

Dean's Advisory Committee (DAC)

March 3, 2021

4:00 pm to 5:20 pm

Google Meets

Attendance: Alexa G, Andre C (DoS), Andrew A, Angie M, Arveen D, Chanpreet S (ISA), Crystal S, Eileen S, Everett H, Gavin P (ISS), Harikrishna R, Jane L (RO), Kevin F (DoS), Katherine Z (DoS), Leah H, Lindsay J (Libraries), Mohammed A-G, Rashed A, Sarah W (DoS), Spencer B, Sridhar P (GSA), Tyler Z, Yashita S

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Standing Items

- a. Updates from the Vice Provost and Dean of Students

Budget Update

Provincial budget last week—cuts, but University expected cuts and is prepared to handle them.

Remote Learning

Task Force is busy working on addressing concerns raised by students.

Q: Re asynchronous teaching and how it changes instructor workload, whether there are possibilities for increasing teaching load if asynchronous delivery potentially reduces teaching workload?

A: Need to look at workloads of instructors, students and staff, and balance of how/when all complete their work. Also, importance of student feedback when courses are not being delivered well.

Q: Do students know they can talk to an Associate Chair of a Department when they have concerns about a course?

A: Options of talking to an instructor first, then Associate Chair, or going straight to an Associate Chair.

Student Services Centre

In the process of hiring a Director. Phase 1 will connect student support staff across the University through IT infrastructure.

Q: Re cooperation between Student Service Centre and Faculty-based student services.

A: Cooperation has been strong across campus.

b. Experience with online delivery

Student reported that some instructors have stopped using SEM for remote exam monitoring and instead have used Zoom meetings to provide a different form of monitoring. Better but still drawbacks.

Student reported first experience of Exam Lock as well as professor choosing to assign an essay instead of a mid-term.

Student reported that all mid-terms have been replaced with essays and assignments with phased deadlines to provide feedback at different stages of progress.

3. **Discussion Items**

a. MHCC Standard

Kevin Friese, Assist. Dean, Health & Wellness

Kevin oversees the University Health Center, Counselling & Clinical Services, 2-year pilot project to support veterans on campus, Public Health Response Team (leading COVID-19 response), etc.

New national post-secondary standard released by the Mental Health Commission of Canada in Fall 2020.

Standard is meant to be a guide for PSE institutions to assess their student mental health status and university supports.

Seeking feedback as University is in the process of assessing the standard and considering implementing it.

What are the most pressing mental health/wellness needs that should be addressed in UofA mental health/wellness strategy?

What does meaningful engagement in developing the strategy look like to you?

What are the most significant roadblocks we need to consider in implementing the standard?

[Presentation slides available here.](#)

b. Updates from members:

[Library](#) was able to lift some restrictions due to changes in provincial guidelines. Check website.

[Registrar's Office](#) busy with admissions

[International Student Services](#) supporting students with re-entry to Canada and taxes. Technically ISS tax support is for international students but will help all students if feasible.

Q re work from home tax exemption. Two options for claiming--information about both methods available on University website [here](#).

4. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting March 31, 2021 * Last of the year!