FACULTY COUNCIL
First Meeting, 2006-07 Session
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
4:10 – 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Members (ex officio):  Brian Cantwell Smith

Academic Staff:  Clare Beghtol, Joan Cherry, Chun Wei Choo, Andrew Clement, Wendy Duff, Steven Hockema, Lynne Howarth, Jens-Erik Mai, Wendy Newman, David Phillips, Paulette Rothbauer, Lynne Teather, Eric Yu

Inforum Professional Staff:  Joe Cox, Nalini Singh

Associated Instructor:  Vicki Whitmell

Administrative Officers:  Susan Brown, Judy Dunn

Doctoral Student:  Diane Dechief

MIS Students:  Annetta Dunn, Autumn Haag, Roxanna Henriquez, Christina Hwang, Geoffrey Little, Stacey Piesner, Michelle Zadak, Jessica Posgate

Alumni Association:  Claire Lysnes, Rafi Majeed

The Professions at Large:  Kimberly Silk

U of T Faculty Member:

Assessors:  Andrew Drummond, Sara Franca, Eva Kupidura, Tony Lemmens, Nadia Moro, Barbara Soren

Observers:  Jennifer Trant

Recorder:  Bisa Lovric
REGRETS:
The President of the University of Toronto, Chief Librarian of the University, Judith Snow, Susan Pfeiffer, Rachel Barton, Nadia Caidi, Barbara Craig, Juris Dilevko, Udoy Gupta, Mary Ann Mavrinac, Marte Misiek, Siobhan Stevenson, Jutta Treviranus, Nadine Wathen

MINUTES

1. Call to order and acceptance of Agenda
Chair, Joe Cox, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. A quorum was present. Agenda was accepted without any changes. In roundtable fashion, members introduced themselves. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed the veteran and the new Council members.

Dean Brian Cantwell Smith welcomed new Council members: six new faculty members: Stephen Hockema, Jens-Erik Mai, David Phillips, Siobhan Stevenson, Lynne Teather, and Nadine Wathen; one visiting professor: Airi Salminen; and FIS Special Projects Manager, Andrew Drummond. He also indicated that, in deference to priority issues on the agenda, the full report of the Executive Committee on the proposal to revise FIS Constitution and Bylaws, would be covered in this first meeting of the Council in 2006-07 Session.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of March 14, 2006
Minutes of March 14 were approved on a motion moved by Lynne Howarth and seconded by Judy Dunn.

3. Business arising from minutes:
Brian will discuss matters arising under the Report from the Dean.

4. Report from the Dean
a) Brian informed Council that, regrettably, ‘Network for Inclusive Design’ CFI, submitted in February, was not approved for funding and implementation.

b) Development re: Museum Studies – Wendy Duff has a report later in this meeting.

c) I-School conference: 24 people from FIS attended the second annual conference of the i-Schools community, held October 15–17, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. This is our first step to become a part of i-Schools Project, i.e. schools interested in the relationship between information, technology, and people. The schools have organized to pursue common objectives with a collective commitment of resources.

d) Graduate expansion – will be a topic at the Faculty Retreat planned for Friday, October 27th 2006.

A question was raised as to whether we want to be a part of i-Schools or not; is this to go forward?
The Dean suggested that conversations continue on a variety of such issues at the Retreat, since we have the pressing issue of changes to the FIS Constitution and Bylaws to address at this meeting.

5. Reports

a. Executive Committee

Before the Council proceeded with discussion on the Constitution and Bylaws, which the Executive Committee worked on in a number of meetings over Summer 2006, Brian informed the members about the following business transacted by the Executive Committee at its meeting on October 11, 2006:

*New appointments to Graduate Faculty:*
- Chryss Mylopoulos – as an adjunct instructor for 3 years;
- Airi Salminen – as a visiting professor for 1 year;
- Jens-Erik Mai, David Phillips – as new tenured faculty members;
- Steve Hockema, Siobhan Stevenson, and Nadine Wathen – as new tenure-stream faculty members.

*Standing and Special Committees:*
- Approved in principle a motion to go to Council to establish Standing and Special Committees reflective of the new Constitution but in line with the current one, to be approved later in this meeting.
- Approved slate of members of FIS Committees, 2006-2007, in accordance with motion as above, to be approved later in this meeting.

