

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021 - Via Microsoft Teams

Minutes Approved March 25, 2021

Attending:

Brenda Merritt, Dean, Chair
Patricia Cleave, School of Communication Science and Disorders
Marjorie Johnstone, School of Social Work
Brenda Beagan, School of Occupational Therapy
Judy MacDonald, Director, School of Social Work
Marion Brown, Associate Dean Academic
Pollen Yeung, College of Pharmacy
Jennifer Williams, School of Health Sciences
Rachel Ollivier, Graduate Student Representative
Rebecca Moyer, School of Physiotherapy
Chris Simms, School of Health Administration
Shaun Boe, Associate Dean Research
Melanie Keats, School of Health and Human Performance

Quorum confirmed.

Guest: Thaisa Honda, Dean's Office

DECISION

1. Agenda:

MOTION: That the agenda for the February 25, 2021 meeting of the Faculty of Health Faculty Council be approved as presented.

Moved: Judy MacDonald; Seconded: Chris Simms. Carried – unanimous.

2. Consent Agenda:

The minutes from the December 20, 2020 meeting of the Faculty of Health Faculty Council were approved by consent.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the December 20, 2020 meeting of the Faculty of Health Faculty Council.

DISCUSSION

4. Committee Requirements/Recruitment for 2021-2022 – Brenda Merritt

We are seeking a volunteer from Faculty Council for the Academic Review Committee. Members are asked to think about this – it should be someone who will be part of Faculty Council in 2021-2022 as well as 2022-2023 (two-year term).

Teaching – need a couple of people for this year as well as someone for next year.

Tenure & Promotion – owing to the time commitment, we have had difficulty in filling positions to deal with the submissions; it was emphasized that this is a key committee in the careers of Faculty of Health faculty and FC members are asked to talk it up in their unit meetings.

It was asked that all Faculty Council members take the list of requirements back to their schools/units to prepare the way for the ask that is coming out.

5. Equity Committee Report – Brenda Beagan:

The Equity & Inclusion Committee is seeking input from Faculty Council for the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Committee. (see attached report for details)

A question was raised regarding the suggestion of the Equity & Inclusion Committee having a member on Faculty Council – would that position be voting or ex officio? The goal is to have someone on the committee at Faculty Council for communications and advice purposes, which would include input on decisions. Some FC members feel there would be no benefit in having the representative as a non-voting member as they are participating in order to ensure that FC is meeting its EDI goals. Consensus was reached that, should Faculty Council approve an Equity & Inclusion member be added, it would be as a voting member.

Brenda Merritt noted that Senate is currently in the process drafting a document regarding governance of Faculty Councils; this document includes the request for an EDI lens. Kevin Hewitt will be invited to a future Faculty Council meeting to discuss.

The Equity & Inclusion Committee asked that Faculty Council be reminded that in Spring 2019, FC committed to reporting on Universal Design in Instruction. **Brenda Merritt will connect with Lauren Brierley and Cathie Smith-Gillis to discuss the progress – this is part of the SD5 working group of the Strategic Plan.**

Judy provided dates for the planned **Universal Design for Learning and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy** retreat being organized by the Centre for Learning and Training. The goal is to have all Faculty of Health faculty members attend the retreat. We are the pilot for this training; the retreat will be offered to other Faculties after it is completed with Health. The dates are:

May 3 (1-4 pm), May 6 (9-12 am).

Judy requested that these dates/times be communicated to all faculty members and a request be made to hold the dates. An email invitation with more details will be sent out soon.

6. Academic Review Committee – Marion Brown:

Slides were provided and highlighted by Marion Brown regarding to the process review currently being undertaken by ARC (attached).

Marion also shared a draft process map for the ARC website to aide units/faculty to determine what steps to take both internally to Faculty of Health and through the Dalhousie processes.

The Committee is seeking input from groups, including Faculty Council. Marion provided a link to a quick survey link (Slido) and asked that each fill out the questions.

Additional groups will be contacted to complete the survey. Marion asked that FC members share at unit meetings that the survey is being conducted and that all input is welcome.

The goal is to have the improved processes built approved by the end of this year so that they are in place for September of 2021.

7. Fall Planning 2021:

The best-case scenario for Fall 2021 is that classes of less than 100 will be face-to-face, with masks and hand sanitizers, but without distancing. While this is not a firm case, the Faculty continues to plan and determine what courses could remain online in September and what courses could be prioritized for face-to-face. We will stay in step with public health requirements while monitoring local, national and international trends.

A principles document was shared with Faculty Council. It was noted that the document does not reflect working arrangements for staff. The document was focused on course planning, but the concerns will be passed on and considered.

Concern expressed that students are finding online tuition difficult and perhaps inadequate. It is important that faculty bring forward student feedback to their unit meetings and, from there, to Deans Executive and Faculty Council for input to documents such as the Principles document. This can aide in planning to include all parties concerned.

Brenda Merritt is meeting with Student Society Presidents next week and will share any pertinent feedback.

INFORMATION

Shaun reminded FC that the Research Drop-in continues on Thursdays and all are welcome to use the time to ask questions.

Senate materials regarding Code of Conduct were attached to the meeting materials – Brenda Merritt asked that FC members please share with their units.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – Brenda Beagan, 11:10 a.m.