

## FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE - FACULTY BOARD

A meeting of Faculty Board was held on  
Friday, October 23, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

### Minutes

Meeting began with a presentation on United Way by D. Gordon, S. Quigley and B. Varma

1. Consent Agenda (Approval of Minutes and Adoption of the Agenda)

Moved: K. Hanniman

Seconded: M. D'Alessandro

Motion carried

3. Principal P. Deane Report on **The Conversation**

- a. Challenges of COVID through into relief the challenges facing the university.  
This is an attempt to describe and assess the discussion of the past year, which now is in the phase of feedback.
- b. Formulate components of an emerging strategy for the university

P. Deane: Is the diagnosis of the quality of our community accurate? If not, where did it go wrong?

J. Atkinson: Agreed with a lot of things but there is still a lot to do. Inclusivity in our teaching practice is an issue. Sustainability in our teaching and research but also in everyday behaviour and how to be kinder to the planet.

P. Deane: A lot in the document is about sustainable development in terms of the UN requirements, but also in the particular application of those in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. We are doing an assessment of how much activity at Queen's is devoted towards those various manifestations. If we think about organizing our efforts around those targets, a great deal of what we are already doing is brought together in powerful and highly effective ways. In terms of racist and EDII problems, we're not going to resolve it unless we cease tinkering about the edges and get to the epistemological assumptions that govern what we do, which is a challenging conversation.

J. Hosek: Agrees with the idea that as an ivory tower we should be engaged in the world in applied research, but we need to also do general research as well. Universities need to distance themselves from the politics of the day. Humanities is a case in point. She wonders about sustainability and how far we can actually take this (fossil fuels for example) and our financial future.

P. Deane: Sustainability issues with massive global impact are critically important. It is the primary obligation of the university to engage with those. The time is long past when institutions really have to put their commitments on the table in this regard. This commitment can take many forms. It would help us to have our mission framed within the context of

sustainable development goals. This does not mean the whole institution should be about becoming about applied research but rather aligning itself behind these goals.

J. Morelli: Questioned the statement in the document that there is a need to invigorate research culture. How widespread is this?

P. Deane: This is not uniform across the campus but came out of conversations with individuals from a number of departments. This cannot be taken as categorical. There are places where individuals have found it difficult to engage with their research due to disaffected conditions in which researchers find themselves, such as undergraduate teaching.

A. Burfoot: What is the channel between your office and all of us, and how do you see that interplay between the two levels occurring?

P. Deane: He wrote this as academic. He needs to indicate the priorities that everyone is working towards and to make them a priority. The whole question of the decolonizing of our structures and our curriculum is not presented as a central concern; it is something we would like to do. His role is to validate those concerns and then to put support behind it. The purpose of this is to orient us so that we are all clear on what the purpose is and that we have structures that are mutually supportive to achieve it. He is trying to stimulate a process of self-reflection that is a translation of these things into daily life. It can't be a top-down process, it needs to be an alliance mutually shaped through a dialogue.

A. Burfoot: It's a messy process.

P. Deane: This whole exercise is a confirmation that universities are messy places, and he is not interested in imposing inert structures.

E. MacDonald: Two things not included that she wanted to see: 1) Not enough reflection of what I aspire to. This is that the university must have a critical position in relation to the larger community. The university should not be just furthering someone else's interests but simultaneously be an enclave in which a different set of values exist. The university should retain the usefulness of critique. And 2) The university does not encourage selflessness. Faculty are reluctant to serve on committees, and that work falls too heavily on others. There needs to be more in the paper to reflect on the value of service, on campus and in the greater society.

P. Deane: He states that it is implicit in the document that we must do something good for community and society. We have an opportunity to be a different kind of community that can be transformative for other communities.

I Dimitrov: Can you explain the phrase "quite arcane basic research"?

P. Deane: Basic research is fundamentally important. He is not predisposed to favor only applied research. A healthy research climate in an institution runs the entire gamut from pure curiosity to applied research. He did not mean the word "arcane". He values all forms of research, especially basic curiosity driven research.

C. Evans: What is your vision for internationalization at Queen's?

P. Deane: International reputation is a consequence of our success in other ways. Ten years ago, it would have been seen as a sideline; but international linkages and relevance as a defining attribute of a university is a different matter, and this is what he is looking for. It is central to the shaping of a university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The transformation of a university in the understanding of what a global academy looks like, what the social effect is and its effect on the quality of life on the planet through the physical sciences, all those things are the essence of internationalization. We have an international obligation and an international mission, and we need to try and fulfill those two things by internationalizing ourselves as an institution. What are the components of proper internationalization? The problem with internationalization in this country is that it is an understanding of student mobility: that is students coming from abroad are regrettably seen as a source of revenue, and some mobility of our students going abroad because we think that's desirable. The stats in Canada are actually quite appalling. Students here do not tend to seek out experiences abroad for example, certainly not like students in the EU for example. There is a need for an elevated level of student mobility both incoming and outgoing, and a deliberate orientation to those parts of the globe in which the university can be useful. How do you educate students who will be expected to have global consequences in their lives? The first thing is internationalization at home: transforming the curriculum (not in every discipline). There has been a history of fruitful and effective internationalization through research.

