FACULTY COUNCIL
First Meeting, 2005-06 Session
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
4:10 – 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Members (ex officio): Susan Pfeiffer, Brian Cantwell Smith, Judith Snow

Academic Staff: Nadia Caidi, Joan Cherry, Chun Wei Choo, Andrew Clement, Wendy Duff, Lynne Howarth, Paulette Rothbauer, Siobhan Stevenson, Jutta Treviranus, Eric Yu

Inforum Professional Staff: Joe Cox (Chair), Marte Misiek

Administrative Staff: Susan Brown, Judy Dunn

Doctoral Students: Scott Paquette

MIS Students: Annetta Dunn, Liana Giovando, Patricia Lawton, Geoffrey Little, Stan Orlov, Michael Rehak, Jessica Waintman

Alumni Association: Rafi Majeed, Karen A. Wierucki

The Professions-at-Large: Mary Ann Mavrinac

U of T Faculty Member:

Invited Guest: John Fleming

Recorder: Bisa Saleh

Assessors: Sara Figueiredo, Adriana Rossini

Observers: Dalton Campbell, Mike Tissenbaum
REGRETS:
The President of the University of Toronto, Chief Librarian of the University; Clare Beghtol, Barbara Craig, Juris Dilevko; Nalini Singh, Sherri Vokey; Vicki Whitmell; Jennifer Trant; Autumn Haag, Sapna Mahboobani, Jessica Posgate, Nidhi Sachdev; Kimberly Silk; Dave Davis.
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m., a quorum having been established.

1. **Introduction**

   - Mr. Joe Cox welcomed members and visitors to the first Faculty Council meeting of the academic year.
   - The agenda was accepted without change.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2005**

   - Prof. Joan Cherry moved acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of April 12, 2005. Carried.

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   - Joan reported on the success of the course FIS2197H, *Introduction to Community Informatics*, over which some concern was voiced at the last Council Meeting about its time of meeting. Joan reported that the course was quite successful with 17 students registered. The students expressed appreciation, especially for the expertise of the instructor.

4. **Report from the Dean**

   - Dean Brian Cantwell Smith announced that the passing of Prof. Ethel Auster on July 1, 2005, will leave a hole in the heart of the Faculty and we acknowledge it as a huge loss for all. There will be a Memorial Service in Ethel’s honour in late Fall and all FIS, University and professional communities will be invited to participate.
   - Brian welcomed Prof. John Fleming, Interim Director of the Museum Studies Program, as an invited guest to this Council meeting.
   - Brian introduced new staff at FIS since the last meeting of Council: Judy Dunn, Assistant Dean; Adriana Rossini, Registrar and In-Program Placement Officer; Bisa Saleh, Secretary to the Dean; Siobhan Stevenson, Faculty member; Jutta Treviranus, Senior Research Associate and Director of the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC), and all of the staff of ATRC; and Sherri Vokey, Digital Services Librarian.
   - Brian welcomed the new members of FIS Council: Alumni Association member Rafi Majeed; FIS Master’s students Annetta Dunn, Geoffrey Little, Michael Rehak, and Jessica Waintman; and FIS Ph.D. student Scott Paquette.
   - Brian introduced the topic of the Museum Studies Program being at FIS.
He began the discussion by thanking both Prof. John Fleming, Interim Director of the Museum Studies Program (MSP), and Prof. Susan Pfeiffer, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) for coming to FIS Council to discuss the issue of the possibility of the MSP being a part of FIS. The proposal had come through the *Report of the Committee to Review the Master of Museum Studies Program, August 15, 2005*, from SGS. Brian noted that Prof Wendy Duff from FIS was a member of the Committee.

The Report contained the following six recommendations:

1. That the Master of Museum Studies Program should continue
2. That the academic and fiscal home of the Museum Studies Program should be the Faculty of Information Studies
3. That the current budget and space allocation of Museum Studies should be reviewed to ensure that the resources provided to run the program are consistent with the University’s budget and space models. Any shortfalls should be corrected
4. That Victoria College should pursue the idea of an undergraduate program in Material Culture
5. That the Program initiate a part-time Museum Studies option for mid-career and other practitioners in the field
6. That the Resource Centre for basic books and periodicals located in the Museum Studies space be merged with the Inforum at FIS in order to rationalize and better maintain the resource materials that support the full breadth of the new Program

In regards to these recommendations of the MS Review Committee, Brian moved the following motion, seconded by Wendy:

*That the Faculty of Information Studies agrees that the Museum Studies Program’s academic program, administration and budget be moved from the School of Graduate Studies to the Faculty of Information Studies on a date during this academic year, pending arrangements that are agreeable to the Faculty of Information Studies, and subject to the approval of the SGS Council and with the approval of Governing Council committees, as appropriate*

Discussion:

Brian noted that the inclusion of MS in FIS would strengthen both, through course offerings and faculty interactions. He also noted that it would be imperative that funding increase for the MSP and that the program could not be a drain on the current FIS budget.
FIS could also launch a Ph.D. Program in MS. We would also consolidate administrative functions.

Brian invited Dean Susan Pfeiffer to speak. Dean Pfeiffer said that Graduate Studies was very supportive of this program and would welcome that it find a home at FIS. However, SGS Council awaits FIS Council’s approval before it can move ahead. She also noted that MS in is SGS Division 1, Humanities and would see it continuing there, thus strengthening the interdisciplinary and interdivisional nature of FIS.

