AGENDA and Minutes
FACULTY OF ARTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting 33  
Social Sciences 1339  
Tuesday, January 31, 2017  
10:30am – 12:00pm

Regrets & Questions: Kate Rollestone, Executive Assistant, kate.rollestone@ucalgary.ca

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Welcome by the Chair to guest Andrew Szeto, Campus Mental Health Strategy Director.

33.1 Motion to accept Jan 31, 2017 EC33 Agenda
Moved by Susan Franceschet, seconded by Richard Dyck, majority in favour, no oppositions – Carried.

33.2 Motion to approve Sep 29, 2016 EC32 Minutes
Moved by Anthony Wall, seconded by Brian Moorman, majority in favour, no oppositions – Carried.

33.3 Motion for the Faculty of Arts to adopt the University of Calgary’s Mental Health Strategy
The Chair introduced the item and indicated that he would like to form a committee within the Faculty of Arts to adopt the strategy.

Andrew Szeto, Campus Mental Health Strategy Director, spoke about the University’s Mental Health Strategy and the Faculty of Arts:
• Arts will have fundamental role in how the strategy is launched, and will be integral in how other faculties adopt the strategy
• Challenge is that the strategy is written in flexible university terms, is fairly open in recommendations, has a university overview. But how does it apply to the faculty level, the department level? An Arts committee could be a prototype for other faculties, a champion of the strategy.
• In 2015 the university launched a steering committee and working group led by the province. Researched into best practices, the scope was ratified by GFC in October 2015. Since then an implementation committee and evaluation subcommittee were formed to help guide implementation of the strategy and gather the input of stakeholders on campus. In June 2016 twenty recommendations were prioritize into short, medium and long-term (long-term is 5 years).

Richard Sigurdson: We want your thoughts on how we go about adopting the strategy, forming a committee and your feedback.

Anthony Wall: Is there any documentation that first year students are more psychologically fragile now than years ago?
Andrew Szeto: This is anecdotally true and there is data that students access services but is that because it is more available now than it was.

Anthony Wall: Are there specific things to address with first year students.
Andrew Szeto: Data doesn’t target first year students but rather populations at risk, so that could be first year students. If you hear any concerns, we can address them specifically to this group, for example at orientation.

Richard Sigurdson: If we adopt the strategy with an implementation strategy committee, we might decide that regardless of the campus strategy, we might focus on first year students. That could come out of our process. This would be the benefit of having a committee within our faculty – we can develop the strategy the most relevant for our population.

Kim Huynh: In her first year class, 40 percent of the students chose the topic “wellness and the body”, usually these younger students choose popular culture or super hero topics but this term a lot more fell into that topic.

Richard Dyck: Is the strategy unique to the University of Calgary?
Andrew Szeto: Yes, only three exist in Canada – University of Manitoba was first, then UofC, then York University. Others have a staff strategy or a student strategy but not a campus-wide strategy. Ours is inclusive of everyone on campus, and also the culture, environment and physical space.

Richard Sigurdson proposed two Motions:

Motion 1 - That the Faculty of Arts officially adopt the University’s Mental Health Strategy
Moved by Kim Huynh, seconded by Richard Dyck, majority in favour, no opposition – Carried.
Motion 2 – That the Dean is directed to establish the Faculty of Arts Implementation Strategy Committee led by the Dean or designate and with the committee (i.e. two faculty members, two students, and two staff members) appointed by the Dean.

Note: The Dean suggests an appointed committee, rather than a standing committee elected by the faculty, as the time to establish an elected committee would be lengthy as it would have to pass through two Faculty Councils. A standing committee could be established later on.

Richard Zach: Are you asking staff to send a representative? Yes. Andrew Szeto added that we have an Arts in Motion committee and that it would be important to have someone from that committee. Richard Zach added that the faculty has a uflorish groups “history and hommies” and “philosophers and friends” – could it flow from this? Andrew Szeto confirmed it is related.

Cora Voyageur joined the meeting at this point.

Richard Sigurdson added that we could assess needs and then make recommendations to the appropriate areas – may go to the dean, the units head, the HR partner – there need be no one single flow. It could include supporting promotional activities. Andrew Szeto pointed out that we already have resources with wellness and HR so we should partner with them.

Moved by Kathryn Reese-Taylor, seconded by Brian Moorman, majority in favour, no opposition – Carried.

Andrew Szeto left the meeting at this point.

33.4 Chair’s Remarks

Budget issues are always a concern. In Fall we had to implement a two percent cut. Most of our money goes to salaries so there is less discretion to trim so we focused on areas where we have some discretion. We cut the sessional and GAT budget and the Vice Dean worked hard with department heads and managers. But ultimately we need to look at our programs and see what we need to offer, maybe some courses only every two years or offer only the key required courses.

The two percent cut is staying and the Government indicated we can’t increase tuition. We plead our case, we are a large teaching faculty, we imperil degree completion and we are cutting GAT when we are trying to build programs. We got some money back for sessionals and GAT. And also to recruit a faculty member to be the Director of the Indigenous Strategy program as our Indigenous hires are at junior levels and we couldn’t ask them to direct a program. The ad is out and the committee is being struck.

The Strategic Plan will be addressed later in the meeting.

FS joined the meeting at this point.

33.5 Approval of external committee members on advisory selection committee for the appointment of the department head of Geography

Richard Sigurdson noted that there are two other appointments that will have to be approved by Executive Committee by email.

Florentine Strzelczyk referred to the document provided and asked for approval of the external committee members.

Moved by Susan Franceschet, seconded by Darren Bender, majority in favour, no opposition – Carried.

33.6 Report on Unit Reviews: CMF, PHIL, GEOG, HIST

Florentine Strzelczyk outlined the timeline of these unit reviews and indicated that there would be reports and highlights presented by the relevant department heads at the February 9th Faculty Council.

The Executive Committee is asked to accept that the Unit Reviews have been completed and that the reports will be
available at the next Faculty Council. The next Faculty Council will have a light Agenda but two following will be heavy with CARC and Strategic Planning items so we are presenting all Unit Review reports on February 9th.

Any discussion or concerns? None.

33.7 Update on Faculty of Arts Strategic Planning

Florentine Strzelczyk gave a verbal report on Faculty of Arts Strategic Planning that she co-chairs with Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot. She outlined the Vision, Mission, Values and Commitments and discussed the goals and action items that are associated with each of the three Commitments.

Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot joined the meeting at this point.

There was a discussion about the timeframe of the roll out and whether to launch at the same time as Energizing Eyes High (April 29th) or before or after and EC were asked to advise on the best course of action:

- What makes sense – to launch before or after in terms of the flow of the two strategies
- Combining the roll outs would capitalize on the celebratory nature of the associated events and generate more people and interest
- But combining could also overwhelm people with information and not give time to digest each event
- Launching one after the other could result in launch fatigue
- Is it an option to launch before, can it be finished in time?
- We have the Faculty of Arts Awards on May 3rd, we could combine but we may start to lose people to vacations, etc.

The co-chairs will take the discussion into consideration and determine the launch date.

33.8 Motion to accept Feb 9, 2017 Faculty Council Agenda

Moved by Susan Franceschet, seconded by Brian Moorman, majority in favour, no opposition – Carried.

33.9 Other Business

None

The meeting concluded at 11:40am