FACULTY COUNCIL
2nd Regular Meeting, 2014-2015 Session
Friday, November 28, 2014
9:37 a.m. – 11:32 a.m.

PRESENT:
Members (ex officio): Seamus Ross

Teaching Staff: Christoph Becker, Matthew Brower, Nadia Caidi, Mark Chignell, Wendy Duff (in the Chair), Lynne Howarth, Patrick Keilty, Irina D. Mihalache, Wendy Newman, David Phillips, Leslie Shade, Nalini Singh, Siobhan Stevenson

Professional Librarians: Elisa Sze

Senior Administrative Officers: Adriana Rossini, Robin Kester

Associated Instructor or Sessional Lecturer:

Administrative Staff: Joanna King, Zoe Jaremus

Students:

Doctoral: Sarah Lubelski

Masters (MI): Stephanie Abba, Hilary Barlow, Maya Cruz, Carolyn Dineen, Diana Kulpa, Peymon Montazer, Calvin Tennakoon, Katrina Cohen-Palacios

Masters (MMSt): Sanja Ljaskeciv

Alumni/Alumnae:

External Members:

Assessors:

Observers: Kathleen O’Brien

Recorder: Anna Eskin
REGRETS:

The President of the University of Toronto, Vice-President and Provost, Chief Librarian of the University, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Jaime Banks, Brett Caraway, Chun Wei Choo, Nicole Cohen, Costis Dallas, Juris Dilevko, Allen Galey, Sara Grimes, Jenna Hartel, Dimitrios Hatzinakos, Cara Krmpotich, Kelly Lyons, Heather MacNeil, Rhoda McEwen, Matt Ratto, Aviv Shachak, Susan Maltby, Christopher Hogendoorn.

MINUTES

1) Call to order and acceptance of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m., with quorum established. The Chair, Wendy Duff, welcomed all members to the second meeting of the Faculty of Information Council for 2014-15.

2) Approval of the Minutes from October 17, 2014

A motion to accept the minutes of the meeting was made and CARRIED.

3) Business Arising from the Minutes

None

4) MISC- IPS Survey.

5) The students provided an overview of the findings of their survey about the IPS specialization. They reported that:
   a) Wording on the website is confusing and not clear
   b) No computer background is required to enter the program, yet some classes say it would be hard to do well in the course without this background.
   c) Confusion amongst various sources of information regarding this
   d) Suggestion: say the program is under review OR remove the relating information off the website until it’s resolved.

Response:
Prof. Caidi- IPS is an initiative between the iSchool and Engineering and is meant for students who have technical expertise and technical background. We need better tracking of who is taking the program.
Prof. Phillips noted that changes have been made and are still being made to the specialization. There is an awareness of the issues and many steps have been taken to make changes.

Dean concerns were raised about this since the specialization does require a strong technical background, and Professors Caidi and Phillips are working on finding a way to ensuring the specialization works. We will work with Engineering on making those changes to assure the program will be more regulated.

6) Dean’s report:

The Dean reported on the following issues:

- Update on Working Groups
  - 3 out of the 4 working groups launched began working
  - Concentrations/Curriculum working group- Report will be circulated to Faculty, Students and Staff; for everyone to comment.
  - Partnerships with UTL- the group has worked hard, agreed to circulate a draft report to have a broader discussion within the faculty.
  - Undergraduate group- at the moment completing research on other programs
  - Working Group on Governance to start soon.
- TALint- Launching event was a great success, thank you everyone for designing the program and launching it.
- Shanghai Delegation- Collaboration with the Library. 18 Archivists from the Shanghai Municipal Archives, the archive holds municipal archives and foundational early archives of the Communist Party including records of the Long March. They will be visiting Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto for the purpose of visiting different archives
- Staffing- some changes are occurring in the Dean’s office- a secretary and an office manager will be hired.
- Advancement and the Boundless Campaign- funding for many activities and services rely on philanthropic activities. Reaching out to Alumni. Advancement developed 10 proposals last year and will most likely get 12 proposals out this year.