M. D'Alessandro: Thanked the Deane for the report and its inspiration.

#### 4. Reports:

1. Dean's Report. Details of the Dean's Report can be found at [www.queensu.ca/artsci](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci)
2. Association Dean J. Atkinson

At this morning's UG Chairs mtg, A. Roos and M. D'Alessandro presented ASUS' feedback on our students' experience with remote teaching this term.

We then worked in groups to brainstorm short- and long-term strategies to address some of these concerns. I was asked to collate and distribute these to depts in the coming week.

#### **Short term ideas**

- Items that would be relatively easy to implement in the last 5 weeks of term, such as:
  - Allowing students to drop one of several similar small assignments, say weekly
  - Adding a three-day grace period for deadlines
- Opening the rest of the course content (unhiding) at once

### **Long term ideas**

- Adding optional office hours two times a week, once for those in N. America and another for those in China
  - Posting a video once every week or two to review difficult concepts, connect with your students.

### **Take-aways listening to ASUS, AMS**

- Remote teaching is more effortful
- Remote teaching is isolating

We can address these through our course design and by communicating and managing expectations. For example, if you do post announcements after hours or can't respond to emails right away let your students know.

### **3. Associate Dean J. Stephenson**

Two announcements:

1. Student study space in MacCorry is now open. The space is on the main floor near D201. Booking a space is through the same online system that is being used to book library space in Stauffer Library. This will start on Monday 26 October.
2. Reminder to see the Provost's memo about the start of Winter term. Although classes start on 11 January, any in-person class activity is delayed until 18 January as students who are returning to Kingston from elsewhere are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Students are expected to return by 4 January to allow sufficient time before 18 January.

Update on the EDII Curriculum working group. Shared highlights from the group's terms of reference. Terms of reference are attached.

### **5. ASUS Report**

#### **ASUS Update**

- Congratulations and welcome to Dr. A. Jack Davies to the FAS. We at ASUS are excited to have begun working with her on various initiatives, and are looking forward to continued collaboration in the future
- Kudos to all of our DSC presidents, they have been working tirelessly and been so dedicating to collecting student feedback, which has played a big role in ASUS' academic advocacy work.
- Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund (ASURF) applications are open, we have over \$60,000 in UG Research funding to distribute, open to all Arts and Science students.

- Our free hot meal service for students, Good Times Diner, began last week, and saw great success. 30-40% of university students in Canada face food insecurity, and Queen's is not excluded from these numbers, so we look forward to growth in Good Times Diner.
- Life After ArtSci – November 7 – Alumni Networking Summit. Been able to expand our alumni profile in a virtual environment, which is very exciting
- ASUS has partnered with Ryandale Transitional Housing in Kingston as our organization of the year, and we are excited to support them throughout the year to combat homelessness in Kingston
- Supper Series partnership with Tommy's in Kingston, ASUS takes control of Tommy's deliveries from 5-9 every other Tuesday, and we receive a percentage of the proceeds and all tips which get distributed among our 10 Kingston partner charities
- LGBTQ+ Advocacy Group with representatives from all Faculty Societies, AMS, and LGBTQ clubs
- Alyth – Remote Learning Presentation Overview:
  - The workload is overwhelming, need to have smaller assignments and post assignments earlier
  - Students feel a lack of engagement and connection: need to encourage student group work and interaction
  - Things seem disorganized and scattered because of the technology
  - Issues of stress and student wellness: faculty should be more empathetic
  - Lack of effective communication: short Q&A videos and dialogue should be consistent.
  - Accessibility through recorded zoom meeting
  - Issues of privacy

J. Morelli: Appreciates the work in the document. Feedback is important. Also, privacy is also important, re: malfunction in the proctor-tracker. Demands for ID are very invasive. Groupwork is difficult because no one wants to be in the same space, and it ends up as a zoom recording. How do students feel about this?  
 Unreasonable to ask instructors to post the entire course online before they begin because some instructors are not hired with enough time to prepare everything.

A. Roos: Lack of privacy increases stress, students want to move away from online proctoring. Groupwork on zoom is a good change, and it has been a good remedy for students to encourage them to connect with the material and other students.

#### 6. Nominating Committee:

When there is a vacancy in a committee, the Dean can appoint a member. J. Hosek has agreed to be chair of the nominating committee.

Moved: J. Morelli

Second: D. Beauchemin

Motion carried.

7. Question Period:

M. Norris: Psychology would like to open the discussion to change the degree title “Medial”.

J. Stephenson: Prior to COVID a research student did a scan of terms across Canada and how it maps onto our programs. She would like to continue with this project.

J. Rose: Can this be brought to the next Faculty Board?

8. Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:13