



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council

Thursday, January 26, 2017

1:30 – 4:00 pm

533 A Education South

Minutes

Present: C Hickson (Chair), H Kennedy-Plant (Administrator)
S Bigam, S Carr-Stewart, C Christianson, L Daniels, B Dunn, B Hanson, J McFeetors, L McGarvey, F Ruban (ATA, for M Gravel), L Shultz, B Smilanich, J Sousa, C Weber-Pillwax, L Wiltse, A Wolfe

Regrets: J Buencamino, T Dust, M Gravel, L Sulz

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- Around the table introductions were done to welcome guest, Françoise Ruban who was filling in as the ATA Rep for M Gravel

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION (L Daniels): To approve the agenda, as amended

Seconded: C Christianson

Carried

- Agenda was revised to move Discussion Item to March agenda
- Calendar change Motion removed from agenda, to be added to March agenda
- Discussion item on Aboriginal Content Across the Curriculum Discussion move Discussion Item to March agenda
- Calendar change Motion removed from agenda, to be added to March agenda

Approval of the Minutes of November 24, 2016

MOTION (J McFeetors): To approve the minutes, as amended

Seconded: Smilanich

Carried with amendments

Editorial Calendar Changes:

- Educational Psychology, revisions to EDPY 401 course description

Motion: (L Daniels), Seconded: L Wiltse

Carried

Discussion Items

Education Electives Working Group Recommendation Number 4 Discussion

“That Associate Chairs share information with each other about the non-compulsory Education courses and scheduling to ensure that an appropriate number of course are offered during Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer. Any potential issues and recommendations should be brought to the Department Chairs”

- W Dunn provided an update on meetings with the Associate Chairs. There have been 2 meetings since the last UAAC meeting and there is another meeting scheduled and the meetings will continue. Scheduling topics are to go back to departments, as they are chair decisions
- The meetings intend to achieve understanding of views on Education Electives and the aim is to work together across departments to make scheduling decisions. Opportunity to share information on a regular basis and work collaboratively as a more unified faculty in the approach to scheduling
- It was voiced that students will not select challenging topics and with no evidence suggesting that they do the concern that collectively deciding what is timetabled will not address the issue of not offering challenging topics
- C Hickson clarified that the Associate Chairs are not meeting to make all decisions and they will each take information back to their areas with an aim to come together, go back to colleagues, and then come back together and not to serve as the decision making group

- It was asked if student choice will be part of the discussion and affirmed that Associate Chairs will bring this topic to the discussions
- The issue with decreasing enrollment in Electives is a collective issue and it was shared that in 2014 there was a larger student body and 480 students in Electives where now it has decreased to 280 students
- Members were reminded that the faculty has 2773 undergraduate students now and this is a decline of approximately 600 students from several years ago
- C Weber-Pillwax asked if there could be a mathematical analysis to see if the decrease in electives is across topics, and see if it points to not choosing challenging subjects
- S Carr-Stewart stated that there needs to be decisions to look at the big picture because if it continues where does EDPS teach
- W Dunn shared that in conversations with the Chair of EDPS there is concern for entire faculty and there is work being done to attend to the issue
- This is an example of information that can be shared not to reach decisions but to make known outside of individual departments and work on collectively as a faculty
- The ESA may be able to collect information from students on electives that may be useful for Associate Chairs and UAAC on student decisions and S Bigam offered to work with W Dunn to survey students
- C Weber-Pillwax mentioned that if there is research on the topic of students' choice it would be nice for someone to collect that for members. Members were asked to send any information to Heather and it can then be linked from the google site
- Are we trying to get rid of the EDPS Department and if not, there is need for proactive intervention with enrollment in these kinds of courses and a request for direction from Associate Chairs on potential solutions
- W Dunn shared that department discussions have been on what role department members see themselves playing, such as with the 5 new positions could EDPS play a role in the undergrad program. Discussion has occurred with the new positions in the past. W Dunn has been invited to EDPS council but is unsure on focus of discussion. W Dunn will ask if this can be part of discussion

Working Group to Address Technology Integration Across the Undergraduate Program

- L McGarvey provided an update on the Motion to strike a working group to address technology integration that was passed at the November meeting
- Undergoing review at moment across the faculty. Met with Chairs to look at how EDU 210 can be brought into other classes. With the unit undergoing a review, L Daniels will act as coordinator for now
- Focus groups for the needs of technology for the faculty are underway to look at administrative, instruction and research needs. The aim is to ask what the focus groups see as vision, strategy and priorities going forward. TAB is on hold as more information is being gathered through the review process
- L Daniels provided an EDU 210 update. Through conversations with instructors, they are a genuine and caring set of instructors with less than typical ways of how they came to be instructors. There is need to ensure they are equipped, empowered and supported to deliver the courses and they are very committed to technology and empowering pedagogical implications to using technology. Faculty are asked to have understanding that they are instructing a course that is being reviewed and asked to speak positively about the course until figuring out what to do. Faculty are encouraged to support the instructors as they continue to deliver a course that has some contention. Asked to support all colleagues in all course areas and to bring concerns to appropriate people or person to ensure concerns are not taken outside of context. There is pride in the program and need to avoid a cycle that may reinforce negative messaging to students. The review is necessary as the top 2 staff have left the unit and the course is instructed from the unit and not a department. As well, we are in a budget reduction year and cannot continue to keep expanding services

Starting Discussion on FEPAC Representation

- An initial discussion on FEPAC Representation occurred and included the topic of aboriginal representation. It was explained that FEPAC is a policy advisory committee and not a decision-making body. FEPAC seeks input and feedback but there is no voting on direction of field experiences and any decision making necessary would come to UAAC for voting. There is influence and therefore there is a Terms of Reference for FEPAC and this can be reviewed at UAAC and proposals or changes at FEPAC can be brought for a vote to UAAC. The FEPAC Terms of Reference can be shared for review at the next UAAC meeting

Adjournment: L Daniels to adjourn the January 26, 2017 meeting of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council.

Adjourned at 2:30 pm