

University of Alberta

Education Faculty Council

The Education Faculty Council met on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, University Hall.

Present:

M Abbott, J Anuik, G Buck, O Bulut, T Cardinal, D Cormier, J Considine, M Cutumisu, S Dahlke, L Daniels, J Dempsey, M Doherty, D Donald, B Dunn, C Hickson, T Hidson, H Kennedy-Plant, A Kirova, J Leighton, P MacLeod, I Muir, Y Norton, D Oberg, J Pegg, A Powar-Grewal, K Robinson, K Rose, M Rossiter, T Samek, A Shiri, C Smythe, N Spencer-Cavaliere, S Varnhagen, B Whelton, S White, L Wiltse, Y Wu, R Wimmer (Chair), B Werthmann (Secretary)

Sign in sheet is attached to original minutes.

1. Approval of Agenda

Items 5 and 8 were moved up in the agenda to facilitate presenters. Minutes will be presented in the original order of the agenda.

*MOVED TO APPROVE the agenda as amended.
T Samek / D Oberg / CARRIED*

2. Minutes of the Education Faculty Council

*MOVED TO APPROVE the March 1, 2016 minutes of the Education Faculty Council as presented.
J Anuik / H Kennedy-Plant / CARRIED*

3. Minutes of the Graduate Academic Affairs Council

*MOVED TO RECEIVE the February 1, 2016 minutes of the Graduate Academic Affairs Council.
A Shiri / G Buck / CARRIED*

4. Minutes of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council

*MOVED TO RECEIVE the February 11, 2016 minutes of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council.
C Hickson / L McGarvey / CARRIED*

5. Presentation from the University of Alberta Faculty Club

Dr Greg Goss, Faculty Club Membership Chair, is speaking to all faculty councils concerning upcoming changes at the Faculty Club, such as membership policies.

6. Tribute to Dr Julie Long

Presented by Dr Lynn McGarvey.

Many of you were at Julie's service. At the time and now, I am worried not about what I might say, but of all of the things I need to leave out in a short tribute to honour her and her life as an academic, mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend to many people.

Julie passed away on March 17 at the age of 42. She grew up in Grand Falls, New Brunswick. She received a BSc from Dalhousie, a BEd and MEd from New Brunswick University, and then came to us first as a doctoral student in 2004, and then was hired as an assistant professor in 2009.

Julie formed many close friendships with her fellow graduate students as well as with colleagues from the Centre for Research for Teacher Education and Development, with faculty with the Department of Elementary Education, and with those of us in mathematics education.

Julie was an outstanding teacher. Her passion for teaching and compassion for others extended beyond her teaching into her area of scholarship. As Julie's doctoral supervisor, I remember her struggling to find a topic, but she chose wisely by following her passion:

The title of her dissertation was:

Caring for students and caring for mathematical ideas in an elementary classroom.

The title aptly captures not only her scholarly interest, but also her way of being.

I had the opportunity to share some of the words from Julie's thesis at her service, so I would like to do the same here as I feel that her words provide the best description of who she was as a teacher, friend, daughter, sister, wife and, at the time, a future mother.

She begins her thesis by talking about her family. She writes:

As the eldest child of a social worker and an elementary school teacher/administrator, care is part of my birthright. I have drawn on experiences of being cared for in my family to help me in my teaching and research. I call this chapter Roots of Care to indicate that care is part of my heritage as well as a system of relationships that grounds my life.

She writes thoughtfully about the impact her parents had on her and says:

It is the life that [my parents] made with me, my brothers, and our extended family that showed me how to be with other people and to appreciate caring relationships. I transformed my birthright into my vocation and my career.

Further into Julie's dissertation, she describes the many ways we use the word 'care' in our day to day living, such as in healthcare, childcare, daycare, taking care of business, taking care of another, caretaking for a house or pet, and schoolwork that is to be done carefully. She writes:

An ethic of care is part of my life ... it is also a topic of academic inquiry and a personal intellectual interest. An ethic of care offers much to me as a teacher and as a human being.