*Schedule for Council Meetings:*

*Collaborative Graduate Program in Women's Health:*
- Previously approved by the FIS Master's Studies Committee, who thought it was an appropriate Collaborative Program for FIS to join, particularly in light of: the FIS Academic Plan; the importance of the general field of health information; and our existing participation in the Collaborative Program in Women’s Studies.
- Executive Committee approved in principle the Collaborative Graduate Program in Women’s Health, with the proviso that the following changes would be made:
  - That the Required Common Learning Experiences (Pp. 3, 14, 22) be clarified and consistent, that the centrality of the core course be reflected in the program requirements, and that there be a mechanism put in place for non-thesis students to complete a significant paper in the area of Women’s Health within a course, as a requirement of the program;
- That the Degree Requirements for FIS (p. 38) be corrected and that specific FIS courses in the health area be included as Specialty Courses;
- That identified typos and grammatical errors be corrected.

Revised Constitution and Bylaws:
Joe handed over the Chair of Council to the Dean in order to speak on the Constitutional issue. He summarized changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of FIS Council stemming from the recommendations of the Executive Committee. He noted that some of the changes also stem from a general review of all Faculty constitutions by the Provost’s Office, Governing Council and the University of Toronto legal department, to ensure that they comply with the legislative framework of governance and established principles. The changes to the Constitution and Bylaws would be submitted to the November 21 meeting of FIS Council for approval, with the constitutional changes going to Governing Council for final approval.

Joe presented a summary account of the changes made to the FIS governance structure so far. SGS made changes to its governance, moving some curriculum changes in existing programs to the divisions. While SGS will retain certain core functions, including the establishment of graduate departments, new programs and major initiatives, the setting of graduate policy, academic appeals, and the coordination of all initiatives that require OCGS approval, many functions currently undertaken by SGS committees will be devolved to the Faculties. As part of this plan, each Faculty was asked to make changes to its Constitution and Bylaws, which would enable its governance bodies to carry out governance functions with respect to graduate studies.

The Dean commented that these are appropriate changes given that SGS is devolving some of its responsibilities, which give the divisions more authority over graduate governance. He added that all of the divisions are going through this process of revision. He emphasized that the changes to the FIS Constitution require Governing Council approval, while changes to the FIS Bylaws require local approval by FIS Council.

Joe then reported that for the past year the Executive Committee and individuals have worked to present a revised Constitution to reflect the new reality at FIS and to conform to changes within governance at the University. There have been some substantial changes from the version proposed at the last Council meeting. The new draft Constitution is designed both to accommodate the new responsibilities and the authority Faculty Council will inherit due to the reorganization of the School of Graduate Studies, and to address our own internal governance issues.

We are dealing with a highly complex and interdependent set of changes that have been extensively worked on over the last two years, in a process that has involved a task force including faculty, staff and students, and considerable opportunity for feedback and discussion.
The Dean, as Chair of the Executive Committee, moved that the revised Constitution and Bylaws be accepted for approval at the next regular meeting of the Council, on Tuesday, November 21, 2006. The motion was seconded by Judy Dunn, and the Chair opened the floor to discussion.

Great concern was expressed about Article 2, Sec. 2 (a) which states that ‘Council sets out the principles for, the general directions of, and/or priorities for the teaching and research activities of the Faculty’. It was viewed as explicit declaration that contravenes the U of T’s own statements about the fundamental nature of academic freedom. The nature of this freedom is detailed in the Statement of Institutional Purpose and in the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association. In the light of these documents, it was argued that any faculty body that assumes the power of setting priorities for faculty research would be in contravention of U of T’s own policy. This might mean that a faculty member or librarian’s research can be vetted for conformance to the research priorities of FIS. It suggests that ‘discrimination, interference, restriction, or coercion’ could be practiced against a faculty member or librarian if his/her research does not conform to these research priorities.

Brian explained that the most significant meaning of this article is meant to be that the Governance of the Faculty will be more distributed among faculty members and less centered on the Dean.

After intensive discussion, members agreed that this section ought to be revised before the Constitution goes to Academic Board. Members are invited to formulate wording for further consideration.

Brian suggested, and it was accepted, that a special Council meeting be held on November 14th, to discuss in detail the changes to the FIS Constitution and Bylaws, which will be the only substantive item on the Agenda. The proposed Constitution and Bylaws will not be voted on at that meeting. That will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council on Tuesday, November 21st.

Joe Cox indicated that in order to provide the opportunity for as much discussion as possible during the short time before and at the November 14th meeting, it would be very helpful if members could send any comments, concerns, revised wording suggestions, etc., to the Executive Committee before the day of the special meeting. The Executive Committee, in consultation with appropriate individuals and constituencies, will try to accommodate new ideas, wording, etc., before the special Council meeting. There can, of course, be further amendments proposed at the special meeting and all amendments will be incorporated into a stable version for voting on at the regular meeting of November 21st.