Brian invited Prof. John Fleming to speak. Prof. Fleming welcomed the recommendations of the report and supported the move of MS to FIS. He also saw it as a condition that the MSP maintain its humanities roots and its role within its own domain.

Other comments:
Prof. Andrew Clement expressed concern that FIS would not be able to accept the MSP if the University did not strengthen its funding and guarantee that the current FIS budget would not be adversely affected by the move. Dean Pfeiffer responded that the financial and administrative decision were outside of SGS’s purview and would need to be negotiated elsewhere.

Brian proposed that FIS Council give strong support to the motion understanding that the budgetary and space details need to be worked out and that a acceptable resolution to FIS be essential before a move could occur.

Motion as stated above accepted unanimously.

5. Reports

1) Executive Committee:

- Brian reported that due to Ontario Government funding there was a unique opportunity for U of T to strengthen its graduate programs with an additional 4,000 students to be accepted 2006-2010. It would be important for FIS to increase its enrolment and its faculty complement over that period of time also. Further discussion in the Faculty needs to be had on this issue.

- During the summer and fall the Executive Committee worked on a new Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee, as per the current Constitution, then tabled the new Constitution and Bylaws for discussion and voting on at the next meeting of Council.

- Before discussion ensued, Brian thanked Joan, Joe and Judy Donnelly for the hard work they had done to get the Constitution and Bylaws to this point.
Joan spoke about the process followed by the Committee: The Office of Governing Council was contacted for advice and the current constitution was compared with other professional faculties’ constitutions and structure, particularly Social Work, Nursing, OISE, Architecture and Management. Drafts were presented, for comment and revisions, to the FIS Management Committee, to faculty members at a Faculty Meeting, and then to the Executive Committee. After tabling at Council there will also be an opportunity for everyone to comment further by sending comments to constitution@fis.utoronto.ca until November 8, 2005. Those comments will then be discussed by the Executive Committee and be included in a final version to be voted on at the next Council meeting, November 29, 2005. If approved by Council, the Constitution will then go to Governing Council for its approval and will come into effect once such approval has been obtained.

Joe then directed the members’ attention to some specific changes in the new Constitution and Bylaws. (Copies attached to the original of these minutes). The most significant change is to the Committee structure, in number, composition and mandate of Committee. Committees are now governed by the Bylaws of Council rather than embedded in the Constitution. This will allow for greater flexibility and agility in FIS Committee needs in the future.

Brian moved the following motion, seconded by Joan:

That the current Chairs and members of Committees save for student members and vacant seats on Committees, remain in place until the new FIS Constitution and Bylaws are approved.

Carried.

2) Standing Committees

i) Academic Appeals
   No report

ii) Awards
    No report

iii) Degree
     No report

iv) Doctoral Studies
    No report

v) Inforum and Information Technology
   No report
vi) Master’s Studies
   No report

3) Ad hoc Committees of Council
   
i) Life and Times
   ▪ Judy Dunn presented a written report (attached to original of these minutes)
   ▪ The Committee met once and intends to meet monthly. The report included a list of Dean’s Tea topics. The brown bag lunch series has been relaunched as *This Thursday @ FIS*, a series of colloquia of interest to the FIS communities. A tentative schedule was included in the report.

4) Other Reports
   
i) Faculty Search Committee
   ▪ Brian stated that the Search Committee of the whole has two subcommittees working to recruit new faculty members and distributed a list of members of each Subcommittee (copy attached to original of these minutes)
   ▪ There is now a LAM Subcommittee dealing with Libraries, Archives and Museums, chaired by Prof. Lynne Howarth.
   ▪ There is an IS++ Subcommittee dealing with Information Systems and Practices, chaired by Prof. Andrew Clement. The lines of demarcation for these subcommittees are fluid with potential overlap of candidates. There is also some overlap in membership to facilitate communication.

ii) Admissions Committee
   ▪ Prof. Eric Yu reported that a new web-based online application protocol would be launched at the end of October so that applicants can apply through the web.
   ▪ Some application deadlines have been set:
     - January 31, 2006, for those applying for admission and scholarships
     - February 15, 2006, for Master’s student applications
     - April 1, 2006, for Ph.D. applications

iii) Assistant Dean
   No report

iv) Director of Graduate Studies
   No report

v) Professional Learning Centre
   No report
vi) Academic Board
   No report

6)  FIS Doctoral Students Association

   • Scott Paquette reported that on September 9, 2005, the DSA elected new officers of
     the Association and new representatives to FIS Committees. He also noted that the
     DSA Constitution has been revised and that there will be a new DSA website shortly.
     The Association is also engaged in updating the Ph.D. sections of the FIS Handbook.

7)  FIS Student Council

   • Stan Orlov welcomed new Masters student members to Council and stated that there
     would be the first meeting of the new FISSA executive on Friday, Oct. 14.

8)  Question Period

   No questions

9)  Other Business

   No other business

10) Announcements

   • Brian announced the launch of a new FIS website at the end of October 2005. The U
     of T website also has a new look.

11) Adjournment

   • Moved by Pat Fleming that Council adjourn at 5:50 pm.