Julie continued her exploration of the word 'care' by exploring its etymology. She was initially surprised to learn that it originates from the Old English word "carian" which means to "be anxious, to grieve; to feel concern or interest." She writes:

[There are] tensions involved in care. Care is not easy. ... An ethic of care is a way of living, of teaching and learning, of considering dilemmas, and of working with others.

It requires intellectual work and is associated with emotional risk.

It is the risk of caring for others that is simultaneously an essential aspect of being human, but also a source of pain and grief. We all felt that pain with Julie's passing.

To end this tribute, I want to share with you some of the final words from Julie's dissertation:

As I read, write, and go about my daily routines, I see connections to care everywhere. My work as an academic involves both people and ideas through reading, writing, teaching, researching, and serving my various communities. An ethic of care has deep roots in my life and in this research. I imagine that an ethic of care will continue to nourish my life in academia as I search for new ways to care both for people and for ideas. Care offers me a way forward.

Julie was an extraordinarily kind and caring human being. In the last two years, and in particular, the last few months, she and her family were recipients of extraordinary care by many people within the faculty through offerings of food and friendship. I am very proud to work in a place where people care beyond the walls of the building.

As many of you know, Julie leaves behind many friends as well as her parents, siblings, her husband Patrick, and her two young children, Remi and Max. Julie's friends and family have initiated the Dr Julie Long Graduate Scholarship in Mathematics Education. Their hope is to extend the ethic of care and giving to others through the scholarship.

7. Elementary Education Department Council composition

Section 42.3 of the General Faculties Council (GFC) policy manual provides direction to departments concerning the composition of department councils. An allowance is provided for additional members to be appointed by the Faculty Council on the recommendation of the Department Council. As directed by GFC policy, Elementary Education Department Council is seeking Faculty Council approval to add the following members:

- a representative of the University of Alberta Libraries, to be appointed by the Library
- one sessional instructor holding a teaching position in the Department of Elementary Education in both the fall and winter terms, to be appointed by the Chair
- one student, who is currently enrolled in the Elementary Education route of the BEd program, appointed by the Education Students' Association
- one graduate student in the Elementary Education program, appointed by the Department Graduate Students' Association.

The Department Council also developed terms of reference to provide guidance to the work of the Council and they were presented to Faculty Council for information.

*MOVED TO APPROVE the composition of the Elementary Education Department Council.
M Doherty / J Leighton / CARRIED*

8. Ratification of Membership Criteria for Dean's Selection Committee

The Faculty of Education will undergo a dean selection during the 2016-2017 academic year. Prior to the start of a selection process, Faculty Council is asked to ratify the Dean Selection Committee membership.

During the 2014-2015 selection process, the committee membership consisted of:

- Provost and Vice President (Academic) or designee (Chair)
- Vice President (Research) or designee
- Vice Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research or designee
- one GFC member from outside the Faculty
- five full time continuing faculty members, one being a department chair
- one APO
- one undergraduate student
- one graduate student
- one support staff
- one sessional instructor
- one member of the ATA

After the previous selection process started, committee members chose to add a representative of our Faculty's Indigenous Education Council.

MOVED TO APPROVE the Faculty of Education Dean Selection Committee members for the 2016-2017 process as presented.

L McGarvey / T Samek / WITHDRAWN

MOVED TO ADD one academic representative from the Indigenous Education Council to the Faculty of Education Dean Selection Committee.

L McGarvey / D Oberg / CARRIED

A request was made to consider a representative from other professional bodies, not just the ATA. Both Educational Psychology and the School of Library and Information Studies have accredited programs – should these groups have a representative on the committee? Concern was expressed that it may not be conceivable that every group within the Faculty can be represented at the table.

MOVED TO ADD two additional members to #6 "...representative of the appropriate professional or community association." In addition to the ATA add one representative from the Library and Information Studies Professional Community and one representative from the College of Alberta Psychologists. T Samek / J Leighton / CARRIED

MOVED TO RATIFY the membership of the Faculty of Education's Dean Selection Committee.

