between the MArch and MLA programs.

Megan Torza introduces herself as the new OAA representative. She notes that the TSA will be hosting a holiday party this coming Friday and encourages faculty to attend.

Adjournment

Moved by Rob Wright.
 Seconded by Andrea McGee.
 Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

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*)