MINUTES

SCHOOL COUNCIL

27 May, 2022, 1000-1200, Virtual Meeting


Regrets: M. Carbonaro, N. Erickson, S. Farnel, L. Latta, C. Lynch, B. Reyes Ayala, D. Zhao,

Minutes: C. Mosimann

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file. Votes were conducted via Google Form.

Call to Order.

1.0 Approval of Agenda dated 27 May, 2022

Motion: It was moved by P. Martinez, seconded by D. Allard, that the agenda be approved. CARRIED

2.0 Roundtable Introductions

Roundtable introductions of all members present.

3.0 Approval of Minutes dated 29 October, 2021

Motion: It was moved by T. Samek, seconded by J. Rodger, that the minutes be approved. CARRIED
4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Curriculum Committee Updates and Voting

T. Oliphant thanked all students and faculty members who participated in the Curriculum Committee this year. T. Oliphant overviewed the purpose and mission of the committee and work done over the past year. Ten course recommendation forms were presented for approval: six course changes and four course deletions.

T. Oliphant overviewed the rationale for course changes. With consent of the council, changes were approved via omnibus motion.

**Motion:** It was moved by T. Oliphant, seconded by D. Rathi, that the following course changes be approved:

- Item 4.1.1 CC Recommendation LIS 505
- Item 4.1.2 CC Recommendation LIS 516
- Item 4.1.3 CC Recommendation LIS 543
- Item 4.1.4 CC Recommendation LIS 595
- Item 4.1.5 CC Recommendation LIS 597
- Item 4.1.6 CC Recommendation LIS 599

*CARRIED*

T. Oliphant overviewed the rationale for course deletions. With consent of the council, changes were approved via omnibus motion.

**Motion:** It was moved by T. Oliphant, seconded by K. den Boon, that the following course deletions be approved:

- Item 4.1.7 CC Recommendation LIS 518
- Item 4.1.8 CC Recommendation LIS 521
- Item 4.1.9 CC Recommendation LIS 546
- Item 4.1.10 CC Recommendation LIS 580

*CARRIED*

K. De Long acknowledged the work of T. Oliphant and the entire committee, and thanked them for their work.
4.2 Scholarship, Awards, and Bursaries Committee Update

M. McNally thanked staff members G. Johnson and J. White, and faculty members D. Allard and D. Rathi for their work. Over the past year there have been awards unfulfilled because of a lack of qualified applicants. K. De Long thanked M. McNally and committee members for their contributions. A member asked if the unfulfilled awards resulted from changes to policy, restructuring, or a combination of factors. M. McNally responded that some changes come from restructuring and some from policy. The approach for identifying eligible applicants has shifted from being committee-driven to being student-driven.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Administrative Updates

I. Martyniak delivered an administrative update. The Faculty of Education has centralized services for all programs including timetabling, student advising, finance, and others. SLIS will now be supported by central units including Finance & HR, and Education Student Services (ESS). Scholarships and Awards work has very recently moved to ESS. C. Mosimann will be moving to fully support SLIS.

5.2 Restructuring in the Faculty of Education

K. De Long spoke about restructuring within the faculty and overviewing the history of restructuring and the process to date, the steering committee, and the working groups. Work is not complete and will continue over the next academic year.

5.3 Council Representative Updates

Council representatives were invited to give updates on behalf of their stakeholder groups.

D. Askey delivered an update on behalf of the University of Alberta Library (UAL) in his role as Vice-Provost (Library & Museums) & Chief Librarian. The portfolio he leads has reached the end of three years of cuts and is now adapting to the new financial position. There are plans to restart the Indigenous residency. They are emerging from a hiring freeze and postings will be emerging. Construction on the new health sciences library will begin in Summer 2022 with a planned opening in Fall 2023. The U of A Museums have moved from Ring Houses to the third floor of Rutherford South.
K. Frail, Library Liaison, had no report and is looking forward to welcoming students to Rutherford Library this coming Fall term.

L. MacLeod gave an update on behalf of the Library Association of Alberta. They have recently created a student mentorship program meant to promote support and encourage students to take on leadership positions.

C. Harback gave an update from the Library and Information Studies Students' Association (LISSA). In April LISSA elected new senior executives. The current goal is to improve the student experience, especially for new students, via means such as resources packages. LISSA is also working on digital opportunities to bring students together across the country and allow students to participate in activities without the barrier of having to attend in-person meetings. LISSA is also working with the U of A Bookstore to get branded sweaters.

K. den Boon delivered an update from the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association (LISAA). They are working on the next version of their newsletter. In January LISAA hosted a networking event with current students and recent graduates. They are currently working with the students' association to ensure a smooth transition for graduating students as they move from the students' association to the alumni association.

5.4 Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator’s Report

D. Rathi presented the Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator’s report. The Admissions Committee has completed reviewing applications for Fall 2022 and have sent admitted applicants to FGSR. This year there is a very strong cohort to begin in September. D. Rathi thanked SLIS faculty for their work on admissions this year. There are 46 students graduating from the School this year; 30 online and 16 on-campus, including MA/MLIS students. FGSR has a new ethics requirement in place for all graduate students.

5.5 Chair’s Report

K. De Long presented the Chair’s Report. As of 01 July, 2022, Dr. Kenneth Gariepy will be joining SLIS from the University of the Fraser Valley as the new SLIS Director. Dr. Gariepy is a SLIS alum and holds a PhD from our Faculty of Education.

Dr. Adam Worrall is resigning from the School. Though he will not be with us in the next academic year we wish him the best as he moves forward.
Dr. Ali Shiri was awarded the 2021 J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research. This is considered the top research award at the U of A and the last time someone in the Faculty of Education won was in 2002.

K. De Long Acknowledged the achievements of two recent SLIS alumni. Lorisia MacLeod (MLIS 2018) was announced as the new Chair of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Kayla Lar-Son (MLIS 2017) is named as members of the American Library Association's ALA's 2022 Class of Emerging Leaders.

There is a pilot currently running that explores taking down the wall between online and on-campus courses. There is an evaluation plan to examine the success of these courses, which are running in the Spring/Summer 2022 terms.

K. De Long thanked those who supported her in the role of Interim Chair over the past two years, including I. Martyniak, C. Mosimann, and D. Rathi.

6.0 Announcements

C. Mosimann delivered two announcements to members. The “Random Coffee” program, which pairs participating SLIS students with participating U of A Library or Edmonton Public Library staff once per each Fall and Winter term, has been quite successful. C. Mosimann thanked D. Askey and P. Martinez for supporting their library staff who have participated. There are plans to continue the program in the 2022-2023 academic year, and discussions are underway to potentially include Calgary Public Library in future rounds.

We are working on promoting and raising the profile of the MBA/MLIS combined degree program. Interest has increased, but pandemic-related uncertainties and recent press regarding tuition increases in the MBA program have hindered progress. As the U of A continues to return to normal, work will resume with our colleagues in the MBA program.

7.0 Question Period

There were no questions.

8.0 Other Business

D. Rathi thanked School Council for their work, and thanked K. De Long for her work as Interim Chair. C. Mosimann thanked K. De Long and I. Martyniak for their work and support over the past year.
Motion to Adjourn

**Motion**: It was moved by I. Martyniak, seconded by C. Harbak, that the meeting be adjourned.

*CARRIED*

*Meeting Adjourned.*