FACULTY COUNCIL
Third Meeting, 2004-05 Session
Tuesday, February 8, 2005
4:10–6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Members (ex officio): Judith Snow

Teaching Staff: Clare Beghtol, Nadia Caidi, Joan Cherry, Barbara Craig, Juris Dilevko, Wendy Duff, Lynne Howarth, Paulette Rothbauer, Keith Thomas, Eric Yu

Library Professional Staff: Joe Cox (Chair), Marte Misiek, Nalini Singh

Associated Instructor: Vicki Whitmell

Administrative Staff: Susan Brown, Pam Hawes

Doctoral Students: Luanne Freund

MISt Students: William Denton, William O'Higgins, Nicholas Wesson, Edward White

Alumni Association: Helen Katz, Karen A. Wierucki

The Professions-at-Large: Mary Ann Mavrinac

U of T Faculty Member: —

Recorder: Dace Veinberga

Assessor: Rebecca Jones

Observers: Jean Dryden, Esther Atkinson, Nadia Moro

ABSENT:
The President of the University of Toronto; Chief Librarian of the University; Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Brian Cantwell Smith, Dean, Faculty of Information Studies; Ethel Auster, Chun Wei Choo, Andrew Clement, Patricia Fleming, Jennifer Trant, Tina Bauer, Passant Elalfy, Sapna Mahboobani, J. Frank McMahon, Ahmed Nizami, Stanislav Orlov, Kimberley Silk, Dave Davis
MINUTES

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

1. Introduction

Joe Cox welcomed all to the third faculty council meeting of this academic year. Dean Brian Cantwell Smith was ill and unable to participate in the Council meeting. Vice Dean Joan Cherry reported on his behalf.

The agenda was accepted without any changes.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of December 7, 2004

The minutes of the December 7, 2004, meeting were accepted without change.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Report from the Dean

Vice Dean Joan Cherry presented the Report of the Dean.

She announced the appointment of Susan Brown to Faculty Council as Administrative Staff representative.

Joan introduced and welcomed to FIS the new Director of the Professional Learning Centre, Rebecca Jones.

A proposal to the U of T Academic Initiatives Fund (AIF) will be submitted on February 10, 2005. It will propose the establishment of a centre/school as a vehicle for interdisciplinary studies and research. The AIF proposal will be posted on the FIS website at a later date.

The Faculty Search process is underway and approximately 200 applications are being reviewed. Some candidates have been invited to visit the Faculty in the coming months. Notices will be posted and the Vice Dean encouraged all to attend and provide feedback. The Search Committee’s e-mail address is facultysearch@fis.utoronto.ca
5. Reports

a) Executive Committee
No report.

b) Standing Committees

i) Academic Appeals
No report.

ii) Awards
No report.

iii) Degree
Wendy Duff addressed the Report.
(Report attached to the original of these minutes.)

Wendy Duff moved acceptance of the Report.
Motion carried.

iv) Doctoral Studies
No report.

v) Inforum and Information Technology
No report.

vi) Master’s Studies
No report.

c) Ad hoc Committee of Council

i) Life and Times
Nadia Caidi reported that the Committee had several meetings and
organized some special teas with invited guests, with more to come. The
Committee is also planning to hold a Faculty Research Day, tentatively
scheduled for Friday, April 1. The Committee is also working on
redesigning the second floor lobby, for which furniture will be delivered
within weeks.

d) Other Reports

i) Faculty Search Committee
No report.
ii) Admissions Committee
Eric Yu reported that there have been more than 30 applications to the PhD program. Faculty will commence the review process the week of February 7. The Committee has also been reviewing applications to the MIS program. The official deadline for receipt of applications was February 15, but will be extended to February 28 at least.

Luanne Freund asked whether there are target enrolment numbers for Fall 2005 and Eric replied that based on financial and supervisory capacity the Committee expects to accept 6 to 8 applicants to the PhD program, and approximately 150 students into the MIS program.

iii) Registrar
No report.

iv) Director of Graduate Studies
Wendy Duff reported that course submissions to the School of Graduate Studies have been successful and that the summer timetable is also in development. So far, four courses have been identified for the summer term. Next year’s fall and winter timetable is also being worked on and the Dean and Vice Dean will be meeting soon with faculty members to discuss teaching assignments.

William O’Higgins reported that IS students are more satisfied than previously and that the new or expanded courses are seen as good offerings (Innovations in Information Design Studio course and Information Professional Practicum course).

v) Professional Learning Centre
No report.

vii) Academic Board
No report.

6. Student Council Business
Edward White reported that the student body was fairly pleased with the current situation and future direction of the Faculty. The changes that have taken place have had a profound positive effect.

7. Question Period
Wendy Duff asked why so few students have been attending the teas this year in comparison to last year, when they were very well attended. Nick Wesson and Edward White answered that the students are happier this year than last, when they had more
concerns, but that there are also scheduling issues. Jean noted last year’s ongoing planning process also drew students while teas are now more of a social occasion. Susan Brown, in order to encourage student attendance, suggested tea topics include a presentation on electives that will be available in the next academic year. In regards to the scheduling of teas, Nadia Caidi stated it is important to maintain a stable time for teas but that occasional special teas can take place at different times.

8. Other Business

Joan Cherry announced the appointment of Judy Dunn as Assistant Dean. Her appointment will commence in June, 2005. Judy is currently at Dalhousie University but will visit FIS in March when there will be an opportunity to meet with her.

The Dean is also considering changes to the doctoral program and will be seeking input from the FIS community. He will be meeting with the recently established PhD ad hoc committee to revise the Doctoral Students’ Handbook.

The Rae Report has now been published and the University is beginning to respond and work out a strategy to garner public support. Pamphlets have been made available and the Dean urges all to engage in this process.

9. Announcements

Vicki Whitmell informed those present of ‘Connecting @ FIS’, a course open-house highlighting projects completed by students in FIS 2158, Management of Corporate and other Special Information Centres, to be held on Wednesday, April 6, in the Inforum. All members of FIS Council, as well as FIS staff and students, and other interested individuals are invited.

Vicki also announced that $700,000 in provincial funding for the Ontario Digital Library had been allocated for its first phase. This is a positive move for libraries in the province.

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Wendy Duff that Council adjourn at 5:05.

The next meeting of Faculty Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, from 4:10 to 6:00 p.m. in Room 728.

Minutes transcribed April 8, 2005