EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2014
Arts 509 - 13h00


Excusé(e)s: J. Beddows, S. Grosjean, N. St-Onge, M. Telmissany, L. Von Flotow, A. Wright.

Absent(e)s : V. Bernard, E. Kranakis, M. Saner.


Dean Antoni LEWKOWICZ chaired the meeting.

13-14-08-01 Opening remarks and introductions
M. Lagacé is making a progressive return to work and will take up her mandate as Vice Dean (Governance) and Secretary of the Faculty on July 1, 2014.
L. Bowker will take on the role of Acting Vice Dean (Governance) and Secretary of the Faculty for the period April 1 to June 30, 2014, to be followed by a one-year sabbatical leave.
D. Paré will replace L. Bowker as Acting Director of the School of Information Studies for the period April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

13-14-08-02 Presentation by the uOttawa Communication Directorate on Brand re-positioning
The former uOttawa brand “Canada’s University” has run its course and the university is seeking an inspiring way to define this institution to all stakeholders. The new slogan that has been selected is: “Defy the conventional/Défier les conventions”.

Concerns were expressed about the potentially negative connotations of “defy”, as well as the fact that the English and French versions do not appear to say quite the same thing. It was also observed that this slogan could potentially be applied to any university and does not appear to capture our distinguishing features.
Feedback can be provided directly to the Communication Directorate. Examples of research/teaching/activities from within the Faculty of Arts that show how we live up to this branding are especially welcome.
13-14-08-03 Approval of the agenda
Approved

13-14-08-04 Adoption of the minutes from the meeting on March 18, 2014
Approved

13-14-08-05 Matters arising from the minutes
The Vice Dean (Research) reports that Research Facilitator K.-A. Maddox has begun visiting departments to meet colleagues and to explain her role and she has found the visits to be useful. Thanks to those departments who have already welcomed Kelly-Anne or who will do so in the future.

13-14-08-06 Report of the Dean (A. Lewkowicz)

(a) Strategic mandate agreement (SMA)
There was a special meeting of the Senate on March 25, and a preliminary version of the uOttawa SMA was distributed in advance. It was an approval in principle, but the final document is not yet available. The Central Administrations and the Deans will meet next week, and it is hoped that the final version will be presented.

(b) Ottawa International Writers Festival (OIWF)
OIWF is a non-profit organization that runs events twice a year (largely in English). There have been ongoing discussions about whether uO should participate more fully. In the context of Arts@125, we will pilot some events – with a focus on French or translation contributions – in Fall 2014. C. Rousseau will meet OIWF organizer N. Wilson to begin planning. Colleagues in FRA/TRA/ENG/LLM will be consulted.

(c) U101
Following some challenges with last year’s Journée d’accueil, we are evaluating ways to improve it for next year. It is important to encourage students to develop a strong sense of attachment to their department. The Dean/Vice Dean will give a general welcome lecture, but then students should be directed to departments. To facilitate this, students should attend designated sessions where there will be a departmental representative who can then lead students to a location where they can meet the other professors and enjoy complimentary food. As much as possible, try to involve student associations in this process.

(d) 125th Anniversary of the Faculty of Arts
Thanks to those departments who have welcomed the Dean to speak about the 125th Anniversary Student Experience Fund. We have now exceeded $200,000. A wide range of events will take place during Alumni Week (May 6-10) (http://www.uottawa.ca/alumniweek/home.html). More events are being planned for the fall.

13-14-08-07 Report of the Vice Dean (Research) (L. Hotte)

(a) Revision of internal funding programs
The Vice Dean has received a brief outline of some proposed changes to internal funding schemes. For example, the fund for the organization of conferences on campus is being maintained; a new program has been created to finance equipment repairs; a new program has been created for establishing research teams; funding for conference participation – previously slated for abolishment – has been retained but in a modified form (only for new professors). Details have not been finalized. More information will be communicated as it becomes available.

(b) **Fund for the Development of Academic Initiatives – Destination 2020**
There was a very low success rate – only 2 of 14 applications were funded. Most projects did not meet the requirements. The next competition will be in October. The Vice Dean recommends that potential applicants should consult with her office for assistance in developing their applications.

(c) **Tri-Council competition results**
The results of the most recent SSHRC competition have not yet been announced. There was a good success rate in the most recent NSERC competition.