L McGarvey / H Kennedy-Plant / CARRIED

9. Indigenous Education Council Presentation

Dr Dwayne Donald, Chair, and Ms Angela Wolfe, Co-chair, of the Indigenous Education Council presented as follows:

- The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) membership consists of Indigenous faculty and staff in the Faculty of Education; there are currently 18 members.
- IEC is building on the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.
- As part of this work, two Community Gatherings, including a pipe ceremony and feast, were held in the 4th floor lounge on December 11, 2016 and March 18, 2016.
- Elders in attendance at the Gatherings spoke and provided comments:
 - TRC has opened wounds and leaders must try to repair them.
 - We must all work together to heal each other.

- Let's hope in a 150 years it will be good for our people. We must take a risk to make sure that it is.
- When you touch the heart the mind will follow.
- We must not weaponize good thoughts.
- You cannot build a relationship on guilt.
- Compassion is the highest human attribute.
- The next Community Gathering is May 18, 10:00, in the 4th floor lounge.

Dr Donald advised that the University is seeking a standardized land acknowledgement and this is being discussed with IEC. A town hall will be held for discussion and input.

When asked how non-IEC faculty members can participate other than attending the gatherings, Dr Donald encouraged the discussion of ideas and possibilities throughout the Faculty.

10. (Interim) Dean's Report

Congratulations to Denise Larsen, Educational Psychology, who recently received the University of Alberta's award for excellence in graduate teaching.

Convocation for all graduates of the faculty will be on June 9 with two ceremonies; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Faculty members should make it a priority to attend as a way of recognizing students' achievements.

Budget Update

- The April 14 Provincial budget included a 2% increase to postsecondary education; the first increase in many years.
- This funding will go to the University, not to individual faculties, meaning we will not be receiving a 2% increase.
- The University is taking a strategic approach, asking faculties to develop proposals for a portion of the 2%.
- Over the next few weeks departments and administrative units will be presenting their budgets to the Dean.
- As previously announced at Faculty Council and at Dean's Advisory Committee (DAC) – our budget needs to be conservative.
- While we will not be able to expand in considerable ways, there will be no further cuts to programs at this time.
- Aligning with the University's priority, the plan over the next few months will be faculty renewal.
- In addition to any success we have in receiving a portion of the 2% increase, we do plan to hire at the assistant professor level (consistent with the direction set by the University).
- Hiring discussions will take place with each Chair as part of their budget meeting.

Standards for Teachers and School Leaders

- Considerable time has been spent with Alberta Deans, DAC, and government committees on the new draft Standards for Teachers and School Leaders.
- There is also a set of standards for school authorities.
- The plan is for ministerial approval later this spring.
- Feedback was solicited from faculty members, and our Indigenous Education Council provided direct feedback to the ministry on these draft documents.

- While these standards are developed and governed by the Province of Alberta, being a part of the process and having knowledge of the contents of the Standards is extremely important for all places of teacher education.
- Regardless of how our faculty members locate their work and identify within teacher education, everyone is encouraged to read and become familiar with these documents.
- Copies of the documents can be obtained from Betty jo Werthmann in the Dean's Office, department chairs and associate deans.
- Working with these documents and beginning to understand their implications and possibilities for our work as a Faculty was the sole focus the Dean's Advisory Committee Retreat held at the end of April.

Alberta Deans' of Education

- The Alberta Deans' group consists of the nine deans of education in Alberta and meetings are held four times a year. Members are also asked to attend several other meetings, or send a delegate. This past year, a total of 48 meetings were held in addition to the regular four.
- At the final meeting held at the end of April, the major agenda item was a presentation from the Curriculum Branch of the Provincial Government to learn more about the changes to the program of studies and curriculum in the near future.
- The future is a very ambitious and busy time for curriculum and curriculum policy makers covering a total of seven subject areas.
- A new Career and Technology Foundations curriculum is coming for grades five to nine to serve as a pre-requisite to the current program at the high school level.
- A meeting with the Minister will be held in May to review questions of mathematics and implications of Math Education in teacher education. Dr Lynn McGarvey will attend on behalf of the Dean.
- Later this spring, the Deans of Education will be asked to endorse a document entitled *The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Future Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum*. While asked not to widely circulate this document, Dr Wimmer asked for latitude for limited sharing to receive feedback from colleagues in teacher education. It will be shared with the curriculum department Chairs and the Indigenous Education Council prior to making a decision on whether or not to endorse the document.

Adjourned.