Approved.
Joe resumed as Chair.

*Proposed Composition and Membership of Council Committees:*  
The Dean circulated the proposed composition and membership of Council Committees and pointed out the following:

- We continue to operate under the current Constitution until the new Constitution is approved by Governing Council, probably not before February 2007;
- A number of developments at the Faculty, e.g., joining of the Museum Studies program in July, expansion of faculty and staff, separation of IT services out of the Inforum, would make governance and representation on Council and its committees fairer and more effective if we were able to operate under the new Constitution;
- Considerable number of people are new to the FIS community this year; it would be easier and more effective to introduce them to the terms, policies and procedures of the new Constitution, rather than introducing them to the old structure first, and then to major changes in a few months time;
- The new Constitution will allow us much better to address the issues that the Faculty faces as it proceeds along the path of implementing its Academic Plan.

The Executive Committee proposed that, within the terms and procedures of the old Constitution, we structure FIS governance this year in such a way as to match its operation as closely as possible to the way in which Council is expected to operate in the future.

The Dean moved the following motion for the composition and membership of Standing and Special Committees; Wendy Duff seconded.

**Standing Committees:**

a. That the **Executive Committee, Appeals Committee, and Awards Committee** have composition and membership as specified in the current Bylaws of Council, supplemented by assessor members so as to reflect the composition and membership of these Committees in the proposed Bylaws of Council;

b. That the **Inforum and Information Technology Committee** have composition and membership as specified in the current Bylaws of Council, but operate as two distinct sub-Committees, to be known as the *Information Technology Services Committee* and the *Inforum Committee*, each supplemented by appropriate assessor members so as to reflect the composition and membership of these Committees in the proposed Bylaws of Council;

c. That the **Degree Committee** operates as the *Committee on Standing*, with composition and membership as specified for the Degree
Committee in the current Bylaws of Council, supplemented by assessor members so as to reflect the composition and membership of the Committee on Standing in the proposed Bylaws of Council.

2. Special Committees
   a. That a Program Committee be established as a Special Committee of Council, according to the proposed Bylaws of Council, and operate in lieu of the Master's Studies Committee and the Doctoral Studies Committee as specified in the current Bylaws of Council, until such time as it becomes a Standing Committee of Council according to the proposed Bylaws of Council.
   b. That a Life and Time Committee be established as a Special Committee of Council, according to the proposed Bylaws of Council, until such time as it becomes a Standing Committee of Council according to the proposed Bylaws of Council.

3. Procedures
   a. That Chairs of all those Committees described in §1 and §2 be requested to treat the assessors specified above as if they were full members of the committees in question, in so far as so doing is compatible with the current Bylaws of Council; and
   b. Once the proposed Constitution is approved by Governing Council, providing that happens prior to the first meeting of Council in the fall of 2007, that the Committees defined in §1 and §2 above immediately become standing Committees of Council, with composition and membership as defined in the then-approved new Bylaws of Council, and with specific membership continuing unchanged from the standing committees, subcommittees, and special committees established above, so that governance of the Faculty can continue without disruption or interruption until such time as committee membership comes up as part of their regular annual governance cycle.

Discussion followed:

The Dean explained that 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. The new Constitution provides a new model of representation where the members will be directly accountable to those that elect them.

There was serious concern expressed that there were too many committees and subcommittees and that, particularly in the case of the Museum Studies Program, membership on these committees would be untenable due to the small number of faculty and students and the large number of Committees and subcommittees.
This was also a particular concern for the MMSt Admissions Committee, considering the potential workload.

Comments throughout discussion, while supportive of thrust of the document, reiterated the need to revisit this composition of committees and subcommittees in light of experiences throughout this academic year. Also, it was said that while positions might be reserved on Committees and subcommittees for categories of members, such positions do not necessarily have to be filled, provided a quorum is achieved. On the advice of Prof. Wendy Duff, the Dean suggested that spaces for museum studies students be put in place to allow for representation, but not necessarily filled.

**Motion approved.**

*Election of Executive Committee:*
The Council considered nominations by and from its members for those Executive Committee positions which are not *ex-officio*. On motions duly made and seconded, the following seven members were elected:

- Faculty #1: Siobhan Stevenson
- Faculty #2: Joan Cherry
- Faculty #3: Wendy Duff
- Student (MISl): Annetta Dunn
- Student (MMSt): Alex Gates
- Student (PhD): Diane Dechief
- Member of Council: Jens-Erik Mai

Due to time constraints Items 5 b) - 9 on the Agenda were not considered. To be considered at the next meeting of Council.

**10. Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Prof. Joan Cherry.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.