



MINUTES

SCHOOL COUNCIL

29 October 2021 • 10 AM to 12 PM • Virtual Meeting

Present: A. Alcaraz, D. Allard, K. Anderson, D. Askey, T. Ball, M. Carbonaro, K. De Long, G. de Vos, N. Erickson, K. Frail, D. Gleddie, K. Jones, D. Laforest, L. Latta, C. Lynch, L. MacLeod, P. Martinez, I. Martyniak, H. McMullin, M. McNally, C. Mosimann, T. Oliphant, D. Rathi, J. Rodger, T. Samek, D. Zhao

Regrets: S. Farnel, B. Reyes Ayala, R. Stobbs

Minutes: C. Mosimann

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file. Votes were conducted by a show of hands.

Call to Order.

1.0 Approval of Agenda dated 29 October, 2021

Note: Because of technical issues during the beginning of the virtual meeting the identities of the mover and seconder were not recorded.

<p>Motion: It was moved that the agenda be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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2.0 Roundtable Introductions

3.0 Committee Reports

Continued on the next page.

3.1 Curriculum Committee Update

T. Oliphant overviewed the mandate of the committee and summarized the work being done to date, including the creation of a curriculum restructuring working group and work on developing a predictive course schedule.

3.2 Scholarship, Awards, and Bursaries Committee Update

M. McNally spoke about the committee, noting that, while the committee was suspended last year, it has now been reconstituted. This year they will be examining the nomination and adjudication process for awards. As restructuring continues we will get more clarity on the future of awards. K. De Long added that last year scholarships and awards continued to be awarded under the aegis of SLIS Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator D. Rathi.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Administrative Updates

I. Martyniak delivered an administrative update. There have been major changes at the university which impact the School. The U of A established the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative to identify cost savings and efficiencies relating to space and facilities across campus. All faculties have been directed to make more effective and efficient use of space, therefore beginning in Fall 2021 all graduate students in the Faculty of Education will have access to a new shared space. Additionally, all printing and office supplies have been moved out of departments and into a central space. Another major impact is centralizing all student support into a new unit, Education Student Services (ESS). Our graduate administrator J. White and graduate assistant S. De Guzman have been moved to ESS. I. Martyniak acknowledges the incredible work both of them have done for the School and in their other department, Educational Policy Studies. The three remaining staff members will continue to directly support both units.

4.2 Academic Restructuring in the Faculty of Education

D. Gleddie, Associate Dean Graduate Studies, delivered an update on restructuring within the Faculty of Education. Internal faculty restructuring was on pause while the Colleges were implemented. There is a wide diversity of programs in the Faculty, including the accredited MLIS program. The Faculty is committed to a purposely slow and consultative governance process.

Offices are being created in the new College of Social Sciences and Humanities. It has not yet been determined what functions will move to the colleges and what will remain in the faculties, however it has been recognized that advising should stay as close to the students as possible.

4.3 Council Representative Updates

A. Alcaraz and K. Jones delivered an update from the Library and Information Studies Students' Association (LISSA). The Association has been reflecting on the changes brought by the pandemic. LISSA is examining its bylaws and constitution, how to incorporate more online students into their work, and potential collaboration with other student groups.

H. Madsen delivered an update from the Library and Information Studies Students' Association, which has an all-new executive this year. The Association is examining strategies on reaching out to online alumni and those not located in the Edmonton area. Additionally, they are examining the Association's governance structure and plan to work more closely with LISSA to facilitate the transition from student to alumni.

K. Frail delivered an update from the U of A Library in their role as Library Liaison. The relocation of collections from the Coutts library to Rutherford is complete, and includes study space for Education students. There will also be upcoming workshop sessions regarding the new reading list service.

D. Askey delivered an update from the U of A Library in their role as Chief Librarian. A new Health Sciences Library, funded by a generous donor, is being designed with construction starting in 2022. This is the first new library on campus since the 1980's. The Library is also reviewing its vision and strategic priorities. They anticipate this will be a year of transformative changes for the Library as they adapt to new University structures and services.

K. De Long also noted that the Library is part of a partnership with SLIS and Edmonton Public Library for a "random coffee" program. Participating SLIS students will be randomly paired with participating staff from both library systems. This is an opportunity for students to connect with working library professionals.

P. Martinez delivered an update from Edmonton Public Library (EPL). EPL is looking forward to participating in the random coffees. The Milner Library has reopened, and has won multiple awards for its renovated facility. EPL is implementing a mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policy for staff, and 98% of EPL

staff are in compliance. EPL is also optimistic with the recent municipal election results, as the city is the main shareholder in EPL. They are collaborating with Innovate Edmonton and Calgary Public Library on various initiatives, and the teaching kitchen in the Milner library will be opening soon. P. Martinez extended an invitation to School Council members for a tour of the new Milner library.

L. Latta delivered an update from the Provincial Archives of Alberta. They have continued to deliver services in person and virtually. There is an initiative underway to gain better access to residential school records in the Archives. A team has been hired to review records, including digitization of records, and they are working with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

K. De Long opened the floor to anyone who has not yet spoken. L. MacLeod noted that the Library Association of Alberta will be sending out an update from the association president soon.

4.4 Admissions Report

D. Rathi delivered an admission report outlining the admissions statistics and demographic makeup of the Fall 2021 admitted students. K. De Long thanked all participants in the admissions process for their work.

4.5 Exit Survey

K. De Long presented on the 2021 annual exit survey and overviewed reasons and process for running the survey. The survey has been run for the past eight years and is posted on the School's website. This year the results were very good, especially compared to last year. Respondents were very positive on several indicators, especially their willingness to recommend the MLIS program to prospective students. As expected, many respondents cited Covid-19 as a major impact to their program, however this was largely from on-campus students. K. De Long thanked A. Schrader for his work on the surveys.

4.6 Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator's Report

D. Rathi presented the Associate Chair's report. D. Rathi overviewed the demographic statistics of our current student body. The Mahara ePortfolio platform is being discontinued and replaced with Google Sites. There is a new Academic Integrity and Ethics Training requirement coming from FSSR in the form of a zero credit online course.

4.7 Chair's Report

K. De Long presented the Chair's Report. There have been several promotions and changes regarding SLIS faculty members. D. Allard has been promoted and awarded tenure. D. Rathi has been promoted to full professor. A. Shiri is currently on a 100% secondment to FGSR. A. Worrall is currently on sabbatical and will return in July 2022. D. Rathi will be on sabbatical for the 2022-2023 year.

SLIS has been working on some of the items identified in the 2020 accreditation review, including the wall between the online and on-campus MLIS. SLIS is also examining hybrid delivery programs elsewhere on campus and is working on piloting hybrid courses in Spring 2022. There will be upcoming consultations with students regarding these.

Regarding the combined degree programs, SLIS wants to see more enrolment. There has not been much opportunity to promote these programs and this is an area we will be focusing on in the future.

Faculty wellness has been identified as an area of concern. Because of the small size of SLIS' faculty, capacity for work is an issue that must be paid attention to.

In regards to faculty restructuring, the Dean of Education J. Tupper has made it clear that SLIS will be remaining a School and have an academic director or similar position.

K. De Long is committed to SLIS as an Interim Chair until July 2022 and not beyond. A search for a new director for the School will begin in 2022.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: It was moved by I. Martyniak that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned.