Meeting began at 3:30

Land Acknowledgement by Jonathan Rose. Quote from Chancellor Sinclair: “Education is what got us here, Education is what will get us out.”

Consent Agenda
1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes
   Moved: Member Walker
   Seconded: Member Straker   Motion carried

3. Arts and Science Undergraduate Society Report: Alyth Roos
   Updates:
   • Celebrated ASUS birthday
   • Giving back to the community: Partnering with soup kitchens, clothing drive,
   • Support for the Good Time diner
   • Study sessions for exam preparation
   Into the new year
   • Acer funding
   • Creation of the Reflection Room
   • Discussed student difficulties with the upcoming exam period
   • Set up messaging system on rights and protocols on wellness

4. Reports:
   1. Dean’s Report: Member Crow
   • We’ve heard student concerns on in-person exams and are trying to move forward
   • Province has introduced more COVID regulations, and we are working with KFL&A and the province
   • Scarborough Charter in process for strategic framework: a significant shift and commitment
   • Principal’s transformational plan has just been released. ArtSci is involved with this and is working on how to proceed.
   • 16 hires currently underway
   • Thanks to Jill Atkinson for all her work (her term ends December 31, 2021)
   • Acknowledge ASUS’ work
In-person exams are still in place as of this time for a variety of reasons. Q. Member McLean (DSC president): expressed her concerns about exams. She does not feel that the students are being heard about on-campus testing. There is an exam petition about implementing considerations and accommodations. Deferring exams is not the answer and social distancing is not working. There is a lot of input from students right now, so why can’t we go online? Is it a question of cost? This is unfair for the students.

A. Member Crow: We are meeting regularly with the ASUS Head. We will get a formal response about the testing centers in terms of Exams.

A. Member Atkinson: It’s not a matter of not being heard, but the decisions are often taken elsewhere. Cost is not the issue; health is the number 1 issue. Exams are not as much of a danger as community transmission. All complaints re investigated. Unfortunately, people are not always 100% compliant with the protocols. Please tell us when you see problems, let students help as well. Public Health approves in-person exams. The testing center is open, so make sure you are negative. We need to remain vigilant.

Q. Member McLean: Will refer the issue to Question Period.

2. Associate Dean’s Report on Teaching and Learning: Member Nelson

- What about the exams? We are about 1/3 of the way through. Most exams are in-person. The challenges were the hybrid courses since students were not counted as remote.
- Next term there will be fewer hybrid courses and they will now have a remote section. This will improve the situation.

Q. Member Beauchemin: Two major concerns. 1. There are problems with the online proctoring and exams. What should the instructor do? And 2. Deferred exams. Queen’s is encouraging students to write in January if they are not feeling well. What happens to the Tas and TFs who finish at the end of term and won’t be there to mark?

A. Member Nelson: There are lots of problems with remotely proctored exams and his office is aware of these problems. There are things in place to respond to those issues. We can’t change it right now, but we will have to look carefully at whether Examity is the right solution. If students are feeling anxious, they should reach out for an academic consideration and not sit their exam. We will work with the departments to try and get the resources you are talking about.

3. Associate Dean Academic Report: Member Atkinson.

One item:
- Students were perceiving that they had to provide a medical document and so there was a barrier to be excused from exams. We are now using a different form called the December Exam Attestation Form, which went out to all students this afternoon. This takes you right up to the end of exams. This will still be the decision of the instructors, but there should be no issue. Instructors not using proctors and privately administered exams will have a little more flexibility. Health is the first priority.
4.4 Associate dean (Graduate) Report. Member Regan

- Just one issue: The recruitment for graduate students was last week and it went well but it was a bit smaller than usual, mostly likely due to the fact that it was the last week of classes.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee – Appendix A – for approval (J. Hosek)

Member Hosek Indicated that there were some vacancies coming up for Fall 2022.

Moved: Member Hosek
Seconded: Member Beauchemin
Motion carried.

6. Curriculum Committee Omnibus Report Part I – Appendix B – for approval

Moved by Member Chen that the Omnibus Report Part I be approved
Seconded by Member Hickey
Motion carried

7. Medieval Studies Program Closure Proposal – Appendix C – for approval

Member Atkinson indicated that this was a slight change since we had not captured the role Classic played. This plan was suspended in 2018. There will be no loss of faculty jobs. Courses will continue regardless.

Moved by Member Atkinson (revised version)
Seconded by Member Manley
Motion carried

8. New Concurrent Education/Kinesiology Program – Appendix D – for approval

Moved by J. Atkinson
Seconded by Member Pyke
Motion carried

9. Question Period

Q. Member McLean: Why was the decision made to provide academic consideration rather than just go online? Consideration’s office provided mixed messages about exam attendance. Deferring exams is a very high stakes issue since some courses are prerequisites that require passing before taking the next course. Ontario guidance allows employees to work from home. What about students? This is a widespread feeling among students

A. Member Atkinson: ArtSci does not require testing. Step 3 of the Ontario Opening act provides universities with exemptions because of our vaccine mandate. The capacity of 10 per room does not apply. Is it easier to do remote exams? Online is always our second choice since students found the online exams very stressful last year. Academic Integrity is difficult to maintain. Exam problems online are causing difficulties with technical glitches that can be stressful, less privacy, more expensive, lack of proctors, etc. At the same time, we cannot just flip a switch and suddenly provide remote exams. There are students who DO want to write in person, so we will give them that opportunity. If they do not feel healthy, they can use the considerations portal. We rely on the medical experts to determine how we proceed.
Statement: Member Marshall: Students have been approached by CBC reporter, and their responses will most likely be negative. It’s too late for those students who have already taken exams. Also, students will ignore protocols and dissemble in order to take the exam on time.
Response: Member McLean: With respect to online exams being a second choice, students have become used to online exams. The situation is worse this year than last. Is this not a time to transfer some exams online now? The academic and technical glitches were dealt with last year. What about take-home exams?
A. Member Atkinson: We appreciate the concerns and debates and we are engaged with this. Health is more important. Public Health says exams are safe and we go by those protocols. This may change.

Q. Member Filion: A lot of students would be stressed if exams suddenly moved online. There is concern: not all students support this petition.
A. Member Atkinson: We take this seriously and we expect students to follow protocols. Some find Examity stressful.

Member Rose: Reasonable people can disagree about policy decisions. It’s incumbent upon leadership to explain. This is not the end of the conversation. Thank you students for bringing up these concerns.

10. Reflections on the Principal’s Conversation – Appendix E.

Member Nelson: From the here and now to aspirational. There are six working groups that come from the Principal’s Strategic Report. We’re going to start with the student learning experience. A “critical inquiry-based mind shift” that is “transformative, interdisciplinary and focused on wicked ideas.”

The discussion is postponed until the January meeting.

11. Other Business:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

J. Mennell, Secretary
Faculty Board

Jonathan Rose, Chair
Faculty Board