7) Council Committees’ reports

a) Report on Strategic Day Away
   i) Explanation of purpose of this day, recommendations that were carried out, creation of 4 working groups.

b) Report on Working Groups
   i) For working groups were created as a result of the external review and strategic day away.
      (1) Partnerships with UTL
(2) Undergraduate Working Group  
(3) Concentrations and Required Courses Working Group  
(4) Governance and Organizational Structure Working Group  

Response and next steps  
i) Discussion generated by the explanation of the working groups and the mandate of each group.

8) Council Committees’ reports

a) Standing Committees  
i) Awards  
(1) Applications have gone down for awards, even though many students do qualify to apply for them. Perhaps awards should be advertised better. MISC to possibly help?  

ii) Recruitment and Admissions  
(a) Master’s  
   (i) Adrian Berg, the recruitment officers. has been to 15 Ontario Universities, attended sessions and conferences.  
(b) Doctoral  
   (i) December 10- virtual session to talk to prospective students

9) Reports from Institutes

a) Coach House Institute  
i) Review of the institute will occur in the spring of 2015.  

b) Digital Curation Institute  
i) Margaret Hedstrom- great event and seminar  
ii) Recruitment of PhD students  

c) Identity, Privacy and Security Institute  
i) Seeking ways to move it to a collaborative program from an institute and specialization.

d) Knowledge Media Design Institute  
i) December 1st, 2014: KMDI Poster Session and Holiday Party  
5:30 – 8:30pm, Hart House Music Room  
http://kmdi.utoronto.ca/event/kmdi-poster-session-and-holiday-party/  

ii) December 10th, KMDI & TORCHI Joint lecture with Ethan Plaut  
Designed to Disconnect: Technologies of Non-Use and Communication Avoidance  
7:00pm – Bissell Building room 205  
http://kmdi.utoronto.ca/event/kmdi-torchi-lecture-with-ethan-plaut-designed-to-disconnect/

10) Other reports

a) Communications and Alumni Relations  
i) Discussion of report  

b) Development and Advancement Initiatives
i) Consider making a contribution- at about 40K now, have 10K to go.
ii) February- party to celebrate the donors
iii)

c) iSchool Students
   i) MISC
      (1) Discussion of report
      (2) Party December 12- Bedford Academy
   ii) MUSSA
      (1) Discussion of report
   iii) PhD
      (1) Party- 4pm, December 10
      (2) Forum Friday- meeting happening today (November 28, 2014)

d) iSchool Alumni
   i) November 28- deadline for grant application.
   ii) Dec 11- Holiday Social

11) Other Business

12) Question period

a) Elisa Sze- It was reported to Council that the Faculty of Information is hosting a visit from a delegation of Shanghai archivists, and that the visitors are actually archivists from the Chinese Communist Party Archives. I was wondering whether more information could be provided regarding what their visit to the Faculty of Information would entail. The Chinese Communist Party has a long and complicated relationship with democratic values that the Faculty of Information holds dear—values such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of political participation, and intellectual freedom. With its history of suppressing dissent, and with the Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong currently still under way, can more information please be provided regarding the nature and purpose of the CCP Archivists’ visit to our Faculty?

Dean’s response- We were approached by the University Library (Jack Leong) and asked if we could help from an education point of view. Our decision to help relates to our belief in academic freedom, freedom of speech and our sense that we need to build a positive relationship with groups who want to learn. We have helped identify Canadian archives that have ideas about openness, democracy, public access for the delegation to visit. Faculty are providing some of the training and discuss public access to archives. Our decision to have them here is not an endorsement to the political structures in China. It’s about dialogue and open communication. I would believe it would be a mistake for us to impose a set of value on others, we need to understand them and we need to create an environment where they can understand us. This is all about dialogue and it’s not an endorsement of any particular regime or its suppression of freedom of expression.
Elisa Sze- May the minutes to reflect that we are not endorsing the treatment of citizens in China.

Dean- Dangerous thing to do since then we then will be saying the archivists are endorsing those policies, and we don’t know what policies these archivists as individuals endorse. We know the archivists are employed by the Chinese government but we do not know anything about their personal perspectives and personal points of views.

13) Announcements

14) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.