(d) **Online CV**
The university is switching to the UniWeb tool for online CVs. Professors should keep updating their CVs in the current system, and the data will be transferred (and the costs will be assumed by the university, not the Faculty). The interface is much more user-friendly, and the tool can generate output in a variety of formats (e.g. OCGS and Canadian Common CV). They will add categories as necessary (e.g. for ARV). Data migration will take place over the summer and should be functional for the fall.

13-14-08-08 **Report of the Vice Dean (Graduate Studies) (F. de Bruyn)**

(a) **Admissions**
Admissions present an encouraging picture. The pace of offers and acceptances is ahead of previous years. We appear to be making an impression with our courtesy and efficiency, which is resulting in good conversion of offers into acceptances.

(b) **International Scholarships**
The overall number of international scholarships available is very small. Departments were asked to submit their top two candidates. There are some very strong candidates, but we had only 6 scholarships (5 of which are only partial). Some initial offers have been made, but as the rate of acceptance is lower among international students, there will likely be another round of offers in about one month’s time. Note that international Francophones can now receive a differential fee waiver.

(c) **SSHRC Fellowships**
The results of the most recent SSHRC Doctoral fellowships competition are not yet available. The SSHRC MA process is handled internally and those recipients have been notified.

13-14-08-09 **Report of the Vice Dean of Undergraduate Studies (A. Taylor)**

(a) **Requests to be presented at the next Faculty Council meeting**
There will be three important requests presented at the Faculty Council meeting on
April 22, 2014:

1) **Digital journalism** (modification of a program that has been temporarily suspended). If this request does not go through, the program risks being shut down. An issue that may be raised is differentiation; the response is that this is a partnership (with two colleges), which is being strongly encouraged by the Ministry.

2) **Bac intégré – Lettres françaises et éducation** (bac spécialisé, majeur, en ligne). The proposed program is largely based on the existing program, but it addresses the change imposed by the Ministry of Education (i.e., to convert a B.Ed. from one to two years)

3) **Foundation courses**. The proposal is for the “A2” solution, which will maintain the current options (PHI/FRA/ENG) but also present an additional interdisciplinary choice. It is a relatively modest and pragmatic proposal that this should be piloted with 10 sections. Approximately 25 professors have expressed an interest in participating in the interdisciplinary courses. This proposal responds to the decision of the Faculty Council to keep the number of foundation courses at four, all of which must address the agreed-upon learning objectives (i.e. critical thinking and writing). It will open up an avenue for those interested in exploring interdisciplinary work. It will take some of the pressure off the current system by giving those students who do not want to take a second PHI/FRA/ENG course an option, and by ensuring that the retained PHI/FRA/ENG courses will no longer need to be watered down. It’s a flexible model that can be scaled up or down, accordingly. It is unclear what the demand will be; we will react as required. In the pilot, these courses will likely be restricted to Arts students. The course code prefix might be AAA or AHL or RTS (in sms language); to be discussed further. This proposal represents a compromise, but one that addresses many of the concerns that were expressed during the initial consultations.

(b) **Student Information System (SIS)**

Marks entered in Blackboard Learn do not transfer immediately or easily to a spreadsheet. There is a “hack” available but otherwise, data must be entered by hand. It would be useful if there could be a warning on the Blackboard page telling professors that any marks that they enter must later be transferred. We need to have a more secure and reliable solution. A. Taylor will pursue the conversation with the VP-Academic’s Office.

### Report of the Acting Vice Dean (Governance) and Secretary (L. Bowker)

(a) **Committee membership**

Colleagues on a wide number of committees will soon reach the end of their mandates (e.g. Nominations Committee, FTPC, Research and Publications Committee and Undergraduate Studies Committee). Calls for nominations will be circulated in the coming weeks. Please consider nominating colleagues who may be interested.

(b) **Website**
New sites for ARV, CMN, ENG have been rolled out and additional testing will begin next week. The next phases will continue over the summer.

13-14-08-11 Report of the Chief Administrative Officer (N. Ouimette)
(a) Evaluation process of the administrative staff is finished.

13-14-08-12 Varia

Support Staff Award of Excellence. Minor modifications were made on the recommendation of the Management Committee. The same nomination can be put forward in subsequent years, but an individual may win the award only once. The first recipient is Angela Haché (THE).

VOTE: proposed modifications are unanimously accepted.

The meeting closed at 15h20.

Acting Vice Dean (Governance) and Secretary

[Signature]

Lynne Bowker

15.04.14